



Miracle



Special Points of Interest:

- *2015 Self-advocacy High lights*
- *Ambassadors for Respect*
- *Katie's New Beginning*
- *The Arc Event*
- *Check out the shooting stars of the season*

Shining Stars of Summer



Above Mary R at the MOHR conference, Ambassadors, The Arc MN event, and the 3 new PPM grads,

Self-Advocacy Highlights over the past 3 months:

- **Dan G, Michon S, and John C. graduated from Partners in Policymaking 8-month leadership course offered by the Government Training Services**
- **5 Self-Advocates conducted presentations at the State self-advocacy conference**
- **30 Self-Advocates wrote to SA groups throughout USA via self-advocacy online website.**
- **The Self-Advocates have been busy fundraising.**
- **The advocate Aces change their name to United Self-Advocates.**
- **Self-Advocates make presentations for MOHR and DHS.**
- **Self-Advocates and designated staff created a Staff Advisor Manual.**
- **Self-Advocates are working with Mai Thor to create user-friendly materials about Olmstead and *train the trainer* curriculum.**

Shooting Stars' Meetings

Mary R is looking for Self-Advocates who are interested in helping with conducting interviews, taking pictures, and editing, for the "Miracle" newsletter. If you are interested in being on the committee please contact Mary. This is a fun and exciting way to get to know other people and make new friends.



The Shooting Stars SA groups meet:

- Tuesday afternoon 1:15 to 2:10 p.m. at 3210 Labore
- Wednesday morning 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. at 3210 Labore
- Thursday morning 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at 3210 Labore
- Frankettes: meet once per month at 10:00 a.m. —check calendar

Any questions, please contact Mary @ 651-528-8732.

The United Self-Advocates (formerly the Advocacy Aces) meets every-other Thursday afternoon at J. Arthur's coffee shop at 2441 Rice Street in Roseville, from 3:30 to 5:pm.

Everyone is welcome to join.

Any questions, please contact Katie @ 651-815-2262.

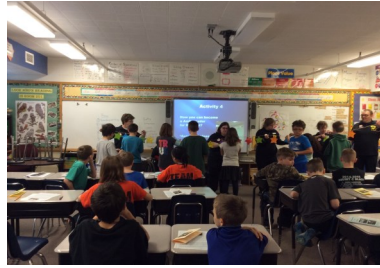
Brian's Citizen Bits:

On May 26th, 38 Shooting Stars, United Self-Advocates, and allies attended The ARC MN Public Policy Recognition event honoring our good friend the Honorable Judge Donovan Frank. It was a great night hearing all the nice compliments for an incredible man who has fought for persons with disabilities. Over the past 4 years, he has been busy directing DHS on key elements for the MN Olmstead Plan, designed to help people with disabilities become integrated and included in their communities to the greatest extent possible. In addition, Judge Frank has been a leader in informing those in the legal profession about disability law and the rights of people with disabilities and ensuring that people with disabilities are treated fairly within our legal system. At the event there was a slideshow with lots of pictures and quotes from people including the Shooting Stars, United Self-Advocates, and the Franketts shown throughout the night. Of course the night could not go on without a large bowl of ice cream toppings given to him from all of us! Thank you Judge Frank for being our advocate, cheerleader, friend, and being such a nice and wonderful guy!



Ambassadors for Respect:

This spring, the Ambassadors for Respect traveled to 8 schools and conducted 23 presentations reaching 548 4th grade students and 40 5th grade students. Abby, Katie M, Tricia P, Karen L, John C., Angie L, Roberta, and Tim M. found the experience to be life changing and wonderful. WB Press did an article on the acceptance project. The Ambassadors are paid for their time they put into the project and spreading the word about acceptance and respect thanks to the Strengthening SA in MN grant.



Katie's New Chapter

I am on a new and exciting journey in my life. In April, I was hired as an Advocate Associate with the Arc Greater Twin Cities. In my new position, I am learning about The MN Olmstead Plan and to assist others to find their voice. In May, I was able to travel to Kansas City where I attended a conference on abuse prevention for woman. I am learning a lot in my new role and the staff at The Arc Greater Twin Cities have been very supportive. There is a lot to learn. I am in a dream job being able to help others which is something that has always been important to me. With this new job, I have had to end my role as a paid Peer Mentor at Merrick and give those responsibilities to someone else. I am sure I will be seeing you soon at different SA activities. I am going to miss you all. I want you to continue being the best advocates ever and reach your dreams just like I am doing!

Shooting Stars - Merrick, Inc.
3210 Labore Road
Vadnais Heights, MN 55110

"Miracle" is a newsletter written by Self-Advocates to share their good news with everyone. It is published four times a year.

[Visit the Shooting Stars Facebook page.](#)

If you have any questions on how to write an article please contact the editor, Mary Raasch at mraasch.sa@gmail.com.

If you are interested in writing an article for the Self-Advocates' newsletter "Miracle" please send the article to my email address.

(mraasch.sa@gmail.com)

The deadline for the fall issue is September 11th.

Take a chance to show who you are!!!

Stars of the Season:

Name: Danny R

Nominated by:
Anonymous

Reasons for nomination:

1. He's cool!
2. He's kind
3. He's great Self-Advocate!

What do you like to do in your free time?

I like to collect baseball cards and foreign currency.

How has Self-Advocacy changed your life?

It helps me learn how to stand up to others and fight for what I believe in. I have helped with typing up agendas and minutes.

How long have you been at Self-Advocate ?

8 months

What did you learn about being a Self-Advocate?

I learned that there are people out there willing to stand up for me and others like me.

What are your favorite advocacy projects?

I really like the star of the week we do on Wednesday SA. That, and I enjoy doing coloring and typing up the notes for the meetings.



Name: Crystal

Nominated by:
Christine G .

Reasons for nomination:

1. Comes up with great ideas
2. Great listener
3. Kind to others

What do you like to do in your free time? I like to hang out with family and friends.

How long have you been with Merrick? 10 years. I have worked on the production floor, volunteered at the Maplewood Care Center, received services at ADS, and now I am busy working at the new building.

What are your dreams and goals?

My dream is to be more independent and live on my own without staff. My goal is to have a job in the community.

How has Self-Advocacy changed your life? I have met new people, given presentations, and helped others be advocates. I have learned to stand up for myself. I have done PowerPoint for my meetings.

