

ADA Celebrates 20th Anniversary

By Joanne Rouse, Services Director

July 26, 2010 marked the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This legislation is one of the most far reaching pieces of civil rights legislation in our time. The ADA increased public access for people with disabilities and protects them from discrimination. It opened doors and required changes so people with disabilities could have the same opportunities in life as their non-disabled peers. It is not a perfect solution, but it was a major change in thinking about the rights of people with disabilities to integrate into the general community.

There is still progress to be made. People with disabilities have a higher unemployment rate than their non-disabled peers. Not all public accommodations provide full access. Access on the internet is an issue. We have come a long way, but still have farther to go. Celebrate the ADA for all the positive changes it made for people with disabilities and let the work to provide complete access continue.