



ISLAND DISABILITY COALITION

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER 2020 | ISSUE 5

OUR MISSION:

IDC's mission is to bring together community members dedicated to promoting the full and equal participation of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of life.

Happy Thanksgiving from The IDC

As we approach Thanksgiving, we are reminded how much we are thankful for our Island community. While these months have been a challenge, our community remains strong and resilient. At the IDC we are continuing our quest for a more inclusive Martha's Vineyard and have a number of initiatives underway.

- **IDC's Employment Workgroup:** The team has been meeting regularly to assess the needs of employers, community partners, and prospective employees to offer robust solutions to further employment opportunities for those with a disability.
- **Information Dissemination:** A key component of the IDC is to gather and disseminate disability related information. Resource packets are currently being developed including:
 - Inclusive employment resources
 - Disabilities and the school system
 - Disability health care specialists and organizations
 - Disability transportation information
 - Self Advocacy resources
 - Inclusive recreation & leisure resources



**Federation for Children
with Special Needs**
Nonprofit Organization

**Calling all parents, caregivers
and special education professionals.**

The IDC and the Family Support Center are proud to host:

Transition Training

Tuesday December 8th, 7-9pm via zoom

Save the date for this important zoom session with Eileen Sandberg, the Coordinator for the Pathways for Parents program at the Federation for Children with Special Needs. Watch your email for your invitation and zoom details to access the session. You may also email idcmvy@gmail.com to register or for more information.

This 2 hour virtual training will cover how to plan for the steps leading to transition, including academic and non-academic courses and learning experiences, employment and related training opportunities, community living, and leisure activities. Topics will include how to develop an IEP for transition aged youth to focus on the youth's strengths, preferences, interests for future education, employment and living. Adult service agencies including DDS, DMH and MRC will also be discussed.

Community Corner



Welcome to Community Corner! As part of IDC's mission to promote an inclusive Martha's Vineyard, we plan to highlight an initiative each newsletter.

This month's spotlight is a brief interview with Josey Kirkland, Education Manager and Camp Director of Felix Neck, part of Mass Audubon.

Felix Neck is an Organizational Member of the IDC and participated in the Kids Included Together Cohort.

Describe steps your organization is taking towards inclusion:

"Diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice is one of Mass Audubon's top priorities. Here at Felix Neck we continue to update our program offerings, activities, trails, and buildings to make sure that they are accessible to all. We are able to make reasonable accommodations with our camp, school programs, and other offerings so that everyone has an opportunity to participate no matter their abilities or financial situations. We have ADA compliant trail systems, bathrooms and buildings, a Nature Play Zone that we are in the middle of updating with more sensory activities and features for all levels and ages, internship programs for youth with learning disabilities, and more."

How did being part of IDC's Kid's Included Together cohort impact Felix Neck?

"I think my biggest take away so far from the KIT cohort is that while we know what we offer internally for all abilities, we weren't necessarily publicizing it. I received great coaching on putting more language into our program brochures so families and individuals knew all that we offered at Felix Neck. We also received help in creating an accessibility brochure to be able to highlight those specific programs and features."

Any opportunities coming up in the next weeks/months?

"We may not be able to hold our annual Fall Festival in-person, but we're still celebrating! This year we invite you to share your memories of Fall Festivals past in our Fall Festival Reflections Contest. Enter by November 27 for the chance to win a prize! Our trails are open every day dawn-dusk so I encourage everyone to come take a walk! We have long trails, short trails, a labyrinth, benches, a nature play zone, and more! It is so important to spend time outside so come and take advantage of all that we have to offer at Felix Neck!"

For more information visit www.massaudubon.org/felixneck



News & Noteworthy:

Recreation & Leisure Discovery Session: Continuing the conversation with Kat King and the IDC Tuesday, December 2nd, 12:00 PM via Zoom (contact idcmvy@gmail.com)

General Coalition Meeting: January 6th at 12:00 PM via zoom

Follow the IDC on Facebook

<http://www.idcmvy.org/index.html>

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