



Hello,

Happy Disability Pride month! We wish you well this summer and hope that fun and rest are in the works for you. As we began earlier this year, we're compiling short & sweet memos for our funders at the end of each quarter to share a few highlights from the previous few months. Here's what we've been up to recently!

Spring Membership Meeting

In April we had the first of our twice yearly all-member meetings. 54 members joined us virtually, getting updates about Action Teams (focused on voting rights, accessible housing, education & healthcare) and getting plugged into DDP campaigns. We launched our rapid response texting network and our annual Leadership Development Survey at the meeting as well. Nadine, one of our members, announced "*You Can't Put Us Down!*," the new DDP book club that she's spearheading with support from Rami, our community organizer. The mission of the book club is to create a space for DDP members to connect over literature and shared interests in the realms of advocacy, networking, and disability pride. With support from the Michigan Braille and Talking Book Library, this book club commits to and models a high level of accessibility for participants with any and all disabilities. As you can tell, we have really amazing members!

Statewide Disability Landscape & Power Analysis

We recently finished the 6-month landscape analysis process that started at the end of 2021. As we shared last time, more than a dozen partner organizations were involved and more than 25 people were interviewed. The purpose of this analysis was to **discover the gaps or areas of concern** in the current disability landscape across Michigan and to **provide key stakeholders with recommendations to infuse the values and principles of Disability Justice in their work** – i.e. to do more intersectional, collaborative, balanced, sustainable, and *successful* disability justice organizing in Michigan. The Michigan Disability Landscape Analysis is intended to guide the development of a strategy to build a grassroots movement for change for people with disabilities, led by people with disabilities. To this end, partnering organizations will convene this fall to begin putting recommendations into action. You can read the executive summary of the analysis [here](#).

[The A-Z of Effective, Inclusive Campaigns: Win Elections by Getting Out the Disability Vote](#)

In June we released this more than 300-page guide which gives step-by-step instructions for designing a voter contact campaign that is accessible for disabled staff, volunteers & voters. We could not be more proud of this collaborative project, which has been nearly a year in the making and originates from our own experience running a highly inclusive & successful GOTV program in 2020. We made this tool both to ensure that more disabled people can be

engaged in the democratic process and to help build our political power, as well as to help transform campaign culture -which is not only unsustainable for many disabled people, but really for everyone. **We know that more intentional and inclusive campaigns will result in more wins and higher turnout.** We not only want to share [The A-Z of Effective, Inclusive Campaigns](#) guide far and wide for use this campaign cycle, but we also want to take this show on the road. **If you have opportunities for us to speak about the guide (to fellow organizers, funders, the media, etc.) please reach out to us. Or if you have networks of people running campaigns this fall who we should make sure get copies, let's strategize how to make that happen.** We are asking for \$20 donations for the electronic version or \$35 for the print copy. There's also a free version available through the website linked above for those who don't have the resources to pay.

Shifting Culture

As we work to dismantle ableism at the personal, interpersonal, institutional and cultural levels, we engage our members and the public in ways that are intentional about re-orienting the mainstream understanding of disability. To this end, in the last quarter we have:

- Offered more than a dozen [DanceAbility](#) workshops for movers and shakers of all types
- Launched our 2nd annual Reflective Photography workshop series, which provides a creative outlet for members, using photographs of daily experiences to share with each other and the broader community what disability power and pride means to them
- Offered four Community Care Circles for people with disabilities and caregivers
- Facilitated seven anti-ableism workshops, reaching 153 people
- Created and conducted four presentations, reaching 129 people
- Held a community conversation about Queer Pride & Disability
- Provided access consulting for a puppet theater, a local group home network, and a neighborhood park

Finally, we are mid-way through the hiring process for a Political Director. The Political Director will be a full-time role, managing and supporting our Community Organizer and Policy Analyst. This role will be responsible for helping us to build campaigns, connect our members to our policy advocacy work, and will advance our policy & organizing priorities with key allies and decision makers in Detroit and Lansing. We are excited to fill this new role and hope to have great news about a new hire in our next quarterly update!

The rest of this summer brings GOTV planning, organizing workshops for members, and a membership drive. Thank you for all your support making this organizing, movement building, and culture change possible for our members and for our community.

In solidarity,

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