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# Michigan Partners for Freedom

*Building statewide demand for Self-Determination*

Winter 2008 & 2009 Volume 2, Issue 3

## You Have the Power to Change Your Life!

Dan Moran spent his lifetime advocating for the rights of others. He worked for the empowerment of persons with disabilities until the day he passed away while attending a 2008 Recipient Rights conference in Dearborn. His bright and bold leadership will be missed by many far and wide.

With Dan's leadership, Michigan Partners for Freedom (MPF) was founded in 2004 at a Center for Self-Determination conference. Putting plans to action, Dan embraced the charge of enhancing self-determination in Michigan and worked diligently for the rights of others as a MPF Local Leader.

Dan was a respected trainer at Recipient Rights Department at Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority. He headed the Michigan Self-Advocacy Network for many years and served as the Regional representative for the national organization, Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE).

Dan often enthusiastically exclaimed to advocates **"You have the power to change your life."** He sought to empower others.

If you'd like to remember Dan by supporting self-advocacy, the Friends of CLS has established the Dan Moran Advocacy and Education Fund. For more information call Tiffany Devon at 734-467-7600 or visit [www.comlivserv.com](http://www.comlivserv.com).



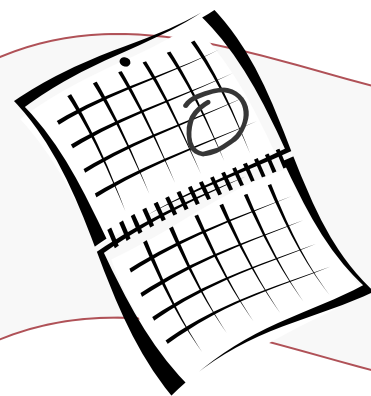
*As the Executive Director of the agency that provided Dan's supports in recent years, I have to admit that I would get a bit nervous if I was sitting in a public forum and I saw Dan Moran's hand go up in the air...he was one tough cookie and strong advocate. Dan had many friends in high level positions, but that surely didn't stop Dan from saying exactly what needed to be said, and pointing out our areas of needed improvement, whether we were ready to hear it or not!*

*... Annette Downey  
 Community Living Services  
 Oakland County, Michigan*

**Michigan Partners for Freedom is a grassroots movement of people with disabilities, family members, advocates, and organizations working in the field of disabilities to make Self-Determination a reality for all Michigan citizens. To join call 1-800-292-7851 ext. 105 or visit [www.mifreedom.org](http://www.mifreedom.org)**



Building Statewide Demand For Self-Determination



LOCAL LEADERS! MARK YOUR 2009 Calendar  
 MPF Summit July 17 & 18, 2009  
 Northwood University in Midland



## Outreach Efforts are Successful

Almost **1,000** Michigan citizens (**995** to be exact) participated in general trainings at **15** general Michigan Partners for Freedom (MPF) trainings and at **seven** statewide conferences.

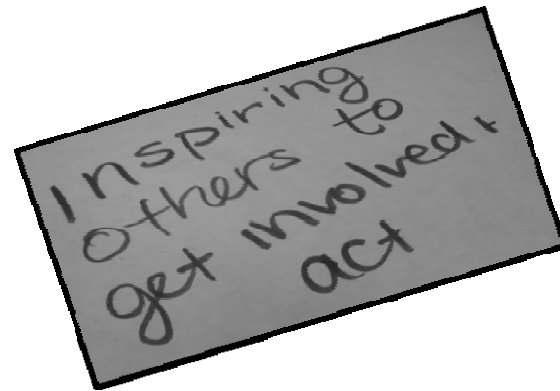
**Thirty Four** MPF Local Leaders made **139** presentations to community leaders and community organizations.

During these engagements, the MPF Local Leaders reached **37**

students, **59** family members and **39** Community Mental Health staff and Board members.

**Three** MPF Local Leader trainings were held and **15** attended the annual Local Leaders event.

To schedule a session call Sherri Boyd at **800-292-7851**.



