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Donations can be made online at: www.disabilityrightspa.org



Linda Dickerson! **A Lifetime of Advancing the Rights of Individuals with Disabilities**

Linda Dickerson has been relentless in her efforts to do the right thing for so many causes, especially for disability rights. She founded and served on the board of an organization called Accessibility Development Associates. They perform accessibility audits around the country and are primarily responsible for PNC Park being the most accessible stadium in the country.

At a very young age, she began her advocacy work by helping a national theme park to understand the needs and rights for ensuring accessibility throughout the park for children and adults with disabilities. She has worked with theaters and entertainment venues to ensure they have wheelchair accessible seating. She created a business plan for Bender Consulting. A company that locates jobs for people with disabilities all over the nation.

Linda worked tirelessly with Governor Dick Thornburgh on the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act more than 27 years ago. She serves as the principal at 501(c)(3)², a consulting group, which works with nonprofit executives and their boards to optimize their institutions' performance. She also works with for-profit corporations to assist them in measuring the impact of their charitable investments to maximize the return from those investments.

We are proud of our friend, Linda Dickerson, for a lifetime of making a difference!!!



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Dear Friends, Donors and Supporters!

2017 has been a very memorable year for Disability Rights Pennsylvania. We celebrate 40 years of serving individuals with disabilities. During the past 40 years,

DRP has tackled the abuse and neglect of individuals with disabilities and helped to remove the public and governmental barriers so our communities can be integrated. DRP staff most often works to achieve small victories and large systemic change for our clients. We have seized the opportunity to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities and we continue to reach out to people who are in need of our legal and advocacy programs.

This year, we celebrated our 40th Anniversary by hosting an event to honor individuals and partners who have worked and supported our efforts to make sure that people with disabilities are treated as equals and with dignity and respect. We recognized UPMC & UPMC Health Plan and ACHIEVA for their commitment to empower people with disabilities and their families. We honored Linda A. Dickerson with a Lifetime Achievement Award for her work over the past 30 years for advancing the rights of individuals with disabilities.

We are sincerely grateful to Governor Dick & Ginny Thornburgh and Miriam & Todd Moules, President of KeyBank for serving as Honorary Event Chairs and to the

many friends and allies of DRP who served on the Host Committee. Their tireless efforts created a magical evening that brought attention to Disability Rights Pennsylvania.

DRP's mission is to protect and advocate for the rights of people with disabilities so that they may live the lives they choose, free from abuse, neglect, discrimination and segregation. DRP's services are statewide and are available at no cost to people with disabilities. DRP offers legal and advocacy services, training, information, referral and outreach.

DRP's vision is to live in a Commonwealth where people of all abilities are equal and free. For 40 years, the DRP staff has steadfastly been committed to working within the Pennsylvania community to provide a resource vehicle for individuals to pursue their right to enjoy a life free of the obstructions that may prevent independent living.

To get to know us better, we invite you to visit our website: www.disabilityrightspa.org to review the many services we offer throughout the state of Pennsylvania and read about the many successes we have attained for the individuals we have represented.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, DRP management & staff and especially our clients, we "thank you" for your financial support and commitment to our organization!!

Sincerely,

Peri Jude Radecic, Esq.
Chief Executive Officer





40 Years!! Let's Celebrate!!

On Thursday, June 15, Disability Rights Pennsylvania celebrated their 40th Anniversary with 350 of their friends and supporters at the IBEW Circuit Center Ballroom located on the South Side of Pittsburgh. DRP was very fortunate to have Governor Dick & Ginny Thornburgh and Miriam & Todd Moules, KeyBank, serve as Honorary Chairs for the event. The Host Committee was made up of many key community leaders and individuals who believe and support DRP's mission. The Host Committee worked tirelessly to make this a special night for our Honorees and guests. Sally Wiggin, WTAE, Host of Chronicle served as Celebrity Host. Guests attended from throughout Pennsylvania and enjoyed delicious food prepared by the Fluted Mushroom, Eat 'N Park Smiley cookies and custom 40th Anniversary Cupcakes provided by Katie O'Leary. Please note our list of key sponsors.



