

General Resources

These links are available on the EqUUal Access website: www.equualaccess.org

Advocacy Resources

Resources that encompass a wide spectrum of information and concerns for disability communities include the American Association of People with Disabilities (<http://www.aapd.com/>), and Disability Scoop (<http://www.disabilityscoop.com/>).

Other resources can include organizations specific to concerns for mobility, visibility, hearing, mental health, chemical and/or sensory challenges, and learning and developmental disabilities.

UU Accessibility Resources

Accessibility Resources from the EqUUal Access website:

<http://www.equualaccess.org/resourcelinks.html>

- “Accessibility Guidelines for Unitarian Universalist Congregations,” a document prepared by the Policy Committee of EqUUal Access, a volunteer-run UU organization open to all that promotes equality and access for Unitarian Universalists with disabilities. (Available at http://www.uua.org/documents/equualaccess/accessibility_guidelines.pdf)

Accessibility Resources from the UUA Website

- “Accessibility Information for Unitarian Universalist Churches,” by Charlotte Hawkins Shepard, Ph.D. and Rev. Dr. Devorah Greenstein, 2010. (78-page PDF file available at <http://www.uua.org/documents/idbm/accessibility/manual.pdf>). This comprehensive accessibility resource for congregations, developed in partnership with the United Methodist Church, provides an introduction and information about specific disabilities and etiquette; an accessibility audit of a church’s building, grounds, etc. based on ADA guidelines; agencies organizations, manufacturers, and print/online resources regarding accessibility; and a glossary.
- “UUA Disability & Accessibility Resources” (available at <http://www.uua.org/accessibility/index.shtml>). This resource compilation of “Top Picks for Disability and Accessibility” includes an introduction called Disability 101.
- “Worship Resources for Accessibility/Equal Access” (available at <http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/accessibility/62850.shtml>) includes links to

orders of service, poems, readings, responsive readings, sermons, and stories.

- “Accessibility Protocols for the UUA Boston Campus” (available at http://www.uua.org/documents/equalaccess/uua_boston_campus.pdf) was prepared by EqUUal Access to: (1) facilitate access to the UUA Boston Campus facility and participation in programs offered there, and (2) ensure individuals with disabilities can navigate the campus and participate in meetings and program offerings.

UU Mental Health Ministry

- The UU Mental Health Ministry focuses on mental health issues and is run by UU Community Minister The Rev. Barbara F. Meyers. Connect with this ministry via the following link: <http://www.mpuuc.org/mentalhealth/>
- “Mental Health Information for Ministers” is written to help ministers in their interactions with parishioners with mental health challenges. This document is available at <http://www.mpuuc.org/mentalhealth/MentalHealthInformationforMinisters.pdf>

Hearing Loss Resources

- Hearing loss resources assembled by the EqUUal Access Hearing Loss Caucus are available at <http://www.equalaccess.org/hearingcaucus.html>

Resources for Working with Children with Special Needs Labels

- Sally Patton’s website (<http://www.embracechildspirit.org/>) espouses the philosophy of embracing the spirit of all children, the child within ourselves, within our children, and within each other. We embrace the atypical child, the one we label as special needs. We embrace the child who remembers we never separated from God.

National and Community Accessibility Resources

- **Disabled Community.org** is a clearinghouse of disability resources and information designed to help improve the quality of life for people with disabilities, their friends, caregivers, and social service agencies. (<http://www.disabledcommunity.org/>)
- **Government Disability Information** gives online access to comprehensive information about disability programs, services, laws, and benefits provided by the government. (<https://www.disability.gov/>)

- **Independent Living Centers** are typically nonresidential, private, nonprofit, consumer-controlled, community-based organizations providing services and advocacy by and for persons with all types of disabilities. Their goal is to assist individuals with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential within their families and communities. Many states and localities have their own Independent Living Centers. Usually these nonprofit, locally based organizations provide onsite evaluations including accessibility audits and educational/awareness workshops free of charge. A national website has a database that can help you locate local centers. (<http://www.ilusa.com/>)
- **National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)** is a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit advocacy and legislation organization that advances independent living and the rights of people with disabilities through consumer-driven advocacy. NCIL's focus is national in scope, and cross-disability by policy. (<http://www.ncil.org/>)
- **National Organization on Disability (NOD)**'s mission is to expand the participation and contribution of America's 54 million men, women, and children with disabilities in all aspects of life. (<http://www.nod.org/>)

