

REGISTER TODAY!

Register today to attend Ohio's largest conference focusing on the important issues and opportunities for people of all disabilities. During this three-day event, participate in a variety of exciting activities and learning experiences!

Legislative updates and visits to the Ohio Statehouse

Help shape public policy. Get your voice heard. Talk about the issues that are important to you with people who can make change and improve lives.

More than 30 educational, one-hour workshops

Do you know your rights? Has someone stolen your identity, or your credit card? Can you take your service dog into your favorite restaurant? Should you get a Certificate of Deposit or put a little money in your savings account? Get answers to these and many more questions from presenters who know.

Vendors and informational displays

Ask about adaptive tools and gadgets for your kitchen. Watch as interpreters "talk" live through a computer. Find out what it takes to modify your van with hand controls. Gather handouts about supports that organizations offer in your neighborhood.

Art Gallery

View creative, professional-quality drawings and paintings by people with disabilities. Get away from a hectic day for a few minutes and relax by letting your eyes wander through the minds of artists.

Health Fair

Have your blood pressure checked. Talk with a pharmacist about the best way to take your medications. Learn what immunizations you should get. Pick up forms to help you track your personal health care.

Fun and fellowship

Catch up with a friend you met two years ago—or make a new friend who you find out lives in your community. Practice your singing skills at Karaoke Night—or be the first to shout "bingo" at one of the game tables.

DISABILITY NETWORK OF OHIO—SOLIDARITY, INC. (DNOS)

DNOS, the host of Solidarity, is a statewide organization developed to promote an ongoing spirit of advocacy on behalf of people with all types of disabilities. DNOS works to increase awareness of issues, policies and concerns impacting Ohioans with disabilities and their families. DNOS also advocates for the empowerment of people with disabilities.

For more information, attend the DNOS Annual Meeting following closing ceremonies on Thursday, April 16; call (800) 863-0344; email dnosoffice@aol.com; or visit www.dnos.org

Be motivated and entertained by keynote speakers

Joyce Bender is creator and host of the international talk radio show *Disability Matters with Joyce Bender*. The popular show focuses on the employment and empowerment of people with disabilities in both industry and government. It features Pulitzer Prize winning authors, leaders of national disability organizations and top CEOs. Through her company, Bender Consulting Services, she seeks to unleash the potential of workers with disabilities. Bender asserts that the main barrier to bringing potential employees and employers together is the attitude of the employers, not the potential worker's disability. Joyce has been honored with numerous awards, including a Presidential New Freedom Initiative Award.

Chris Burke with Joe and John DeMasi delight audiences throughout the U.S. and Canada with their inspiring, uplifting and entertaining music. They bring a message of love, inclusion and celebration to the hundreds of concerts, festivals, conferences and conventions at which they perform each year. When Chris was born with Down Syndrome, the doctors advised his parents to put him in an institution. The Burkes not only ignored that advice but treated Chris the same as his older siblings, a decision that led to a remarkable life and talent. He is best known for his role as "Corky" on the hit TV show *Life Goes On*. Chris and his friends, Joe and John, have recorded four albums and have appeared on *Entertainment Tonight*, *Live with Regis & Kathie Lee*, and *Good Morning America*.

Matt Roloff, star of The Learning Channel's television show, *Little People, Big World*, is also an entrepreneur, advocate for the rights of little people, and father of four. As a child, Matt's dwarfism often left him in the hospital, missing out on the experiences of average children and daydreaming. Those dreams have become reality on Roloff Farms, that boasts a Western town, a pirate ship, a three-story tree house and a full-size medieval castle. Matt and wife Amy are determined to succeed in a world that isn't always accepting of differences—driving a car, seeing over the counter at a bank, or even making a simple trip to the grocery store. In *Little People, Big World*, viewers look into their lives as they face the pressure of being little in an average-sized world.



SPONSORS

Solidarity '09 thanks the following sponsors for their early support of the conference

Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission

Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council

Paralyzed Veterans of America—Buckeye Chapter

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

Ohio Legal Rights Service

Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council

Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD

Ohio Hospital Association

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

	Tuesday, April 14	Wednesday, April 15	Thursday, April 16
8 am	Registration—all day	Registration—all day	
9 am	Health Fair 9-5 Art Gallery 9-5	Exhibits 9-5	
10 am	Concurrent Workshops	Concurrent Workshops	Concurrent Workshops
11 am		Legislative Visits	
Noon			
1 pm	Opening Lunch Speaker: Joyce Bender	Lunch – on your own	Lunch & Closing Speaker: Matt Roloff
2 pm		Concurrent Workshops	
3 pm	Legislative Updates Getting Ready for Statehouse visits		<p>Continuing Education Credits (CEC) Solidarity is applying for CECs in MRDD, Social Work, Licensed Professional Counselor, and Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. Approval of credits is up to the credentialing bodies. We do not offer credits for nursing or education. Some credits may be pending at the time of the conference. You must sign a register for CECs when you arrive.</p> <p>For registration materials in large print or on disk, contact the Solidarity conference manager: (866) 966-2028 axiscenter@aol.com</p>
4 pm	Concurrent Workshops		
5 pm			
6 pm	Dinner – on your own	Dinner & 10th Anniversary Celebration	
7 pm			
8 pm	Evening Entertainment Karaoke, Games & Snacks	Evening Program Chris Burke & The Chris Burke Band	
9 pm			
10 pm			

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES & VISITS

Major activity of SOLIDARITY '09 will center around visits to the Statehouse.

The Ohio Legislature will be working on the State Budget during and after the days of Solidarity—making this a great time for the policymakers to hear from their constituents. Huge cuts are expected in programs and services. It is important for the legislators to hear how cuts will affect your lives!

To participate in this important effort, conference attendees should:

1. Make legislative appointment

Before Solidarity, make an appointment with your state senator and/or representative. Let them know you will be in town Wednesday, April 15 and would like to meet with them in the morning to discuss an important issue.

2. Inform Solidarity of appointment

Let the Solidarity office (866-966-2028) know who you are meeting and the time of your appointment.

3. Arrange transportation

If you need transportation to your appointment and cannot use the paratransit system described to the right, you must let Solidarity know by March 10. The Statehouse (that houses the senators) and the Riffe Center (that houses the representatives) are approximately five blocks from the Hyatt Regency.

4. Attend preparation session

Everyone planning to make a visit should attend the legislative training, Tuesday afternoon. Learn about the important issues being considered by the legislature. Gather fact sheets to share with your legislators. Get tips about talking with policymakers and how to feel comfortable at the meeting.

5. Get your voice heard

On Wednesday, allow yourself enough time to get to your appointment on time. Talk briefly with your legislator and leave the fact sheets. Frequently, legislators have to miss an appointment or get held up in another meeting. If this happens, feel free to talk with an aide.

Using paratransit services in Columbus

If you are eligible for paratransit services in your community and need transportation while in Columbus, please call William Step with the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA), (614) 272-3027. He will provide you with instructions for using transportation while you are attending Solidarity '09.

RSC Roundtables

Wednesday, April 15

1:30 - 4:00 pm

Stop by the **Fairfield Room** and learn more about RSC—or share your valuable experience as the Commissioners of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission host roundtable discussions on employment and independence.

More than 9,300 Ohioans with disabilities obtained or retained a job last year by working with RSC, the state agency charged with partnering with Ohioans with disabilities to achieve employment, independence and social security disability determination outcomes.



WORKSHOPS

Current Legislation and Budget Issues and Preparation Session for Statehouse Visits

Getting the Most from RSC

RSC Consumer Advisory Committee Members

What to Say When You Get in the Door: A job seeker's guide to creating your résumé and how to sell yourself in an interview

Lonna Blasi, Greenleaf Job Training Services, Columbus

Can Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities Help You Earn More?

Beverly Johnson, Cerebral Palsy Association of Ohio, Columbus and Courtney Jordan, Advocate, Medina

How to Start Your Own Business: Becoming Self-employed

Marcia Duffy, EnterpriseWorks, Columbus

How to Assess Your Work Skills and Build on Your Strengths and Abilities

Kimberly Wickert and Danielle Martin, VocWorks, Columbus

Vista and Americorps: A Path to College or a Job

Sarah Brady, Corporation for National and Community Service, Columbus

Take Control of Your Career

RSC Consumer Advisory Committee Members

Practicing Seated Yoga; Yoga for All

Sipra Pimputkar, Yoga Well-Being, Columbus

How Social Security Can Help: Work Incentives and Ticket to Work

Debra Schwartz, Social Security Administration (SSA), Batavia

Identifying and Reducing Depression

Karen Berry, Mental Health America—Franklin County, Columbus

Exploring Your Spirituality

Reverend Nancy Hardin, Mercy McAuley Center and Mercy Memorial Hospital, Urbana

How to Lessen and Manage Pain

Connie Pollack, Social Worker, Dayton and Ron Linehan, MD, Lancaster

Good Eating: Making Healthy Choices in the Food You Eat

Tena Benson, Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Cincinnati

Sexuality, Health and Safety

Members and staff of People First of Ohio and Partners in Justice

Substance Abuse Resources and Disability Issues (SARDI)

