

A UNF Adaptive Toy Project, Special Olympics Summer Games and rebranding the word walking, and more in this issue of Accessibility for All.

# Accessibility for All

## by the Disability and Health Program

### Recent News

#### Artist overcomes speaking disability through beatboxing

Beatboxing is form of music that aims to replicate any instrument in any song using one's mouth and voice.

As a kid, Stevie Soul had a speaking disability and stuttering condition. When he tried to speak, "funny sounds -- instead of words -- would come out of his mouth." Stevie took these sounds and turned them into beats and patterns. Ultimately, this aided Stevie in forming sentences. Stevie has become a passionate, talented beatboxer that has performed in front of large audiences and produced music for national commercials. To learn more, [click here.](#)

#### Airport to Feature Multi-Sensory Room

Delta Airlines has partnered with Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and The Arc, an advocacy group for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, to create a multi-sensory room for customers on the autism spectrum. This room has interactive items, such as a ball pit and a bubbling water sculpture, to help calm and prepare children for air travel experience. To learn more, [click here.](#)



### Upcoming Events

#### Special Needs Resource Fair

Thursday, May 19, 2016  
4:00pm-6:30pm  
Davie, FL

This resource fair is intended for families seeking out community providers and agencies that serve the special needs community. It is free and open to the public. To learn more about this event, and other services provided by Goodman Jewish Family Services of Broward, [click here.](#)

[Family Care Council](#)

## From Spina Bifida to Sled Hockey Player

Chris Douglas grew up with spina bifida, a neurotubular birth defect that required spinal cord surgery when he was 11. Douglas can walk, but needs ankle foot orthotics for "adventurous" activities. He surfs, skates, and is a part of Hurricanes Sled Hockey Team in Rockledge, FL. Moreover, Douglas states he likes "to do everything to the extreme limit and continue to push the limits every day." To learn more, [click here](#).

## UNF Adaptive Toy Project

With the help of an \$85,000 grant from the National Institute of Health (NIH), the University of North Florida will move forward with the development of a project in which students make toys for children with disabilities.

Engineering and physical therapy students will collaborate in an elective class to make battery-powered toy cars that uniquely fit each child's needs. To learn more, [click here](#).

## A Housing Community for Persons with Disabilities

Debby and Terry Kays are hoping to develop a co-housing community in Naples, FL for persons with autism and their families through their non-profit organization, Adonis Autism. This community housing would be a "self-organized and a self-financed group of families that come together to develop a supportive community." Currently, six families are interested in this concept, but the organization aims to house 20 families. To learn more, [click here](#).

## Netflix to Enhance Access for Blind Customers

Netflix has reached a settlement with the American Council for the Blind (ACB) to make movies and videos offered through Netflix video streaming and DVD rental

**Florida (FCCF) Meeting**  
**Saturday, May 21, 2016**  
**8:30am-4:00pm,**  
**Orlando, FL**

The Family Care Councils (FCCs) are a group of governor appointed volunteers that advocate for persons with developmental disabilities and their families. Through the FCCF, representatives from each council meet quarterly to educate and discuss common issues and concerns. To learn more, [click here](#).

### **Special Olympics: Summer Games & Healthy Athletes Screening**

The Special Olympics is hosting various screening events throughout the state, which include dental, vision, audiological, podiatric, and fitness screenings. These events all take place from 9:30am-2:30pm. To find more Special Olympics events, [click here](#).

**\*Near the bottom of the newsletter, we listed upcoming screening events!\***

subscriptions accessible. The settlement indicates Netflix will provide audio description for many popular titles in its streaming and disc rental libraries. It also states Netflix will make its website and mobile applications accessible to individuals who use screen-reading software to navigate websites and apps. To learn more, [click here](#).

## **Study: EMG May Guide Cerebral Palsy Treatment Options**

A new study indicates that data from an electromyography (EMG), a tool that monitors muscle activity, can be evaluated to determine whether surgery is a good fit for a child with cerebral palsy. Children with cerebral palsy often undergo highly invasive surgeries to improve their movement, but only about 50% have significant improvement in their movement after these surgeries. To learn more, [click here](#).

## **Tips, Briefs, & Guides**

### **Announcement: Free Exercise Program!**

Do you live in Gainesville or Alachua County? Do you want to be a part of a fun, inclusive exercise program?

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council and the Gainesville Health and Fitness are seeking participants for a FREE exercise program for adults with developmental disabilities. They are recruiting adults ages 22-59 on the DD HCBS Waiver waiting list. All program activities will be held at Gainesville Health and Fitness Center (Main Center). Free transportation to and from the center can be provided.

For more information contact Holly Hohmesiter at [Hollyh@fddc.org](mailto:Hollyh@fddc.org). Or, contact Noah



## **Webinars & Applications**

### **Employment Webinar Series**

**Wednesday, May 18, 2016**

**5:00pm-6:00pm**

The Florida Center for Inclusive Communities offers a series of webinars geared to build capacity on an array of employment related topics. The next webinar is titled Self-Advocates' Panel Discussion on Employment Supports. To learn more, [click here](#).

### **2016 USABA Scholarship Program** **Deadline: July 31, 2016**

The United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) awards two \$500 scholarships to one male and one female student that has been an active participant in a USABA event and is a current USABA member. Applicants must also be enrolled full-time in a 2 or 4 year college, university, or technical school. To learn more, [click here](#).

Hastay at [fit.for.all2015@gmail.com](mailto:fit.for.all2015@gmail.com) or (352) 377 4955.

## #HowIWalk

The National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability (NCHPAD) has created a movement labelled How I Walk that is challenging individual and societal perspectives to rebrand the word walking. The movement envisions a future of community health inclusion, where health promotion activities are accessible to all! NCHPAD has listed various factsheets to support inclusion in walking. [Click here](#) to learn more.

## Guide: Life on Wheels

Created by the National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability (NCHPAD) created the Life on Wheels guide for living life with a spinal cord injury. It considers individuals who may have a new or longtime spinal cord injury. And, it discusses health complications and nutrition tips. To learn more, [click here](#).

## Self-advocacy at IEP Meetigs

The Pacer Center created a tip sheet for teens on how to advocate for oneself at Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings. Self-advocacy refers to taking responsibility to telling others what you want and need. Moreover, it focuses on ways to practice self-advocacy, such as being able to ask for accommodations and accepting help from others. To learn more, [click here](#).

## Special Olympics: Summer Games & Healthy Athletes Screenings

The Special Olympics is hosting various screening



## About the DHP

The Disability and Health Program (DHP) is funded through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Formerly, the Florida Office on Disability and Health, the DHP is housed under the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention in Tallahassee, FL with partnership from the University of Florida.

events throughout the state, which include dental, vision, audiological, podiatric, and fitness screenings. These events all take place from 9:30am-2:30pm. To find more Special Olympics events, [click here](#).

**Date: 5/15/2016 - 5/16/2016**

- ESPN Wide World of Sports
- Location: Kissimmee, FL
- Screenings: Podiatric, Dental, Fitness, Audiological, Vision

**Sincerely,**

**Florida Disability and Health Program**

Disclaimer: These links are provided for informational purposes, not to solicit donations to an organization nor to promote one organization or resource over another.

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/people-with-disabilities/disability-and-health-program/index.html>

<http://fodh.pphp.ufl.edu>

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