



Building Awareness & Advocating Change for People with Disabilities

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# ADA 34

## Americans with Disabilities Act Celebrate the ADA! July 26, 2024

On July 26, 2024 America celebrates the 34th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became law in 1990. The ADA is an important civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in many areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and many public and private places that are open to the general public. The purpose of the law is to make sure that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else. The ADA gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion. The ADA is broken up into five titles (or sections) that relate to different areas of public life:

- Title I: Employment
- Title II: State and Local Governments
- Title III: Places of Public Accommodation
- Title IV: Telecommunications
- Title V: Miscellaneous

The ADA guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications.

Since the ADA's enactment, our country has taken great strides toward the ADA's promise of true inclusion, and Americans with and without disabilities increasingly live, learn, work, play and contribute side by side.

While we have much more work to do to realize the full potential of the ADA, it is important that we take time each July to recognize the hard work and sacrifice of many disability advocates and policymakers who have worked tirelessly to improve the lives of people with disabilities and recommit ourselves to continue working towards a fully accessible and inclusive society. After all, our communities are strongest when everyone can contribute, and everyone benefits when everyone is included from early childhood throughout our lives.

**We invite you to join us for Out to Lunch at Caras Park in Missoula on Wednesday, July 24 from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. to commemorate the 34th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and dedicate to helping us make full implementation of the law a reality.**

***Happy Birthday ADA!***

## SUMMIT STAFF

### Missoula County

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Travis Hoffman  
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Aleyna Raymond

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Alan Fugleberg  
**Independent Living Specialist**  
Alice Mainwaring  
**Peer Support Specialist**  
Roxanne Fisher

### Lake & Sanders County

**Deputy Director**  
Alan Fugleberg  
**Independent Living Specialist**  
Susan Morris  
**Independent Living Specialist**  
Carol Madden

## Missoula Office Update

Summit's outreach team had a very busy spring! We kicked off April with a trip to Helena to meet with officials from Montana DPHHS, our sister CILs, and other community based organizations about creating the state's first-ever comprehensive plan to comply with the 1999 Olmstead ruling.

The ruling stemmed from the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Olmstead v L.C.*, which found that the unjustified institutionalization of Americans with disabilities was a form of discriminatory segregation. The ruling also stipulated that states must provide community-based – rather than hospital- or institution-based – services to persons with disabilities whenever possible. Now, we're working with organizations around the state to make sure Montana complies with this crucial mandate.

We topped off our meetings with a media event with the Caravan for Disability Freedom and Justice, which won attention from local media.

On the public health front, our vaccine-information specialist Kristy Hunt helped promote two free vaccination events, one at the Kindergarten Round Up in Ravalli County and another at Missoula's Johnson Street Shelter.

June means LGBTQ+ Pride month, and this year we took the opportunity to extend our reach into the rainbow community. For the first time, our crew staffed tables at Flathead Pride in Kalispell and Missoula Pride, to educate consumers about our services, and we reached hundreds of new folks.

Finally, we wrapped up the spring with one of our most anticipated events of the year: The Annual ADA Picnic, celebrating 34 years of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The festivities included free lunch provided by Servin' Thyme, cake for all, and adaptive games for Missoulians of all ages and abilities. The highlight, as it is every year, was the Adaptive Recreation Clinic, with demonstrations of outdoor-rec gear specially outfitted for folks with disabilities.

We are looking forward to more (and bigger) events this summer and fall!

### SUMMIT BOARD



Molly Blair  
Gabrielle Broere  
Peter Drakos  
Michelle McLane

Kelly Sellars  
Sherene Ricci  
Tom Seekins

## Hamilton Office Update

The Ravalli County office in Hamilton continues to be busy. In June, Alyssa Rockwell was welcomed as a new peer advocate. She will be assisting with youth and other activities at the Hamilton office and in local schools.

Activity groups such as Thank Goodness It's Art Friday, The Hero Squad, Aktion Club (People First) and Art Expressions continue to be enjoyed by consumers, and are open to everyone in the community.

Alice Mainwaring, Independent Living Specialist, is presently offering Living Well in the Community on Tuesdays through the summer.

In June, Mary Millin, Independent Living Specialist, and Peer Support Specialist decided to retire following many years of service to Summit and the consumers we serve. We thank her for years of service, wisdom, and guidance she provided to so many consumers and staff.