Staff of Wright State University, Dayton

Making VISITABILITY Happen in Ohio

Mike Corbett, Delaware Creative Housing,
Delaware and Brock Robertson, Ohio
Department of Job & Family Services, Columbus

People First: Activities and Advocacy

Members of People First of Ohio

Assistive Technology for People with Disabilities

Bill Darling, AT Ohio, Columbus

Consumer Protection: Slamming, Cramming and Scamming

Ray Foeller, Office of the Ohio Consumer's
Counsel, Columbus

Overview of State-level Advocacy Organizations and How You Can Get Involved

Representatives of DNOS, SILC, DD Council,
Governor's Council, OOTF, ODVC, Arc of Ohio,
and others

Assistance Dogs: Rights and Responsibilities

Marlys Staley, Circle Tail, Inc., Butlerville

Safe Street Crossings for All

Curt Kochensparger and Jim Christian,
City of Columbus

What's Happening with the Americans with Disabilities Act?

Jim Gears, RSC, Columbus

Do You Know Your Rights: Game Show about the DD Bill of Rights

Individuals with developmental disabilities
from Belmont County Board of DD

Managing Your Money and Planning for Your Future

John Ferguson, Ferguson Asset Management,
Potomac, Delaware

Disability Services Program at Wright State University

Jeff Vernooy, WSU, Dayton

Special Initiatives by Brothers and Sisters (SIBS) Program

Tom Fish, OSU, Nisonger Center, Columbus

Your Legal Rights: Housing Discrimination and Other Issues

Jane Perry, Ohio Legal Rights Service, Columbus

Advocacy: Joining Forces to Make Things Happen

Carolyn Knight, Ohio Developmental
Disabilities Council, Columbus

Using PASS Plans for Education & Training

Jean Hardman, Social Security Administration,
Lakewood

Assets: Promoting Choice and Community Participation

DJ Diamond, Gambier

Fitness for Life

Ann-Marie Stuart and Kristen Clatos, Cincinnati
Recreation Commission, Cincinnati

Waivers, Services and Programs

Representatives of Ohio Department of MRDD,
Department of Aging and Department of Job
& Family Services

Session titles and presenters are subject to change.

HYATT REGENCY HOTEL INFORMATION

The Solidarity planning committee is encouraging all participants to stay at the Hyatt Regency to obtain the full benefits of the conference. All participants must make their own hotel arrangements. The cost of overnight hotel accommodations is **not** included in the conference registration fee.

SOLIDARITY '09 will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 350 N. High St., Columbus OH 43215. The Hyatt provides a welcoming, accessible atmosphere—and all conference activities are on site.

Hyatt room rate: A special room rate of \$119 per night, plus tax (\$138.93 total), for all rooms—single, double, triple or quad.

To reserve a room: Hyatt prefers that you mail the Hotel Reservation directly to the hotel. (If you phone your reservation to (614) 463-1234, your call may be answered by the 800 call center and your accommodation requests may not get recorded.)

If you need to cancel your reservation, you must cancel by 4:00 pm on your arrival date or your credit card will be charged. After check-in, a \$50 fee will be charged for any changes to your departure date.

Reservation deadline: All reservations must be received by **March 23, 2009** to guarantee the special rates for April 13-15, 2009. Reservations made after March 23, or after the SOLIDARITY block of rooms has been filled, are subject to availability.

Cash/check payment: Guests paying for their rooms by cash or check (not credit card) must include a **\$119 deposit** for incidentals. Deposits will be returned upon checkout if guests have not incurred additional charges.

Cancellation policy: Guests have until 3:00 pm the day prior to arrival to cancel without incurring a one night penalty. All reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card or check deposit of \$138.93.

Accessibility: Given the audience of the SOLIDARITY conference, accessible rooms and requested accommodations will be in high demand. When reserving a room, please request an accommodation **only if you really need it** to stay at the hotel. After arrival, furniture in bedroom areas may be moved by hotel staff upon request; please allow sufficient time for staff to respond.

Parking: Hyatt room costs and conference registration fee **do not include** parking. Parking fees vary and change frequently. The following fees are estimates:

- Valet parking at Hyatt: \$18 per day; \$23 overnight, includes in/out privileges.
- Underground parking garage: \$14 per day, does not include in/out privileges. Overhead clearance of 6' 3" will accommodate most minivans, but not large vans.
- Nearby parking lots average \$12-\$17 per day.
- Chestnut Street Garage: \$12 per day.

