What's happening at Welcome Change this month.....

Tomorrow is the United Nation's International Day of Persons with Disabilities!

In 1992, at the conclusion of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992), the General Assembly proclaimed December 3rd as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The Decade was a period of raising awareness and enacting measures to improve the situation for persons with disabilities and to provide them with equal opportunities. Subsequently, the Assembly appealed to Member States to highlight the observance of the Day in order to further integrate people with disabilities into society.

For more information and resources visit the UN's website

Alice and Diana will be going to Uzbekistan!

The Kickstarter Goal Has Been Reached!

Diana is off to Uzbekistan, and it is all thanks to YOU! Alice and Diana are very excited and extremely grateful for the opportunity to bring Diana’s inspiring message to the people of Uzbekistan. This trip quite literally would not be possible without your incredible generosity and support so we want to send a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the Kickstarter project (see below). The trip...
is scheduled for February or March and updates will be available on the Welcome Change website, Facebook page and Twitter as more details are finalized. Alice and Diana greatly appreciate your donations and are thrilled to be able to bring the conversation about disability rights and awareness to Uzbekistan!

THANK YOU!


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**Body & Soul: Diana & Kathy Screening in Bangladesh!**

*Body & Soul: Diana & Kathy* will screened this Friday evening at the formal launching ceremony the first International Disability Film Festival in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh will officially inaugurate all the events of the week long celebrations on the 3rd of December to celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

To read more about the festival, [CLICK HERE](#)

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**Give the Perfect Gift(s) this Holiday Season!**

[Image of gift]
In the News...

Families Fight to Care for Disabled Kids at Home
by Joe Shapiro

Olivia Welter is 20 years old and gets... life-saving medical care through a program provided by Illinois' Medicaid program. But it's a program for children. And when Olivia Welter turns 21, at the stroke of midnight on Nov. 9, she is no longer eligible for that care.

"There's not going to be any magic transformation between Nov. 8 and Nov. 9," says the young woman's mother, Tamara Welter. "She will be the same Olivia, with the same challenges and the same care needs."

There are about 600 children with severe disabilities in Illinois who get care through the same in-home program for "medically-fragile and technology-dependent" children, and thousands in other states around the country...

..."I've had doctors, a couple of doctors, who have questioned a decision about doing something for Olivia, kind of on the basis of: Is she worth it? I've looked them in the eye and said, 'Don't you dare say that to me. Do you have children? What would you do for your child?' I think society can look at a person like Olivia and say, 'What can she contribute?'"

...when she turns 21, the state changes how it measures cost. For an adult, the state says the alternative is no longer a hospital — it's a less expensive nursing home.

The state will pay for the Welters to send her to one, although there are none nearby that would take her.

And even if they sent her to a distant nursing home, John Welter doubts his daughter would get the close attention she needs to stay alive.

"We cannot bear the thought of having Olivia in a home or a care home," he says. "Because we would be afraid that in any ten minutes, her life could be put in danger. Or less — in any three minutes. It would be agonizing, day to day to day."

Click here to read the full article.

Quotes of the Month
*Courtesy of Program Development Associates*
"America's success in the global economy depends on how well we put to use the productive capacity of every person's talent, skill and ability."

- Carol Glazer, President of the National Organization on Disability

"Considering how high the unemployment rate of people with disabilities is, it is essential that employment programs designed to assist people with disabilities are user friendly and accessible."

- Earl Smith of DAWWN [Disabled Americans Want Work Now]