



**CENTRE COUNTY PREVENTION COALITION**  
*A SAMHSA Funded Drug-Free Community Coalition*  
*Supported By Centre County Drug and Alcohol*



**October 7, 2009 – Disability Awareness Month**

Marianne Karwacki is a member of Penn State's Disability Advisory Group. This weekly column, published on Wednesdays, is a collaboration of Centre County *Communities That Care* serving Bald Eagle, Bellefonte, Penns Valley, and Philipsburg-Osceola Area School Districts, and Care Partnership: Centre Region *Communities That Care* serving the State College Area School District.

Do you have questions about interacting with people with disabilities? Do you want to learn more about people with disabilities? These questions and others will be discussed as a part of activities taking place during Disability Awareness Month.

October is the kick-off month for year-round programs across the nation that highlight the abilities and skills of all Americans. Here in Centre County, the theme of the month is "Diversability" which emphasizes the varying abilities and talents of people with disabilities. Diversability events are being sponsored by Penn State's Disability Advisory Group, a consortium of individuals from across the university working together to enhance disability initiatives at Penn State.

The intent of the Diversability events is to provide an opportunity for individuals to discuss and explore questions about accessibility, equality and inclusion for people with disabilities. These topics will be explored through presentations, films, discussions, community reads, an exhibit, athletics and other means. Here are just a few of the activities taking place this month.

- Discussing Disability, an interactive event, will be hosted by Residence Life and Penn State's Disability Advisory Group on October 27 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at PSU's Waring Study Lounge.
- Ability Athletics Basketball Practice will take place every Wednesday in October from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at PSU's White Building. Come see basketball played by athletes who play from their wheelchairs, a unique experience that will change your views of basketball skills.
- Community Reads of Mark Haddan's novel, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, will be held on October 12 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Webster's Café on Allen Street and on October 19 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Schlow Centre Region Library in State College. It's a murder mystery, a gripping family drama, and an unforgettable story of an exceptional young man with Asperger's Syndrome all rolled into one.
- Accessibility in Online Education, an intriguing demonstration of accessibility challenges of Web pages by an individual who is blind using screen reading software, will be offered October 12 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at PSU's Foster Auditorium.
- Disability Awareness Book Displays will be available October 1 – 31 on the second floor of Schlow Centre Region Library and October 5 – 31 at 502 Paterno Library.

A full schedule of events and flyers about these events and others can be obtained at <http://www.equity.psu.edu/ods/diversability/index.asp>.

Members of all communities throughout Centre County, as well as students, faculty, and staff from Penn State, are invited to attend events and celebrate disability month together. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided at events, please contact the Office for Disability Services at 863-1807 (V/TTY) in advance of your participation. Additional information about any of the Diversability events being offered can be obtained at the same number.

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