

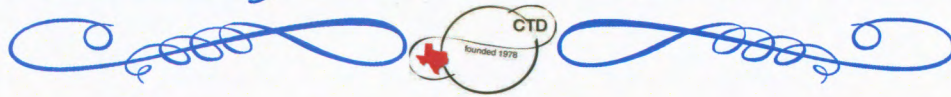
THE COALITION OF TEXANS WITH DISABILITIES



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2011**



From the desk of CTD's Executive Director



Dear Friend of Disability Advocacy,

Does the format of this report, especially the front and back covers, remind you of something? It should, because it's based on a magazine with wide and enduring distribution that resists the status quo. Why did CTD choose to honor this satire publication with an homage? Because humor helps us hold onto our sanity during *maddening* times! And more so, because we want you to engage with this interactive report, then get engaged in advocacy in 2012!

2011 was a very important legislative year for Texas. We had little margin for error when it came to fighting against a \$27 billion budget shortfall and proposals that would have eliminated special therapies for kids and a wide range of other crucial services, abolished accessibility standards, reduced voting access, and much more. Although the outcomes weren't all good, I can honestly say that CTD worked tirelessly to protect and promote your interests. We held big rallies at the Capitol, spoke to and educated legislators, and equipped you with the tools necessary to make your voices heard.

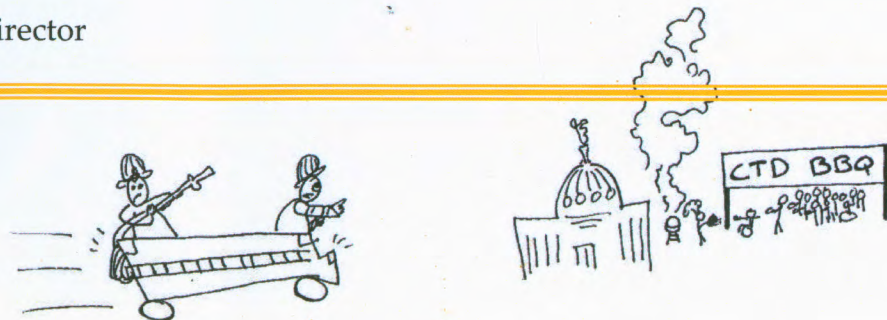
While the legislative session has ended, advocacy does not. CTD's skilled and professional staff continues to work with state agencies, elevate public awareness, and educate folks with and without disabilities. A note about our staff: on first sight, visitors to our office comment how the majority of the staff is made up of people with significant disabilities. On seeing our various projects, the comments refocus on the *quality* of our staff. We're not modest— we're proud of our work, too— but we can't do it without YOU!

CTD calls upon you to continue advocating during this interim year- stay in touch with your legislators, participate in your community, vote, and join CTD or renew your membership. TOGETHER, we can make OUR voices heard!

