

814 S. Westnedge Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-1162



“Creating Community Together” 3rd Annual Conference on Inclusion & Community Participation

Friday, October 30, 2009
Transformations Spirituality Center
3427 Gull Rd., Nazareth MI

Keynote Speaker: Karen Gaffney

Sponsored by:

Community Advocates for Persons with Developmental Disabilities
Kalamazoo Regional Interagency Consumer Committee (RICC)
Connections Council
Western Michigan University Center for Disability Services
Advocacy Services for Kids (ASK)
Kalamazoo RESA Croyden Avenue School
Parent to Parent of Southwest Michigan
Disability Network Southwestern Michigan
The Arcadia Institute
Simply the Best
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Kalamazoo
Kalamazoo Nature Center
Community Living Options



Keynote Speaker Karen Gaffney

From the moment she was born, Karen Gaffney began an incredible journey that continues today. She is the President of a non-profit organization dedicated to championing the journey to full inclusion in families, schools, the workplace and the community for people with developmental disabilities. She is doing this by creating awareness and calling attention to the tremendous capabilities of people with disabilities. Karen accomplishes this through presentations and workshops delivered all over the country. Karen graduated from St. Mary’s Academy in Portland, Oregon and earned a two-year Associates of Science degree from Portland Community College. She successfully swam the English Channel as part of a six-person relay team. And just last year, she accomplished her biggest swimming Challenge yet...she swam 9-miles across Lake Tahoe in 59-degree water to raise money for the National Down Syndrome Congress and to show the world that people with Down syndrome are more alike, rather than different, from everyone else. Karen travels the country speaking to a wide range of audiences about overcoming limitations and about what can be accomplished with positive expectations. Karen tackles any challenge she faces with determination and commitment, knowing she has limits, but not allowing them to limit her drive to succeed. Oh, and by the way. Karen Gaffney has Down syndrome.

Who Should Attend? People with disabilities, family members, professionals, staff of community serving organizations, and others concerned with welcoming and including people with disabilities in all aspects of community life.

Registration Form

Registration includes coffee/tea and rolls, box lunch & conference materials.

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3rd Annual Conference on
Inclusion & Community Participation*

**Transformations Spirituality Center
October 30, 2009
8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.**

Schedule of the Day

- 8:30-9:00 a.m. Registration, coffee, tea & rolls
- 9:00-9:30 a.m. Welcome with overview of the day.
Introduction of Keynote Speaker
- 9:30-10:30 a.m. “Rewriting the Data” Karen Gaffney
- 10:30-10:45 a.m. Break
- 10:45-11:45 a.m. Breakout Sessions—choice of:

- **Self Determination for Community Inclusion**
KCMHSAS Self-Determination Specialists, Paul Esman & Karen Longanecker and local leaders of Michigan Partners for Freedom
- **Community Inclusion Recreation/Fitness/Leisure Time Activities**
Ann Platte, Simply the Best; Steve Youngblood, Kalamazoo Parks & Recreation; Bill Deming, Portage Parks & Recreation Boundless Play Ground; Jenny Metz, Kalamazoo Nature Center & Allison Hammond, The Arcadia Institute, Community Participation Initiative.
- **Building Friendships & Social Connections with Children in an Inclusive Environment**
Families with children ages birth to 5 years old. Kristi Carambula, Kalamazoo RESA Great Start/Early Childhood Education
- **Nosotros Tambien—Reaching out to the Hispanic Community with Family Members with Special Needs**
Frances Vega-Costas, Parent; Gisela Lawson, Parent

11:45-1:00 p.m. Lunch (Agency displays or walk the Labyrinth)

1:00-2:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions—choice of:

- **Brothers & Sisters: Including our Siblings**
Marcy Wujkowski, (Desert Streams); Ginger Skidmore, (ASK); and Trina Wood (Autism Society); will share about the New Kalamazoo Sibshops. Sibshops are a place where brothers & sisters (ages 8 - 13) of a person with special needs come together to have a good time and be themselves. Sibshops acknowledge that being a brother or sister of a person with special needs is, for some, a good thing, others a not-so-good thing, and for many, somewhere in between. And because Sibshops provide support & information in a recreational atmosphere, siblings have fun while learning.
- **Transition Basics for Families**
Mindy Miller, Kalamazoo RESA Transition Coordinator & Students in Transition. What is transition? How can families be involved in transition planning development? How are community resources and collaboration valuable to the process?
- **Community “Town Meeting” What does Inclusion Mean to You & How to Maximize Opportunities & Overcome Obstacles on to the Path to Inclusion**
Facilitator: Michele McGowen, Disability Network Southwest Michigan. Participants with panel of individuals with disabilities, family members and other advocates will address these issues.
- **Using the Arts to Express One’s Dreams & Goals**
Karen Gaffney—Interactive workshop for individuals with disabilities. (Limit 25)

2:00-3:30 p.m. Wrapping Up- Thoughts into Action

- Make your own ice cream sundae
- Sharing our reflections and evaluation of the day. Karen Gaffney will join panel of participants.
- Door Prize drawing for a copy of Opening Doors Tomorrow. Today.

Enclosed is my registration fee:

\$15 for an individual

I am a:

- Community Member with a Disability
- Professional
- Family member of a person with a disability
- Community member

AM Break-out topic preference:

- Self Determination for Community Inclusion
- Community Inclusion Recreation/Fitness/Leisure Time Activities
- Building Friendships & Social Connections with Children in an Inclusive Environment
- Nosotros Tambien—Reaching out to the Hispanic Community with Family Members with Special Needs

PM Break out topic preference:

- Brothers & Sisters: Including our Siblings
- Transition Basics for Families
- Community “Town Meeting” What does Inclusion Mean to You & How to Maximize Opportunities & Overcome Obstacles on to the Path to Inclusion
- Using the Arts to Express One’s Dreams & Goals

Please note any dietary/accessibility accommodations here:

Name

Organization, if any

Address

E-mail Address

Phone

**Return this form with payment to:
Community Advocates
814 S. Westnedge Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-1162**

Questions?

Phone: 269 342-9801 x 200

Fax: 269 342-4638

Email: commadvocates@communityadvocates.orgt

Please register by October 15th to insure space and food is available.