



Celebrating National Disability Independence Day

Dear Friends,

On July 26, 2022, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) turns 32! We are celebrating National Disability Independence Day with the ADA this year – and would love for you to join in.

People with disabilities didn't always have the same civil rights. But, in 1990, the ADA passed, prohibiting discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools and transportation.

It's a testament to the persistent advocacy for people with disabilities, which started as a small, grassroots movement in cities and towns across the United States in response to delayed regulations regarding Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This was the most important law to date to give people with disabilities equal rights, but disability and discrimination had to be defined, and enforcement procedures and timelines had to be developed. People with disabilities grew weary of waiting. They rightly demanded fair treatment for themselves, and parents of children with disabilities refused to let their children be treated differently. They and their allies protested, marched, lobbied and fought to see this piece of legislation through.

Today, we have protections in place and countless role models to admire, revered for their success and exceptionalism. Increased visibility has brought people like Stephen Hawking into popular consciousness. The famed theoretical physicist, astrophysicist, cosmologist and author was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease at 21, going on to develop a theoretical argument for black hole evaporation, which was subsequently named Hawking radiation. Consider John Nash, whose experience with paranoid schizophrenia was captured in the movie "A Beautiful Mind." He led a successful academic career culminating in a Nobel Prize in economics. Or Bethany Hamilton, who continues to surf at an elite level after a shark severed her left arm when she was 13 years old.

The ADA has created a toolkit that you can access at adaanniversary.org if you're interested in resources to celebrate with us. There are educational materials, like webinars and training courses, as well as social media posts to share your support.

Additionally, we want to remind you that we're always here to have a conversation about your financial vision or to help you plan for your life's goals. And if you or someone you know needs help navigating the financial landscape around planning for people with special needs, please reach out. We would be honored to help.

Announcements:

- Please join us for our annual Shredding Day Tuesday, August 2nd 9am-11am behind our Augusta Office. No RSVP required. Refreshments will be served.
- The Mendall Cruise-In will be held on Saturday, August 20th at the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine in Augusta from 11am-1pm. Please RSVP ASAP by giving us a call or emailing themendallfinancialgroup.com.

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