For more information about our classes and workshops please call 406-363-5242.

## Kalispell Office Update

The Kalispell office had a very busy spring and is enjoying warmer weather, sunshine, and Summer!

In partnership with the Whitefish Community Foundation, the Youth Opening Doors through Advocacy (YODA) group was able to host a 4-part series on the topics of Food and Nutrition. Sessions included guest speakers, a culinary instructor, and a chef. The youth learned about different foods and their origins, portion sizes, vegetable chopping and slicing techniques. They also learned to prepare some dishes including an Italian bean soup, a gluten free strawberry rhubarb dessert, and ice cream made from coconut milk. The series was well attended and enjoyed by all!

YODA will meet once a month for the rest of the summer on the fourth Tuesdays of July and August. In September YODA will return to the usual schedule of meeting on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the office in Kalispell from 4-6 p.m.

Third Wednesday Crafternoon, Kalispell arts and crafts group, continues to meet each month on the third Wednesday from 2-4 p.m. Participants can do a provided project or work on something of their own.

Please contact Dianna at 406-257-0048 ext.3 or [dkintzler@summitilc.org](mailto:dkintzler@summitilc.org) if you are interested in joining a class or workshop.

## Polson Office Update

Summit's new branch office serving Lake and Sanders counties will open on July 17. The address is #3 9th Avenue West in Polson. We are excited to move from the Ronan location that has been home for decades. Our new office is smaller, but features a full kitchen and gives us the ability to offer cooking classes. While our office will be in Polson, we continue to serve all of Lake County, and are planning to have in-person office hours in Thompson Falls later this year to improve our outreach and service to Sanders County.

Carol Madden, Independent Living Specialist, offered a Living Well in the Community class for consumers in Lake County. She also finished teaching weekly Building Advocacy and Learning Leadership Skills (BALLS) classes at the high schools in Polson and Thompson Falls. Carol completed the Community Living Skills Facilitator Course, and will be offering the class from the new Polson office.

The Lake/Sanders County office is working with more young consumers that includes pre-ETS work in Lake and Sanders counties. We'll be hosting an IEP Boot Camp in Polson on September 17. Staff from the Montana Empowerment Center in Great Falls will be presenting.

Alan Fugleberg, Deputy Director for Summit, continues to work from the offices in Lake and Ravalli counties, and assists in Missoula as needed. In May he attended the Montana Housing Conference in Missoula. In June he attended the National ADA Symposium in Minneapolis, a conference related to his service on the Rocky Mountain ADA Center's Advisory Council. He will be attending the National Center for Independent Living Conference in Washington DC.

If you have any questions about our classes and workshops, please call 406-215-1604.

## NATURE FOR ALL

### KANIKSU LAND TRUST LAUNCHES ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT

“Nothing about us, without us” is a phrase in the disability rights movement referring to the importance of including people with disabilities in processes that will affect them. Launching a new focus on improved access for people with disabilities, Kaniksu Land Trust (KLT) located in Thompson Falls Montana and Sandpoint Idaho aims to center this new initiative on that philosophy.

KLT announced today that it has been awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Land Trust Alliance’s 2024 Partnerships for Disability Access, Inclusion, and Leadership Grant. The funding will allow KLT to begin work on improving access and inclusivity for people with disabilities across its sites, programs and information.

“Nature should be accessible to everyone,” said Katie Cox, KLT Executive Director.

The land trust’s mission and bylaws prioritize accessibility, a facet of their conservation work that has been demonstrated in cultural, educational, and public access projects. KLT has long included nutrition, scholarships, and assistance with outfitting student participants in their school outreach and other education programs to ensure that all children have access to nature.

Recognizing that there is much work to do to improve disability inclusion, KLT will put leadership of the new initiative in the capable hands of KLT’s Montana Outreach Coordinator, Kayla Mosher, who has a lifelong dedication to disability inclusion.

Growing up, the careers and hobbies of Kayla’s parents were centered on improving independence for people with disabilities. Kayla has spent time volunteering on related projects since a very young age and, while in college, interned with Challenge Aspen, a nonprofit in Colorado that teaches disabled persons to alpine ski. Kayla recently spoke at the Montana Governor’s Conference on Tourism this year about increasing accessibility in recreation and tourism. She is also working toward certification from the Indiana University Epley Center’s

Foundations of Accessibility program.