Organizations for Specific Disabilities

Chemical and Other Environmental Challenges

- **The Environmental Health Environment Network (EHN)**ⁱ Environmental Health Network specializes in intervention and medical health sciences, green building technologies, clinical studies management, and environmental intervention product and patent development. (<http://amiller317.wix.com/ehn#!>)
- **The Chemical Sensitivity Foundation (CSF)**. The primary goal of the Chemical Sensitivity Foundation is to raise public awareness about multiple chemical sensitivity. (<http://www.chemicalsensitivityfoundation.org/>)
- **The National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) – Indoor Environment Quality Project** examined building design and construction issues that affect the indoor environment, and developed an action plan that can be used to reduce the level of chemicals and electromagnetic fields in the built environment, to improve indoor environmental quality for people with chemical and environmental sensitivity. (<http://www.access-board.gov/research/ieq/>)

Developmental Disability

- **The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD)** promotes progressive policies, sound research, effective practices, and universal human rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. (http://www.aamr.org/content_100.cfm?navID=2)
- **The Arc** promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes. (<http://www.thearc.org/page.aspx?pid=2530>)
- **The Autism Society** seeks to improve the lives of all affected by autism by increasing public awareness about the day-to-day issues faced by people on the spectrum, advocating for appropriate services for individuals across the lifespan, and providing the latest information regarding treatment, education, research, and advocacy. (<http://www.autism-society.org/>)
- **Disability is Natural** encourages new ways of thinking about developmental disabilities, in the belief that our attitudes drive our actions, and changes in our attitudes and actions can help create a society where all children and adults with developmental disabilities have opportunities to Live the Lives of Their Dreams, included in all areas of life. (<http://www.disabilityisnatural.com/>)
- **The National Association for Down Syndrome (NADS)** works to ensure that all persons with Down syndrome have the opportunity to achieve their potential in all aspects of community life. NADS offers information, support, and advocacy. (<http://www.nads.org/>)
- **The National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS)** seeks to be the national advocate for the value, acceptance, and inclusion of people with Down syndrome. NDSS envisions a world in which all people with Down syndrome have the opportunity to enhance their quality of life, realize their life aspirations, and become valued members of welcoming communities. (<http://www.ndss.org/>)
- **United Cerebral Palsy** educates, advocates, and provides support services to ensure a life without limits for people with a spectrum of disabilities. (<http://www.ucp.org/>)

Epilepsy

- **The Epilepsy Foundation of America** works to ensure that people with seizures are able to participate in all life experiences; to improve how people with epilepsy are perceived, accepted, and valued in society; and to promote research for a cure. (<http://www.epilepsyfoundation.org/index.cfm>)

Hearing Loss

- **The Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA)** is the leading consumer organization representing people who become Deaf, generally in their teens or older. (<http://www.alda.org/>)
- **Deaf Lynx** is an online resource for information on deafness, Deaf culture, American Sign Language (ASL), and other related topics. (<http://www.deaflynx.com/>)
- **The Hearing Loss Association of America** is the leading consumer organization representing people who are hard of hearing. (<http://www.hearingloss.org/>)
- **The National Association of the Deaf** is the leading consumer organization representing people who are Deaf. (<http://www.nad.org/>)

Mental Health

- **The National Alliance on Mental Illness, (NAMI)** is the major mental health advocacy organization in the United States. NAMI's In Our Own Voice program is a speaker's bureau with speakers who have mental health difficulties. (<http://www.nami.org/>)
- **Mental Health Matters.** , These public access TV shows produced by Rev. Barbara F. Meyers can be watched from the Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation website: <http://www.mpuuc.org/mentalhealth/mentalTVshow.html>

Mobility

- **The American Heart Association** has a mission to build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke. (<http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/>)
- **Mobility International USA** works to empower people with disabilities around the world to achieve their human rights through international exchange and development. (<http://www.miusa.org/>)

- **The Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA)** is a voluntary health agency working to defeat muscular dystrophy and related diseases through programs of worldwide research, comprehensive services, and far-reaching professional and public health education. (<http://mda.org/>)
- **The Multiple Sclerosis Society** helps people affected by MS by funding cutting-edge research, driving change through advocacy, facilitating professional education, and providing programs and services that help people with MS and their families move their lives forward. (<http://www.nationalmssociety.org/index.aspx>)

Veterans Affairs

- **The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)** offers a wide variety of health care services to veterans who have served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces and their dependents. (<http://www.va.gov/health/>)

Visual Disability

The major national-level organizations for people who are blind are listed below:

- **American Council of the Blind** (<http://www.acb.org/>)
- **American Foundation for the Blind** (<http://www.afb.org/default.aspx>)
- **National Federation of the Blind** (<https://nfb.org/>)

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