

NHU Outlook is published by **New Horizons Un-Limited Inc. (NHU)**, a 501(c)3 tax exempt non-profit disability advocacy organization that connect those impacted by disability to the information, tools and experiences that encourage lifelong learning and community, so that we may work together to create a more inclusive, accepting society.

Our programs are possible through the generous contributions of our community partners, member and donor families and many in-kind donors. To contribute to New Horizons Un-Limited, please see the back of this newsletter.

To learn more about NHU, visit our website at new-horizons.org or e-mail us at horizons@new-horizons.org

"Your mouth tells a story about how healthy you really are."

– Dr. Kami Hoss

In this newsletter:

Summer 2025

- Waiting For A Smile: *The Struggle For Dental Accommodations*
- September Is National Guide Dog Awareness Month
- A Story Of Being Human: A Doll Like Me: It's time to start talking about inclusion
- Social Media: Where to Find Us
- July: A Time to Celebrate Disability Pride

NHU Outlook published by:

New Horizons Un-Limited Inc.
731 N. Jackson Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

new-horizons.org

Email:
horizons@new-horizons.org

Waiting for a Smile

The Struggle for Dental Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities



Delta Dental Special Needs Clinic at Marquette University

People with disabilities often face challenges finding healthcare that is equipped to handle their unique needs, and dental care is no exception. However, considering that poor oral health is connected to overall health and can cause an **increased risk of heart disease, diabetes, and more**, going to the dentist is critical to controlling other health risks. Finding a dentist trained in treating patients with disabilities and an office equipped to accommodate them may be difficult.

Why is it so hard to find a dentist who will treat a family member who has cerebral palsy, for instance?

Continue on Page 2



A Story of Being Human: A Doll Like Me

“Visibility and being seen transcends culture. Ironically, the more different you are, the less you are seen.

It’s more than just a doll. These dolls represent a kid, they represent a lot. Some of these kids have never seen another kid who looks like them, let alone a doll they can play with. The sheer number of dolls on my waitlist shows how desperate people are to be seen.

It’s time to start talking about inclusion and what that should really look like.”

Follow along with our stories:



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newhorizonsunlimited.wordpress.com

Under Title II of the ADA, state and local governments, including public healthcare institutions, are mandated to offer equal access and reasonable accommodations to individuals with disabilities. This ensures that medical facilities, including dental offices, are equipped to cater to diverse patient needs, fostering an environment where disabled individuals can receive oral health services with dignity and equality.

It can be challenging for dentists to comply with ADA requirements due to factors like the cost of retrofitting existing structures, the complexity of accessibility standards, and the need for specialized knowledge and staff training. Some dental offices face specific hurdles, such as finding ways to accommodate individuals with mobility limitations within the confines of existing space or modifying dental chairs and equipment.

Don't dentists have to follow the ADA requirements anyway?

The short answer is no.

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September Is Guide Dog Awareness Month



National Guide Dog Month is celebrated every September in the United States to honor the work of guide dogs and raise awareness about their role in enhancing the independence of people with visual impairments.

The month aims to raise awareness, appreciation, and support for guide dog organizations and the vital service they provide.

Learn how to properly interact with a guide dog: guidedog.org



July: A Month to Celebrate Disability Pride

While July starts with a bang, with Independence Day, it continues with the celebration of disability culture and identity, and recognition of the achievements, experiences, and struggles of people with disabilities.

July is Disability Pride Month.

July 26th marks the 35th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Prior to the passage of this landmark legislation, people with disabilities faced significant challenges and barriers, particularly in accessibility, employment and inclusion in our communities - issues that further marginalized an already vulnerable population.

In his speech at the signing, President George H. W. Bush said,

**“With today’s signing of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act,
every man, woman, and child with a disability can now pass through once-closed
doors
into a bright new era of equality, independence, and freedom.”**

The ADA focused on improving accessibility through changes such as lowered drinking fountains, wheelchair ramps, and larger bathroom stalls in public spaces. It also made it illegal for employers to discriminate in hiring, promotion, or termination based on disability.

Since its enactment, the ADA has created a path for a myriad of legislative actions and policy changes that have progressively enhanced opportunities for people with disabilities in all aspects of life. It has had a profound impact on how society views and treats people with disabilities and has helped establish a framework of dignity, respect, and opportunity - whether in the workplace or in public spaces.

Nevertheless, 35 years after its passage, Americans with disabilities still fight for the independence and inclusion that many of us take for granted.

As we celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the ADA, it is a moment to reflect on its achievements, while also acknowledging our nation’s ongoing challenges in creating truly inclusive communities.

We hope that you will take a critical look at your own community and reflect on how you can help foster the inclusion of people with disabilities. With your compassion and commitment, we can deliver on the promise of “a bright new era of equality, independence and freedom” for our family, friends and neighbors with disabilities.

New Horizons Un-Limited Inc.
731 N. Jackson Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

www.new-horizons.org

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NHU Outlook

Page 4

For resources on everything disability, visit NHU's website: new-horizons.org/datcat.html

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OUTLOOK QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

Your gift will ensure that we may continue our work of advocating for a fully accessible, inclusive society for our family, friends and neighbors with disabilities.

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731 N. Jackson Street
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