



ISLAND DISABILITY COALITION

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2021 | ISSUE 6

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.

Training & Consulting Opportunities Available

Program Overview:

The IDC is pleased to announce we are offering opportunities for individualized project assistance from Kat King to develop and support inclusive recreation & leisure projects. Kat led 14 Island organizations last year in the IDC sponsored Youth Inclusion Development Leadership training program. The program will be continued this year to work on specific inclusion projects. Is your organization interested?

Visit IDCMVY.org for more details and to download the application form. Applications are due February 19, 2021. Projects will commence in March, and typically wrap up by December, 2021.

Types of projects the IDC would like to support:

- Design of an inclusive program or event
- Review of programs and space to recommend an accessible and welcoming experience
- Inclusion and disability training for staff
- Development of an inclusive volunteer program
- Policy/procedure reviews and recommendations for
 - Inclusive goal setting
 - Inclusive marketing messages
 - Inclusive hiring practices

Save the Date!



Special Needs Discussion Group February 23rd, 7pm via Zoom

The MV Family Center invites you to join *Journeys*, a monthly virtual discussion group for families raising children with special needs. Parents will have the opportunity to connect with other families to share experiences, challenges and advice. Heather Quinn, Director of Early Childhood programs at MVCS, will facilitate the discussions and offer family support. The kickoff meeting is Tuesday February 23, 2021 at 7pm via zoom. Subsequent meetings will be held the last Tuesday of the month. Please email mvfamilycenter@gmail.com or call 508-687-9182 to register or for more information.

All About Inclusive Employment March 11th, 12pm via Zoom

Please join us for an informative General IDC Coalition Meeting to hear all about our inclusive employment plans which will kickoff this Spring. General IDC Meetings are open to all and are a great opportunity to connect with community partners and organizations. A Zoom link will be sent out, as well as be available on our website, IDCMVY.org.

Community Corner

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



The Martha's Vineyard Film Festival (MVFF) provides programming to
MVRHS Special Needs Students
managed by
Jenna Robichau, Education Coordinator for the MVFF

What started with a simple holiday music video for the MVRHS Compass and Navigator Programs in 2019, has evolved into a robust movie designed, performed and produced by the students. Compass and Navigator serve the special needs population at MVRHS.

Like many organizations, the MVFF needed to redirect their offerings in light of Covid challenges. One result was the extremely successful summer drive-in movie theatre. Last fall, Brian Ditchfield, MVFF Program Director and Jenna Robichau, MVFF Education Coordinator, started assessing opportunities for creative in-person projects. The Compass and Navigator students have had in-person learning since the fall. Given the success and feedback from the holiday music video, the Drama Teacher, Brooke Ditchfield pitched the idea of an extensive music/dance/theatre movie program to Jenna and Brian. The result has been educational, connecting, inspiring, and a lot of fun!

"Each student is in charge of their portion of the video. They choose the song, the background, dance moves, the staging, basically all aspects of the video," said Jenna. "We are able to take their complex ideas and break them into something creative and meaningful for each student, and pull it together for an overall movie."

The team meets weekly and plans to have the filming complete this month. Social distancing is observed with the kids fully aware of their individual space and even learning and performing sign language rather than singing. Creative editing ideas with the kids are being developed to keep them involved in the process, yet safe.

"It's been a fun, accessible curriculum that we would like to take to the elementary schools," said Jenna. The goal doesn't stop there. "We have applied for a Tower Foundation Grant to create an island-wide play involving the entire disability community." Additional ideas include expanding the MVFF drive-in movie program with sensory friendly movies and events that are more inclusive.

Pictured from left to right, MVRHS students Andres Sanchez Roa, Alyssa Sylvia, Jhonatha De Oliveira (at the mic), Kyra Wildanger and Conner McGrath during a filming session in the Performing Arts Center.

For more information contact Jenna Robichau, jenna@tmvff.org

