



World Ability Federation Fact Sheet

About the World Ability Federation, NFP

The World Ability Federation directly affects the expansion of the World Ability Industry...an industry pledged to ensure that an individual's disability will never mean more than their ability. The contribution of all people, regardless of their different abilities, will be recognized and valued.

Since the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in July 1990 and the New Freedom Initiative in February 2001, thousands of individuals and organizations have stepped forward to create new abilities for people with disabilities. The efforts of those individuals and organizations have had life-changing results for the more than 57 million Americans with disabilities, yet those efforts remain under-funded and under-acknowledged. The World Ability Federation was formed to unify those efforts into an exciting new industry...The "World Ability" Industry.

The World Ability Federation is an accredited 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation.

About the World Ability Awards Gala

The World Ability Awards Gala is a formal awards ceremony like the Nobel Prize or the Academy Awards. The World Ability Awards Gala properly acknowledges those individuals and organizations that help to bring focus on a person's ability rather than their disability. We honor individuals who remind us that we all have different abilities and we are more correctly known for what we do and can do rather than what we cannot do. This single event brings together government leaders, corporate America, philanthropists, and those organizations who work directly to support people with disabilities into one arena with a common mission...to celebrate the achievements of the World Ability Industry and to directly encourage improvements in the lives of people who have a disability. The World Ability Awards Gala is not a fundraiser. The primary purpose is to raise awareness for those that we honor.

Past winners of this coveted award include: Adam Kissiah, Jr. (Inventor of the Cochlear Implant); Annie Mansfield Sullivan Foundation; AVIS Access; Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind; Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation; DEKA (iBOT - Wheelchair that walks up stairs); Exceptional Parent Magazine; Follow Your Heart Foundation; Fran and Kim "The Real Rainman" Peek; HP; IBM Accessibility Center; International Center on Deafness and the Arts; International Rehabilitation Center for Polio; LaSalle Bank; Microsoft Accessible Technology Group; Misericordia Heart of Mercy; Mount Sinai Hospital; National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research; National Scholarship Award for Workplace Innovation and Design; National Spinal Cord Injury Association; New Mobility Magazine; Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation; Shriners Hospital for Children; Sorenson Media; The Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis; US Department of Defense; Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program; Walt Disney Parks and Resorts.

Participating celebrities and supporters of the annual gala (past and present) include: Christopher Reeve (Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation); Marlee Matlin (Academy Award Winning Actress); Kathleen Quinlan (Hollywood Actress); Robin Leach (Television Personality); Jim McMahon (NFL Super Bowl Winning Quarterback); Cathleen Burke (cousin of Annie Sullivan); Robert David Hall (Television Actor - CSI: Crime Scene Investigation); Kim Peek (the man who inspired the Academy Award winning "Rain Man"); Heather Whitestone McCallum (Former Miss America); Theresa Temborius (Miss Wheelchair Illinois); Lt. Col. Brian Birdwell (9/11 Pentagon Attack Survivor); Barry Morrow (Academy Award Winning Screenwriter) Adam Kissiah Jr. (invented the Cochlear Implant); Tippi Hedren (Legendary Hollywood Actress); Bob Love (Retired NBA Superstar); Marc Buoniconti (The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis); Sam Schmidt (Indy 500 Driver); Steve Tingus (Director NIDRR, US Dept of Education); A. Richard Anderson (Chairman of the Board of Directors, Shriners Hospital for Children)

