

Ever wonder what life is like for individuals with disabilities?

Here's your chance to learn.



STORIES

of Advocacy and Life

from the Kentucky Developmental Disabilities Network

The KY Developmental Disabilities Network is comprised of the KY Division of Protection and Advocacy, the Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the Human Development Institute, University of Kentucky. Together, we work to create the changes needed for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to live fully inclusive lives in the community, so that their contributions to our Commonwealth are honored and valued.

In collaboration with self-advocates with developmental disabilities and family members, we are proud to offer a set of closed captioned stories, or “life glimpses.” These are stories of advocacy and the power of individual testimony in changing how we all view the meaning of disability, and most importantly, how we should value the contributions that each of us brings to our communities. As a Commonwealth, we only realize our true potential if we truly recognize the gifts of each of us, and bring those gifts to achieve our common good.



<http://youtu.be/PUBvCKAsZD0>

LEE

First-time Father

Becoming a new parent can be anxious and full of uncertainty for all of us, but especially if you are an individual with a disability. Lee shares his experience and the challenges he faced becoming a new parent. “I learned that I could do the same things other fathers do, I just had to do them differently”.



http://youtu.be/gT2Fv5xV_PE

KAREN

Overcoming Tragedy

Growing up, Karen had her own set of challenges. As a young mother of a six year old with a developmental disability, tragedy struck the life of her family. Not only has Karen been able to overcome, but she has been able to go on to advocate for other children with disabilities. She refuses to place people “in a box”. “You never know what you can do until you try!”



<http://youtu.be/oQCzgO96x34>

ARTHUR

Learning from the Past

This writer and advocate remembers the old Frankfort State Hospital, and how the history and current situation of the cemetery for that old state hospital show how our society still devalues individuals with disabilities. And he also shares what he and others are doing to change that!



<http://youtu.be/cY5JCOBj0r0>

PAULA

College Life and the Blessing of Blindness

Meet Paula. This self-advocate shares how the “blessings of blindness” actually aided her along her journey to higher education. Paula is able to see a gift in her disability, and draws strength from unexpected sources.



http://youtu.be/KHZ-sv_v9Ss

TINA

Finding the Positive in Negative Events

Tina recalls how as a teenager she dealt with her future and career decisions, just as all teens do. Quite tellingly, she shares how negative experiences brought out the positive determination she needed to succeed. Her story is a powerful example of creating the change one wants to see!



http://youtu.be/nZv-_lV6e4

SHANNON

A Self-Advocate Serving Others

Born with a genetic degenerative disability, Shannon attended a state-operated residential school until he went on to attend college and graduate from the University of Kentucky. Hear this story of independence and advocacy, and how it has led to his service on a national board.

<http://youtu.be/MWrRni72bNU>



CHASTITY

Dealing with Judgment

Chastity is an accomplished woman, mother, professional and advocate. She shares her story about how other peoples' perceptions affected her in a very personal way. She recalls that moment in life when she realized how she was “seen” by others. Most importantly she shares the power of humor in overcoming the judgments of others!

The Human Development Institute – University of Kentucky, the Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the Kentucky Division of Protection & Advocacy form Kentucky’s Developmental Disability Network. This network is funded through the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, and is administered through the U.S. Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

These agencies collaborate extensively and work together to improve the daily lives of individuals with disabilities and their families.

Our Individual Missions



Kentucky Protection & Advocacy is a client directed legal advocacy agency that protects and promotes the rights of Kentuckians with disabilities.



The mission of the Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities is to create systemic change in Kentucky that empowers individuals to achieve full citizenship and inclusion in the community through education, capacity building and advocacy.



The mission of the Human Development Institute is to promote the independence, contributions, and inclusion of people with disabilities and their families throughout the life span.