“For years, this has been a goal of our staff and board to assess and improve disability access at our public access properties, with our programs, and in the way we present information,” said Cox. “Now, we have Kayla’s leadership and the resources needed to move forward and we are so excited to begin.”

KLT has already begun collaborating with the Montana-based Summit Independent Living, UCAN (Unique Center for Athletes of all Needs) in Sandpoint, and the City of Sandpoint Parks and Recreation Department and plans to work closely with Disability Action Center NW in Idaho, the Lake Pend Oreille School District, and the Rural Institute on Inclusive Communities in Montana. These partners will provide expert advisors and connect KLT to people with direct lived experience with disabilities and their advocates. By centering the voices of people with disabilities, KLT aims to transform its approach to access and belonging.

Such relationships will be the foundation on which KLT informs a new strategic accessibility and inclusion policy following a disability audit of all aspects of KLT’s cultural, physical, and digital spaces. This policy will drive upgrades to KLT’s facilities, trails, digital platforms, and work spaces. Additionally, staff, volunteers, and partners will have the opportunity to receive training on accessibility best practices.

Kaniksu Land Trust staff welcome questions and input from community members. For more information, contact Kayla Mosher at **(406)827-0487** or **kayla@kaniksu.org**.



**KANIKSU**  
— LAND TRUST —

*Help Us Celebrate!*

**ADA 34**



Americans with Disabilities Act

Celebrate the ADA! July 26, 2024

*Out to Lunch*

*Wednesday, July 24*



*11 am-2 pm  
at Caras  
Park!*

*summitilc.org • 406-728-1630*

# Part 3 **DISASTER PLANNING**

(by Lily Hartman)

## How Do I make an individual and family emergency plan?

"It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark." – Howard Ruff

Disasters and emergencies happen unexpectedly and without warning. This makes planning and preparation essential. Preparedness can calm feelings of fear, anxiety, and help reduce losses during a disaster. The best guarantee for survival for all Montanans, especially those with disabilities, is to make an emergency preparedness plan.

An important step when planning ahead for emergencies is for you and your family to **CREATE AN INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN** that each person in your home is familiar with. It's important to identify what types of disasters could affect your area (flooding, wildfire, snowstorm, etc.) because your family may be separated when the event occurs. Think about how you will contact other family members and friends during/after a disaster. Do not forget to establish a meeting spot where you and everyone in your home can reconnect after a disaster.

### How to sign up to receive local emergency alerts:

1. Stay informed about local emergencies/disasters by signing up to receive your local emergency alerts. Be sure to visit your local government website to find out what emergency alert system is being used in your area such as Smart911, Rave Alert, CodeRed, etc.
2. Create a plan by writing a short list of emergency discussion questions that you and all members of your home can fill out together. Examples of questions to fill out includes:
  - a. What is my shelter plan?
  - b. What is my evacuation route?
  - c. How will my household communicate during and after a disaster?
  - d. Where will we all meet up after the disaster to reconnect?
  - e. Do I need to update my emergency preparedness kit?
  - f. How will I prepare for extended periods of time without power?
3. When creating a plan, it's important to take into account the specific needs of people in your household. Make sure to have supplies on hand that are specific for your daily living needs. It would be a good idea to sit down with everyone in your home and discuss each person's specific needs so others are aware them and you can create a network to assist during an emergency. Examples of specific needs and responsibilities to consider include:
  - a. Does anyone have dietary needs, restrictions, or allergies?
  - b. Does any have medical needs such as prescriptions and medical equipment?
  - c. How do I operate the medical equipment? Is it battery powered?
  - d. Are there pets in the house?
  - e. Are there infants and small children in the house? What supplies do I need to care for these children?
  - f. What languages are spoken?
  - g. What are the different ages of people in your home?
4. After the questions above have been answered and your emergency plan is complete the final step is to practice your individual and family emergency plan.

**MORE TO COME**, be prepared for the next disaster. The Summit Independent Living Newsletter is running a series of articles that will sequentially provide in depth information on each of the steps on how to best prepare for emergencies and disasters.

**Next Article: How do I build an emergency medical information kit?**

# BASE SCHEDULE

725 West Alder, #4 Missoula, MT

For the following activities, please call BASE for details:

- All Abilities Yoga
- Game Night
- Art Group
- Filmmaking
- Improv Workshop
- BOLD Gayme Night
- Dance/Movement Class

## **BASE Short Block**

**August 31, 2024 @ 2:00 p.m.**  
**ROXY THEATER**

Come see a selection of Family Friendly Horror Movies Produced, written, directed, edited and Filmed by BASE participants.