## LOCAL LEADER UPDATE

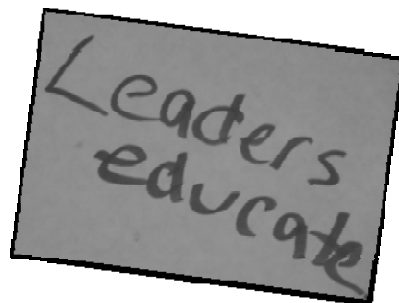
Local Leaders regularly review their very purpose.

A few of their commitments to self-determination are included in this newsletter in gray boxes. Here are some exciting MPF Local Leaders events from last quarter:

- Hosted three game booths at the Bay City Recipient Rights Carnival about person centered planning, self-determination and people-first language
- Showed MPF video “Freedom was Meant for You and Me” at annual Film Festival
- Presented to an undergraduate social work class at Central Michigan University
- Joined with the “Skateland Winter Funderland” fundraiser for Toys for Tots, Salvation Army Coats for Kids and Food Bank of Eastern Michigan

This participation in a large effort is an excellent community building tool for and being a “part of the solution” for what a community needs. For more ideas about community building visit [www.mifreedom.org](http://www.mifreedom.org) go to the [Thoughts and Stories](#) page and click on article “**Community Building made Simple**” by Jan Lampman, Executive Director of the Arc of Midland.

Check [www.mifreedom.org](http://www.mifreedom.org) for 2009 Local Leader trainings!



## Self-Determination:

### *I Believe that...*

*The following comes from Ingemar Johansson's acceptance speech at the Michigan Rehabilitation Council 2008, Excellence Award*



*Ingemar Johansson, Chief Operating Officer for the Manistee-Benzie Community Mental Health and founding Partner of Michigan Partners for Freedom*

**I believe that** the premise for our work as human services professionals is that prosperity in our society ought to be measured not by the quality of life of the well-to-do but by the quality of life of the less privileged. Late last year, at the Gerald Ford Museum in Grand Rapids, I joined 83 other individuals representing 32 different countries when being sworn in as US citizens and, as one could see in the faces of those that were there, this country is very much the place to be. The joy in our faces was profound.

Although I have lived in this country for 30 years I, along with the others, finally joined the American Club as full member. This event affirmed my belief that the door to the American Dream must be kept open for all. For the strong and for the not-so-strong, for the healthy and the not-so-healthy, for the prosperous and the not-prosperous, and that we unite around this pursuit by

being there for each other as fellow Americans.

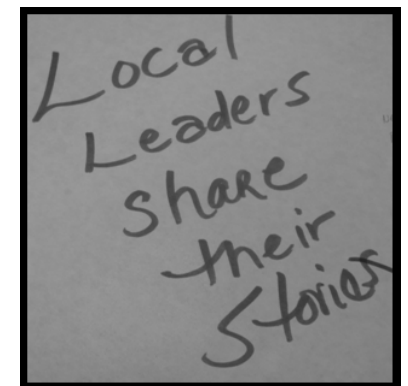
**I believe that** the common denominator for all people is not our ability or disability that we live with, but rather the humanity in us all. We are all the same at the core and we all live as neighbors in this land and have the privilege to pursue our dreams and aspirations limited only by our own imagination.

**I believe that** we need to let our imagination flow freely. As human services professionals we need to consistently renew ourselves to adapt to the changing world in which we live. As service providers, we have an obligation to attempt to be on the cutting edge of our industry. Although many of us have stretched our

imaginations, have been innovative and the ones to, in a variety of ways, assist in improving the lives of people with disabilities, our efforts are never enough. Despite the progress we have made, **I believe that** we must never rest on our laurels but always renew the way we do business, to step out of our comfort zone and to challenge ourselves to do the next best thing, because there is always a better way.

**I believe that...** is a now a regular column in the MPF newsletter.

To contribute your beliefs about self-determination e-mail [info@mifreedom.org](mailto:info@mifreedom.org)



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