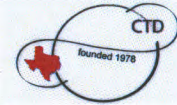


Coalition of Texans with Disabilities



# 2010 Year in Review

*Over thirty years of advocacy and counting*

## Advocacy

CTD worked vigorously to research proposed legislation, coordinate with other advocates, speak with committee chairmen and members, provide testimony, hold press conferences, and organize citizens to ensure that Texans with disabilities had a voice.

### Advocates Round Table (ART)

ART is an informal gathering of cross-disability advocates, typically meeting once per month to discuss state budget issues. CTD and ADAPT founded the ART in order to prepare seniors and people with disabilities for a highly challenging advocacy environment, share information, and cultivate collaborations.



Invest in Community is the brand of ART's state budget advocacy campaign. In 2010, we organized a rally on Sept. 1 (above) at the Capitol, called a press conference on the Faces of Medicaid on Dec. 8, and are holding a petition drive to communicate to our legislators that cuts to health and human services are a bad idea! Sign the petition online at

[www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions/stoptexascuts](http://www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions/stoptexascuts)

<http://txp2p.org/InvestCommunity/index.htm> is the Invest in Community website

### CTD Provided Testimony...

- for a study on Managed Care conducted by the **Health and Human Services Commission**
- to the State **Comptroller**, regarding durable medical equipment & supplies procurement
- at the Texas **Department of Insurance** hearing, on drug switching
- on interim charges to committees of **House Appropriations, Senate Finance, Senate Jurisprudence, and Senate Health & Human Services**
- at a public hearing for **DARS'** Legislative Appropriations Request...**plus many more!**

### Committees & Workgroups in 2010—Just some of the places CTD is at the table for you!

- Governor Appointments:
  - State Independent Living Council
  - Texas Board of Architectural Examiners
  - Texas Rehabilitation Council
- Promoting Independence Advisory Council (HHSC)
- Home & Community Services Workforce Advisory Council
- CORE Foundation Board
- Texas Rowing For All Board
- STAR Plus Stakeholders (HHSC)
- DADS Waiting List Stakeholders
- State Bar of Texas-Texas Lawyers for Texas Vets Committee
- Medicaid Infrastructure Grant Advisory Committee (DARS)
- Texas Forward Coalition

## Developing skills! CTD Conducted Advocacy Trainings for...

- Texas Advanced Leadership & Advocacy Conference, on critical public policy issues
- State Independent Living Council Conference
- Volar CIL's Our Lives Conference (El Paso), on public policy
- Family Support Conference (Kerrville)
- Down Syndrome state meeting
- Goodwill Public Policy Committee

## CTD and the PASARR Initiative: These lives won't be forgotten

Or more formally, the Texas Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASARR).

At least 3,000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) are confined to nursing homes and, according to the State, virtually **none have been evaluated for treatment and services** due them under Texas law. The PASARR system is designed to identify individuals with ID/DD, review them for appropriate services and determine whether these individuals may be served in the community. Experience in other states has demonstrated that between 60-90% could be more appropriately served in an integrated community setting. In Texas, the State considers that all these individuals are appropriately placed in nursing homes.

CTD will partner as a plaintiff organization with Advocacy Inc. to discuss with the State corrective action regarding these individuals and, if negotiations prove unsatisfactory, pursue further legal action.



CTD Staff



Some of the Faces of Medicaid at the Capitol

## Cost-effective community services not institutions!

CTD testified, presented and spoke to numerous groups with a consistent message: Cost-effective community services not institutions. Here's how and why:

### Nursing facilities

- Strengthen **relocation services, improve discharge planning** from hospitals and rehab facilities and implement **diversion programs**.

### Consolidate State Supported Living Centers (SSLCs)

- SSLC census has declined for over 15 years, more people are returning to community placements and institutional costs are skyrocketing.

### Adopt community mental health restoration for forensics

- Forensic patients are clogging the state hospital system, while Texas has operated four **successful pilots** for restoration in jails or at home.

### APPROX. NET SAVINGS PER PERSON:

**30-50%!**

## Public Awareness and Education

### Annual Convention

CTD's 32nd Annual Convention was held in El Paso this year with the Volar Center for Independent Living. This year's theme, *Our Voice, Our Vote* focused on the elections and featured 3 days of workshops on self-advocating during the 2011 legislative session. Candidate for governor Bill White (D), Barbara Ann Radnofsky (D), candidate for Attorney General of Texas, and other candidates from both parties spoke at the conference about their vision and plan for Texas in 2011. In addition to the political forums and speakers, CTD and Volar implemented panels on health and consumer issues relevant to the disabled community.