**For BASE Schedule Updates and Additional Events go to:**

[www.summitilc.org/calendar](http://www.summitilc.org/calendar)

or check the BASE Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/base725>

To get involved or to share ideas of new BASE programs, contact BASE [jhoward@summitilc.org](mailto:jhoward@summitilc.org).

**Contact BASE:**

[www.basemissoula.org](http://www.basemissoula.org)

Phone: 406-215-1080

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### **Jazzy Pride Wheelchair**

\$1000 obo, only 2yrs old  
call: Linda 406-531-4938

### **Shoprider power chair**

300lb capacity. Needs battery & charger.  
Free (406) 728-1630

### **Symmetry Stander, Quickie Powerchair, Invacare Powerbed, Hoyer lift**

Comfortable, easy-to-use seat stander Call/leave message: Tejeanne (406) 865-0221

### **Power Scooter**

\$500 obo. Please contact Adrian:  
(406) 263-8650

### **Adult Tricycle**

Schwinn 26" tricycle, bike pump included.  
\$500obo (406) 721-1698

### **Wheelchair Lift**

Ricon wheelchair lift model #S1231  
G00100100. \$400obo.  
Contact: Cory (406) 471-3314

### **Silver Spring wheelchair ramp 10' L x 36" W**

Made of high-strength light weight aluminum. \$297obo. Contact:  
[tamera144@gmail.com](mailto:tamera144@gmail.com) or 406-363-4898

### **Smart Talker text scanner**

Slightly used, \$700. Contact Larry at 406-633-4036 or [ketch1969@gmail.com](mailto:ketch1969@gmail.com)

**Nova Walker, Quontum 600 power wheelchair, Commode, 2 Transfer Benches, Beezy Manual Wheelchair.** Call Gary (406) 224-5527 or [garylee032051@gmail.com](mailto:garylee032051@gmail.com)

To get listed contact Tyler Stosich at (406) 728-1630 or email [tstosich@summitilc.org](mailto:tstosich@summitilc.org).

Or, list and find items on the MonTECH exchange: <http://montech.ruralinstitute.umd.edu/mtdb/>

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## ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Election season is upon us once again so it is important to make sure you have all of your ducks in a row to ensure that your vote counts and your voice is heard. It is always a good idea to verify that your voter registration is active, make sure you know where your polling location is at, or if you are active on the absentee ballot list make sure you receive your ballot. The 2024 federal general election will be held on Tuesday, November 5 so be sure you are an active voter so you are able to vote.

Voting is not only a civic duty but also a fundamental right in any democratic society. By registering to vote, you play a crucial role in shaping the future of your community, state, and nation.

### Confirm voter registration, polling location, & view your sample ballot

Check the "My Voting Information" page at <https://prodvoterportal.mt.gov/WhereToVote.aspx> to verify your current registration status, ensure that your address is correct, see where your polling place is located, and even view a sample of your ballot.

### Voter registration & late registration

If you are not registered to vote or if you need to change your voter registration, visit your county election office Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and complete a registration form or download a registration form at <https://votemt.gov/> and print, complete and return it to your county election office up until 30 days before any election, OR

Montana is one of only a handful of states that allow late registration. Most states require a voter to register 30 days prior to an election to be eligible to vote. In Montana, one can register during that 29 day window until noon the day before an election at your county election office. Election Day voter registration is also available from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day. Montana's late registration period allows voters to register or update their voter registration information. [Contact your county election administrator](#) for more information.

## Share Your Voice about the Big Sky Wavier!

### How to get involved:

Join the Partners in Home Care Member Advisory Council! If you would like to participate or have further questions, please contact Dana at 406-880-8158 or Abby at 406-544-8045.

### Member Advisory Council Mission Statement:

The Partners in Home Care Member Advisory Council is a representative body of members, family members of members, agency staff, and other supporters working together to optimize Big Sky Waiver home and community-based services.

We strive to increase the right of every member to dignity, access to premium quality care, and chosen lifestyle by promoting program management, policies, and regulations consistent with self-determination.

Our advisory council uses ongoing, member-directed meetings, discourse, and input to affect positive program development and operation. Member Advisory Council benefits are recognized through daily program utilization and long-term program vision.

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