

1st Community Event Celebrates Achievements of People with Disabilities on April 9th

Emily Perl Kingsley, author and 17-time Emmy award-winning writer for Sesame Street, and the parent of an adult son with Down Syndrome, will be the keynote speaker at *Abilities Abound...Realizing the Possible* event at 5:30 p.m., Friday, April 9, 2010 in the new Holiday Inn at the Coliseum (4111 Paul Shaffer Drive, Fort Wayne). Jeannette Rinard, Majic 95.1 Morning Show co-host, will serve as emcee.



Likely to be the most anticipated portion of the evening is announcing competitive Embolden Enrichment Grant winners. Three \$1,000 grants will be awarded to individuals with a disability for their pursuit of activities, education or experiences central to developing or enhancing their abilities.

Qualifications for an enrichment grant are:

- Be an individual with a disability who is 18 years of age or older
- Intend to pursue opportunities that will enhance skills through employment, independent living and/or daily living.

Grant applications are available online at www.eastersealsarcnein.org or from coalition members, whose names appear below. Deadline for submitting an application is 5 p.m., Monday, March 29, 2010.

Nearly 20,000 children and adults in northeast Indiana have a disability – physical and/or developmental. This event will help raise awareness about their abilities and build community appreciation for their individual talents and uniqueness, which add to the quality and diversity of life.

Admission to the event is \$10 and RSVP's must be made in advance by calling or emailing Fifth Freedom @ 260.428.8789 or Betty@fifthfreedom.org.

About the Northeast Indiana Disability Advocacy Coalition

The Coalition is comprised of area not-for-profit service providers that advocate for and work with people with disabilities, including Autism Community Together (ACT), Anthony Wayne Services (AWS), Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Indiana (DSANI), Easter Seals Arc, Fifth Freedom, Goodwill Industries, League for the Blind and Disabled, Northeast Indiana Autism Support Group, Passages, Pathfinder Services, and Turnstone.

For more information about Pathfinder Services, Inc. please visit www.pathfinderservices.org. Pathfinder Services, Inc. is a comprehensive human and community development not-for-profit human services organization based in Huntington, where it was founded in 1966. In addition to Huntington County, Pathfinder Services also provides services in Allen, Wabash, Marshall and Starke Counties.