

YOU, ME, AND TECHNOLOGY: SPREADING THE WORD



About YAI

- YAI supports people of all ages with intellectual and developmental disabilities in achieving the fullest life possible by creating new opportunities for living, loving, working and learning.
- YAI is a network of agencies with programs that empower and enhance the lives of thousands of people we support and their families.

Nothing About Us Without Us

- || Nothing about us without us communicates the idea that no policy should be decided by any representative without the full and direct participation of members of the group(s) affected by that policy.
- || With this in mind, we knew how important it was to include the people we support in providing trainings, and awareness of the Declaration to people with cognitive disabilities, staff, and the community at large.

**Every Cause Needs A
Champion!**

Selecting the Declaration Champions

- In My Shoes is an advocacy group at YAI comprised of nine people with IDD who present to diverse audiences on their life experiences with a focus on asserting one's rights and responsibilities and addressing societal barriers.
- For this proposal, YAI recruited six members of the In My Shoes group to become "champions" of the Declaration.

Declaration Champions



Where Did We Start?

- We recognized that the “Declaration Champions” had a hard time understanding the language used in the Declaration.
- Many of the advocates had never heard the word cognitive before and had difficulty pronouncing the word.
- We worked with Richard Dilallo (works with world-renowned author James Patterson) to create a version of the Declaration with language that is easier to understand and communicate to others.

Project Objectives

**Education
& Training**

Train advocates and develop training materials that will reach a wide audience.

**Connect
&
Network**

Increase support for the Declaration within the organization and the broader community.

Impact

Increase awareness of the Declaration.

Project Objectives

Education & Training

- Presentation Skills Training to enhance the skills of the Declaration Champions
- Developed Techno Rights PowerPoint with visuals (multisensory approach) with the Declaration Champions
- Presented at New York State Self Advocacy Conference
- Train regional self-advocacy groups

Education & Training

- Declaration Champions present at new staff orientation trainings
- Declaration Champions will continue to “spread the word” to all agency department managers and direct support staff

Project Objectives

Connect & Network

- Agency's Network News Article featuring the Declaration Champions and their "story". The article includes a link to sign the Declaration
- Article shared on YAI's Facebook page
- Article with link to sign the Declaration on YAI's home page
- Collaborate with NYSACRA (New York State Association of Community and Residential Agencies) to "spread the word"

Connect & Network

- 2016 Bronx DDSO Residential Conference
(managers from all OPWDD funded programs in the Bronx attend)
- NYSADSP (New York State Association of Day Services Providers) 2016 Symposium

Project Objectives

Impact

- You, Me, and Technology: Spreading the Word video. This video will appear on YAI's YouTube channel
- Declaration Champions will host regional Technology Fairs- "Changing the way staff work with the people they support"

Project Objectives

Impact

“Ask Me About the Declaration” buttons