For a Barrier-Free Society,

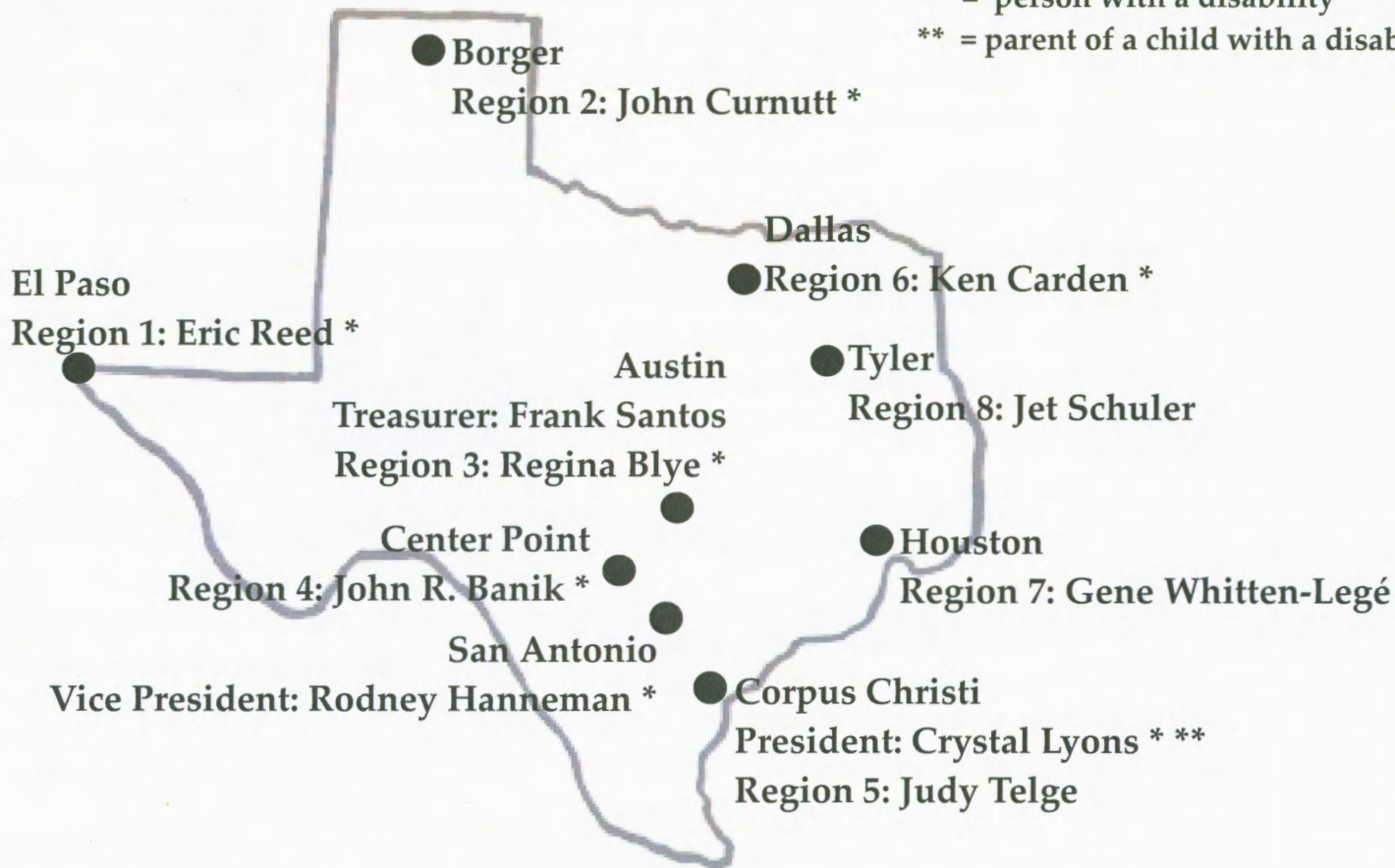
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Dennis Borel'.

Dennis Borel, Executive Director



CTD Board of Directors

* = person with a disability
 ** = parent of a child with a disability



Awards in 2011



The **Alliance of Texas Down Syndrome Associations** recognized CTD's Director of Advocacy Chase Bearden for his "dedication and commitment to advocating for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities," in particular, the Respectful Language Bill, which passed this session.



CTD won the 2011 **Barbara Jordan Media Award** from the Texas Governor's Office for outstanding use of media in depicting the reality of people with disabilities. Judges recognized two unique media achievements, CTD's exclusive video interview with Dr. Temple Grandin, which premiered at the 2010 Film Festival, and the soccer match on the grounds of the State Capitol with the Haitian National Amputee Soccer Team.



The **Personal Attendant Coalition of Texas (PACT)** extended sincere appreciation to CTD's Executive Director Dennis Borel for "exemplary dedication as a supporter of the PACT organization and community of persons with disabilities of all ages and furthering the mission of PACT in Texas and across the nation."

The **Texas Physical Therapy Association** presented Chase Bearden with the 2011 President's Award in appreciation of Outstanding Service. Chase is the first ever recipient of the award who is not a physical therapist.



ADVOCACY




82nd Legislative Session

Each legislative session, bills arise that would cut services, weaken accessibility standards, and threaten the participation of Texans with disabilities in all areas of their lives. Below, read about a few areas where CTD fought back and won in 2011.

View our full 2011 Legislative Report online at http://www.cotwd.org/pdf/2011_leg_report.pdf.