HYATT REGENCY HOTEL RESERVATION

To reserve a room for SOLIDARITY '09 at the Hyatt Regency, complete this form and mail it by **March 23** to: **Reservations, Hyatt Regency, 350 N. High St., Columbus OH 43215.**

Name

Organization (if applicable)

Address

City, state, zip

Home phone

E-mail

Arrival date

Departure date

If you will be sharing a sleeping room, list the complete name(s) of the people who will be sharing the room with you. Include name(s) of personal assistants sharing the room:

Guarantee my reservation by one of the following:

Check or money order in the amount of **\$138.93** enclosed; made payable to: *Hyatt Regency Hotel*

Charge my credit card: Visa Mastercard
 Discover American Express

Card number

Exp. date

Signature

Date

Type of room

- Single (1 person)
- Double (2 people/1 bed)
- Double/double (2 people/2 beds)
- Triple (3 people/2 beds)
- Quad (4 people/2 beds)

Accommodations

Please check only those that are necessary for you to stay in a hotel room.

- At least 34" door width
- Raised toilet seat
- Toilet grab bars
- Tub grab bars
- Shower bench
- Hand-held shower
- 29" opening under sink
- 32" door opening width to bathroom
- Remove bathroom door; replace with curtain
- Lower towels and amenities
- Visual alarm
- Tactile alarm
- TTY
- Bed under which a lift can be positioned
- Other:

SCHOLARSHIPS & OTHER INFORMATION

Solidarity '09 is pleased to offer a limited number of two types of scholarships. Please read this information carefully. You may apply for one type of scholarship as described below. Send in your registration and requests for a scholarship by **March 1, 2009**.

1. The Rehabilitation Services Commission is providing scholarships for people with disabilities.

This scholarship will cover the \$175 registration fee for the individual—or \$225 if the person requires an assistant. Check the appropriate box on the Registration Form (back cover).

2. The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council is providing scholarships to people with developmental disabilities.

This scholarship will cover the \$175 registration fee for the individual and \$100 of the person's hotel bill at the Hyatt Regency.

If the person requires an assistant, the scholarship will cover the \$225 registration fee and \$100 of **one** hotel room at the Hyatt Regency.

To be eligible for this scholarship, the person **must have a developmental disability** as defined by:

A severe, chronic disability of an individual five years of age or older that:

- *Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination thereof*
- *Shows up before the age of 22*
- *Is likely to continue indefinitely*
- *Results in substantial limitation in three or more areas of major life activity: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, economic self-sufficiency, and reflects the person's need for special supports.*

Confirmation

People who have requested scholarships will be notified by **March 15** whether their request was approved or denied. Please do not assume you have received a scholarship until you receive a confirmation.

All people who send in a registration will receive a confirmation that Solidarity has received your form. If you do not receive a confirmation after two weeks, please call **(866) 966-2028**.

Assistants

Solidarity is offering a special registration fee for assistants who accompany a person with a disability. The fee for attendee and the assistant is \$225. To receive this special fee, the person with a disability must list on the registration that he or she must have an assistant. And the assistant is required to attend all conference activity with the person they are assisting.

Solidarity is not responsible for the cost of a hotel room or meals not included in the conference for assistants. Nor are Solidarity staff, Hyatt staff, or guests responsible for providing assistant care.

Contributions

Tax-deductible financial donations assist people with disabilities to attend Solidarity. If you would like information about becoming a sponsor, hosting a display, or purchasing an ad in the program, please call: **(866) 966-2028**

Registration payment

I am not requesting a scholarship. I am registering for Solidarity '09 by enclosing payment as follows:

- \$175 for myself
- \$225 for myself and my assistant

Make check or money order payable to: **Solidarity '09.**
Payment must accompany this registration form.



Request for scholarship

I understand the information in this booklet about scholarships and I am applying as a:

- Person with a disability (\$175)
- Person with a disability and an assistant (\$225)
- Person with a developmental disability, staying at the Hyatt Regency (\$175 + \$100 toward one Hyatt hotel room)
- Person with a developmental disability and an assistant, staying at the Hyatt Regency (\$225 + \$100 toward one night Hyatt hotel room)

If I receive a scholarship as a person with a developmental disability, I will reserve my Hyatt hotel room for the following nights. Solidarity will apply the hotel part of my scholarship directly to my total hotel bill.

- Monday, April 13
- Tuesday, April 14
- Wednesday, April 15

SOLIDARITY '09
249 E. Cooke Rd.
Columbus OH 43214