Candidate Bill White Questioned by Jennifer McPhail

# VOTEXAS

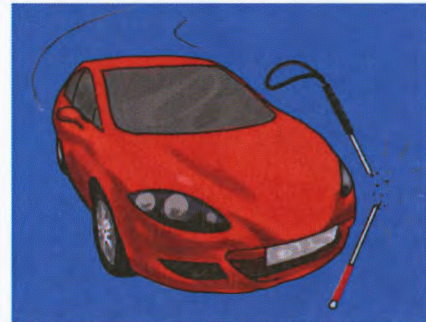
CTD worked on the Texas Secretary of State's campaign to reach out to Texas voters with disabilities. CTD staff provided input on messaging to voters with disabilities and poll worker training. We also traveled across the state to demonstrate accessible technology used at the polls and encourage ALL Texans to vote!

CTD's Newsletter, the Messenger (right), gives our members regular updates about what we're up to! In 2010, the theme that tied it all together was **Crisis as Opportunity**.

### Teaching Awareness: Selected Educational Presentations in 2010—We don't always talk about public policy!

- **Medicaid Buy-In Option Trainings** for Training & Rehabilitative Disability Institute in San Antonio, multiple groups in El Paso, & as a webinar
- Presentation: **The Business Case for Hiring People with Disabilities**, TWC Navigators' Conference.
- Presentation & Interactive Exhibit for the Secretary of State **Elec. Law Seminar**
- Presentation: **Mental Health** Issues to the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities
- Presentation: **Adaptive Rowing** to the Austin Mayor's Committee on People with Disabilities
- Presentation: **Scouting for Boys with Disabilities** at Scout University (Boy Scouts)

### Pedestrians with Disabilities Safety Video Gets Statewide Distribution



CTD produced a video and Power Point presentation for the American Council of the Blind of Texas: **Driver Awareness/ Pedestrian Safety**. The video was approved by the Texas Dept. of Transportation and sent to some 4500 employers across the state.



The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Cinema Touching Disability Film Festival was held October 14th– 16th this year at the Goodwill Community Center and the Alamo Drafthouse on South Lamar. With the Drafthouse selling out on both nights and over 300 attendees, it's safe to say the film fest had another wildly successful year. Featured screenings were *Marwencol*, *Warrior Champions*, and the multiple Emmy-winning *Temple Grandin*. Australian animator of "LaserBeak Man" Tim Sharpe spoke to our audience Saturday night, and we premiered CTD's exclusive interview with Dr. Temple Grandin.



CTD's Borel and the real Dr. Temple Grandin

**Winners: Scholastic Film Makers:**

Seeing Through the Lens- Michelle Smith, Laurie Cherry-White, Ashley Bernard/ Judges Pick  
Yakety Yak- Rachel Williams/ Audience Favorite  
The Pirate and the Mermaid- Arpeggio Films

**Winners: Emerging Film Makers:**

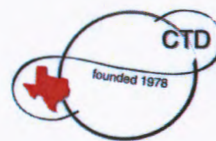
Mothersbain- Jason Jakaitis/ Judges Pick  
Deaf Mugger- William Mager/ Audience Favorite  
A Life Less Ordinary / Let Me In - Michael Ciccone,  
Ray Jacobs

This April, CTD put out a call for submissions for **Pen 2 Paper**, our first disability-focused creative writing contest. It was open to Texans of any age to voice their stories, perspectives, fears, and discoveries about disability. As soon as we posted the announcement about the contest, we started hearing from folks across the state, and by the end of the content, we had received over 60 entries!

Contestants submitted so many wonderful works of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry, that it was difficult to

select Pen 2 Paper's FIRST Grand Prize winner: Jason Minor for his short story, [A Dance in the Woods](#). Read this, and ALL winning entries at [www.cotwd.org/pen2paper.html](http://www.cotwd.org/pen2paper.html).

CTD and Speaker of the House Joe Straus hosted the **Haitian National Amputee Soccer Team** for a friendly match with city players on the Capitol grounds in mid November. Local players included CTD's Dennis Borel, Goodwill CEO Jerry Davis, Integral Care Medical Director Jim Van Norman, Austin soccer legend Bacilio Mata and Amerigroup VP David Escame. The team is touring America to raise awareness of the capabilities of people with disabilities and generate support for a long term therapeutic recreation program in Haiti.



**Coalition of Texans with Disabilities**

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