State Budget 2012-13

 The first version of the budget would have left Health & Human Services, which includes most disability services, \$16 billion short of maintaining current services. CTD and our partners were successful in **restoring much of the cuts** to programs for people with disabilities, though the Legislature still left Medicaid almost \$5 billion short. Still, CTD worked to ensure that **no one on Medicaid will be completely cut** from funding in the 2012- 2013 biennium.

Self Advocate Highlight: The O'Bryan Family



The O'Bryans came to the Capitol to self advocate for services for their daughter with Down Syndrome. The family met with their legislator, Senator Ogden, chair of the Finance Committee, and did a great job of explaining how state services help their family and allow their daughter to reach her full potential. Sen. Ogden assured them that TX would not cut services to kids with disabilities, although CTD staff pointed out that this was exactly what the Legislature was planning to do. It was clear that at this moment, Sen. Ogden "got it."

Rallies, Press Conferences, & Marches

Advocacy doesn't only happen inside the Capitol; in 2011, CTD participated in many demonstrations at the Capitol and around Austin, with YOU!

From top left: SSLC Complaint Clothesline, May 5 • Don't Wreck Texas Rally & Candlelight Vigil, April 1 • Save Our State (S.O.S.) Rally, April 6 • Texas Health Rally, February 5 • My Medicaid Matters Press Conference, September 21 • Attendant Appreciation Day Rally, March 22 • Last Supper for Human Services, April 20

Background:
Texans March for Independence Rally,
March 1



Independent Living Policy



In addition to preventing the abolishment of **DARS**, CTD was successful in helping to pass bills that will expand the **Amber Alert system** to include adults with intellectual disabilities, require transit authorities to respond within two business days to travelers' request for **paratransit** approval, and promote **respectful language**.

Accessibility/ Built Environment



Every legislative session, CTD works to educate legislators on the importance of basic accessibility. For example, in 2011, we helped to prevent the abolishment of the **Texas Accessibility Standards** and successfully opposed the **deregulation of Interior Design**.

Health Care Policy



As healthcare changes, CTD seeks opportunities to shift away from institutions towards cost-effective community services. In 2011, we helped **expand Medicaid managed care** to the Lower Rio Grande Valley, taking 7,000 people with disabilities off the community waivers wait list. We also worked to **limit restraints** in state supported living centers.

Civil Rights



This session, several dangerous bills regarding architectural barriers and accessibility were on the floor. CTD succeeded in ensuring that all elections, without exception, meet the requirements of providing **physical access to accessible electronic voting machines**.



Session stats...

- *Press conferences that CTD organized or spoke at: 14*
- *Legislative committees CTD worked before: 19*
- *Organizations CTD partnered or collaborated with: 25+*
- *Bills CTD worked on: 40+*
- *Hours CTD lead staff spent on advocacy work: 3,200*
- *Signers to the Invest in Community Petition: 12,102*
- *Action alerts sent to CTD members: 27,800+*
- *Number of dollars that CTD specifically restored to the final budget: \$69 million*

Meet our Staff!

At CTD, all staff members participate in multiple projects throughout the year. In this report, see where each staffer focuses his or her efforts.

Executive Director
Dennis Borel
Bachelor of Business
Administration
University of Michigan



When Dennis isn't at the Capitol, he's fearlessly leading our team, raising revenue, and building partnerships. He never misses an opportunity to spread CTD's message; for example, in the photo above, Dennis uses a turnip to give an overview of disability issues in a local news interview.

Director of Advocacy
Chase Bearden
BA, Business
Concordia University



Chase advocates for Texans with disabilities through community organizing, statewide outreach,

professional consulting and trainings. His award-winning efforts have affected positive change in the areas of employment, transportation, voting, housing, health care and architectural barriers.

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CDS Coordinator
Rachel Griffin



Rachel manages CTD's ever expanding Consumer Directed Services Agency.

On a daily basis, this involves office administration, payroll, providing program information to clients, and development of fruit-communications.

CDS Coordinator
Bryson McCall Smith
Bachelor of Business Administration

University of Texas at Austin



Also in the CDS office, Bryson handles intake, timesheet data and claims processing. In his spare time, Bryson can be

found advocating, organizing, and having a pretty good time.

Writing & Editing
Susie Angel

BA, Magazine Journalism
University of Texas at Austin



Susie is the editor-in-chief of *The Messenger*,

CTD's newsletter. She manages e-alerts, helps maintain the website, co-coordinates Pen 2 Paper, seeks out and writes grants, edits all manner of documents & serves as CTD's research guru.