- Champion**
KeyBank
UPMC & UPMC Health Plan
- Pioneer**
Barber National Institute
The Pittsburgh Foundation
- Advocate**
ACHIEVA
Dollar Bank Foundation
Highmark
Verland
- Supporter**
Carnegie Mellon University
Eat 'n Park Hospitality Group
Excelsa Health
La Roche College
LG Realty Advisors
Logan Dickerson Family
Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium



DRP honored Linda A. Dickerson with a Lifetime Achievement Award for her work over the past 30 years in advancing the rights of individuals with disabilities. DRP also recognized ACHIEVA and UPMC & UPMC Health Plan for their commitment to empower people with disabilities and their families. Marsha Blanco accepted on behalf of ACHIEVA and Scott Lammie accepted the UPMC & UPMC Health Plan award.

Erin Molchany brought greetings and a Proclamation from Governor Tom Wolf. Allegheny County was represented by Mary Ester Van Shura. Mary Ester spoke about our responsibility to ensure our communities are including and supporting people with disabilities. City of Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto applauded the honorees for their commitment to people with disabilities and declared "June 15, 2017 Linda Ann Dickerson Day" in the City of Pittsburgh. He noted Linda's lifelong advocacy work both locally as well as nationally, fighting for the rights of children and adults with disabilities.

Unfortunately, Governor Thornburgh was unable to join us due to a recent fall. He is recovering and sent a special message delivered by Honorary Chair Todd Moules, Regional President, KeyBank. Mr. Moules then proceeded with the presentation of DRP's Lifetime Achievement Award to Linda Dickerson. He noted just a few of Linda's accomplishments including her tireless efforts with Governor Thornburgh on the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act 27 years ago.

The most touching moment of the evening was when Linda addressed the guests and gave her remarks through the technology of her Eye Gaze voice activated machine. Needless to say, Linda received a standing ovation from the crowd. Guests expressed their support with generous financial donations to further DRP's mission and vision.

To demonstrate your support for DRP's mission, please consider making a donation by visiting our website www.disabilityrightspa.org or use the enclosed envelope. Thank you and please accept our best wishes for a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!!



The Value of Partnerships!!

DRP is grateful to KeyBank and UPMC & UPMC Health Plan for their lead sponsorship of DRP's 40th Anniversary Celebration.

KeyBank views philanthropy as a vital component of support to the community.

In order to provide meaningful philanthropy that aims to transform lives, KeyBank listens carefully to understand the unique characteristics and needs of the community. KeyBank's contributions take many forms, including grants, charitable sponsorships and employees' personal volunteerism. Through these endeavors, Key gives to its communities an average of \$20 million each year.

The KeyBank Foundation supports organizations and programs that aim to prepare individuals for successful futures.

KeyBank is proud to support its local communities through charitable sponsorships and partnerships with nonprofit organizations for community events.

KeyBank employees help their communities grow in countless meaningful ways, including efforts through "Neighbors Make the Difference Day" and Key's annual day of volunteerism. KeyBank employees are neighbors making a difference every day.

UPMC is a \$14 billion world renowned health care provider and insurer. Pittsburgh based UPMC, is inventing new models of patient-centered, cost-effective, accountable care. UPMC provides nearly \$900 million a year in benefits to its communities, including more care to the region's senior and disability communities than any other health care institution.

UPMC Insurance Services Division is committed to providing its members better health, more financial security, and the peace of mind they deserve. Each year, the UPMC Insurance Services Division hosts several annual fundraising campaigns for organizations and causes that make sustainable and measurable impact. They are proud of their employees for fully embracing these groups and demonstrating a higher level of volunteerism and teamwork.

"I see many people in need and I feel naturally motivated to reach out and help those people." Scott Lammie, CFO UPMC Health Plan and SVP, UPMC Insurance Services Division



DRP in Pennsylvania

Important Facts About DRP:

- Through our legal and advocacy work, DRP has impacted 32% of all Pennsylvanians with disabilities.
- The most recent United States Census Bureau estimates show that more than 1.7 million Pennsylvanians have a disability.
- DRP reached 547,668 people through investigations, monitoring, policy, individual advocacy, training, fair housing, employment, waiver, special education, public access discrimination litigation and so much more.
- DRP staff was invited to participate in a Department of Human Services Office of Children, Youth and Families workgroup to propose amendments to Pennsylvania Child Welfare Regulations. DRP proposed amendments that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act including requirements related to reasonable accommodations serving 550 children, youth and families in homes rather than institutions, and the transition of youth to adult disability services.
- DRP provided training to County Election Directors on disability-related voting issues.
- DRP works on a regular basis with the Department of Human Services to be sure that Medicaid beneficiaries with disabilities have access to prompt services.
- DRP worked with the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections to improve mental health treatment in the state prisons.
- DRP partnered with families to be sure child placement is not segregated.

Please support our mission by visiting our website to make a donation today!!!