COMMUNITY



CTD's work doesn't end with advocacy. **Public awareness, outreach, and education** help us achieve our mission to build a more inclusive, aware Texas. Below, match each description with its picture to find out who we worked with around the state in 2011!

1. CTD staffers with significant disabilities met with cadets from the **Austin Police Academy** to create an interview-style video on successful interactions with people with physical disabilities, which was later presented to the entire cadet class.

A.



2. CTD staff appeared on the local access TV program **The Gene and Dave Show** in a 45minute long episode that addressed the Affordable Care Act and people with disabilities.

B.



3. CTD assisted Texas Rowing for All with the **Paralympics Experience** on Lady Bird Lake in Austin, where the public could learn about adaptive rowing. Events finished with a Wounded Warriors family row.

C.



4. CTD participated in 14 local presentations on the **Help America Vote Act (HAVA)** throughout communities in Texas.

D.



5. The **OneStar Foundation** featured CTD staff in their Texas Inclusion Team initiative. This new campaign seeks to involve more individuals with disabilities in national service. (CTD knows a few things about an inclusive workplace!)

E.



6. At the request of the **University of Texas system**, CTD convened and conducted a focus group of people with disabilities on the subject of assistive technology and university research.

F.



7. To celebrate the passage of HB 1481, or the **Respectful Language** bill, CTD joined many organizations and self advocates this fall to honor the policy makers that championed this legislation.

G.



Answers: 1. E. 2. G. 3. A. 4. F. 5. B. 6. D. 7. C.



Extra! Extra!

Just a few samples of CTD's 2011 Media Coverage

Austin American-Statesman **AP** Associated Press

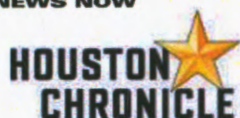


The New York Times



KUT

EXPERIENCE AUSTIN TEXAS



The Dallas Morning News



Meet our Staff!

At CTD, all staff members participate in multiple projects throughout the year. In this report, see where each staffer focuses his or her efforts.

Film Fest Coordinator & IT Specialist

William Greer

BA, Political Science
Kenyon College



William maintains CTD's website, making sure it is fully accessible. He founded and coordinates our annual film festival, Cinema Touching Disability, and CTD's running team, the ConTenDers.



Media Coordinator

Tanya Barrow

BA, Radio Television & Film
University of North Texas



Tanya is the PR rock star for CTD. She writes and designs material and collabo-

rates with staff to get the latest CTD news, events, and advocacy information out to press and social media.



Marketing & Outreach

Laura Perna

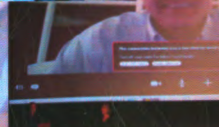
MA, Italian Studies
New York University



Laura uses her language powers in the areas of communications, writing grants, and member outreach at CTD. So far, her proudest accomplishment here is founding the Pen 2 Paper creative writing competition.



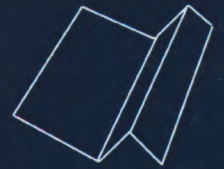
8th Annual Cinema Touching Disability
Film Festival: October 20th, 22nd, 23rd



Highlights include (clockwise from top): opening night at the Goodwill Community Center, awards presented to Short Film Competition winners (here, Alex Murphy for *Let Me Finish*), Short Film Competition winner *No Pity*, feature documentary *Monica and David*, episode of TV series *Sue Thomas: F.B.I.*, 1942 noir-farce feature film *Eyes In the Night*, Short Film Competition winner *Performance of Drowning*, Academy Award-nominated feature documentary *Sound and Fury*, reading of Pen 2 Paper creative writing contest winners, Skype interview with David Alan Johnson, the creator of *Sue Thomas*

Background: The theater fills up at the Alamo DraftHouse.

CTD FOLD-IN!



A

B

Fold back so that "A" meets "B"



Jobs, pollution, healthcare and more are discussed in public forums every day. What is the best thing CTD members can do to support their cause?

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
316 W. 12th St. # 405
Austin, TX 78701
www.cotwd.org
512-478-3366

A

Fold edge "A" to "B" for the answer.

B

