

# UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Delivered to the Membership of USICD at their Annual Meeting on November 14, 2016



*The membership of USICD has a vision of a world where civil and human rights of persons with disabilities are protected and advanced, where the capacities and talents of persons with disabilities are celebrated and elevated, and where people with disabilities come together across borders as a global disability community.*

## About USICD



### WHO WE ARE

Through our vast network of disabled people's organizations and international development colleagues, USICD has the reach to impact critical emerging issues facing the global disability community. USICD serves both as a technical resource and a relationship builder to people with disabilities for NGO, government, and corporate partners. USICD's 25-member Board of Directors includes the most recognized leaders in the American disability rights movement, providing a wealth of experience and strategic guidance. USICD implements projects that empower people with disabilities around the world through grassroots strategies, as well as national and international policy advocacy. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has had a global influence, and USICD promotes those values through global engagement and United States foreign affairs. The USICD community is leading the world on global disability rights.

### OUR MISSION

To promote the rights and full participation of persons with disabilities through global engagement and United States foreign affairs.

### OUR VISION

The membership of USICD has a vision of a world where the equal rights of persons with disabilities are protected and advanced, where the capacities and talents of persons with disabilities are celebrated and elevated, and where people with disabilities come together across borders as a global disability community.



*A subset of USICD Board Members (left to right) Jill Houghton, Axel Leblois, Janet Lord, Susan Parker & David Morrissey attended the United Nations Conference of State Parties to the CRPD in June, 2016.*

Board of Directors, Staff & Consultants



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**Patricia Morrissey**  
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**John Wodatch**  
*Vice President*

**Marca Bristo**  
*Past President*

**Glen White**  
*Secretary*

**David Hutt**  
*Treasurer*

**Directors**

**Candace Cable**

**Jennifer Dexter**

**Jill Houghton**

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**Barbara LeRoy**

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**Jerry McCloskey**

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**Neil Romano**

**Faith McCormick**

**Eric Rosenthal**

**Diana Samarasan**

**Lex Frieden**

**Susan Parker**

**Joan Durocher**

**Janet Lord**

**USICD Staff**

**David Morrissey**  
*Executive Director*

**Isabel Hodge**  
*Deputy Director*

**Andrea Shettle**  
*Programs Manager*

Detailed bios for each of the above officers, directors, government representatives and USICD staff can be found on the [USICD website](#).

## Member Organizations

Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago • Advocating Change Together • American Association of People with Disabilities • American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities • American Network of Community Options and Resources - ANCOR • Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) • AHEAD • American University Institute on Disability and Public Policy • Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) • CBM • Center for International Rehabilitation Research Information & Exchange (CIRRIE) • College Living Experience • Developmental Disabilities Institute – Wayne State University • Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund • Disability Rights International • Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living • Easter Seals • Employment and Disability Institute- Cornell University • Family Member Inc. • G3ict • Handicap International U.S. • Illinois/Iowa Center for Independent Living • Independence First • Independent Living Center of the North Shore and Cape Ann • Institute for Human Centered Design • Institute for Community Inclusion • New Editions Consulting, Inc. • National Association of the Deaf • National Council on Independent Living • National Organization on Disability • Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) • Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago • Parkinson’s Action Network • Mason Global, Inc. • The Arc of the United States • The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation • The John F. Kennedy Center • The Viscardi Center • PA Mental Health Consumers’ Association



*USICD Training Participants, Yangon, Myanmar, October 2016*

## President's Message

### **Dear Members and Friends of USICD,**

It has been 10 years since the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to establish the CRPD. As of today, 168 countries have ratified. There are only 196 countries in the world! It would be our dream come true to see the U.S. ratify this important disability treaty in 2017. Thank you for your continued support for ratification.

You will see several key achievements highlighted in this report. In the Spring, USICD moved to a new location in Washington, D.C. Please schedule an opportunity with the staff to stop by if your travels bring you to Washington, D.C. Already, USICD has put the new collaborative space to great use by conducting and hosting several meetings, trainings, and events. USICD also grew in its global reach, implementing projects with key collaborators and funders that made engagements in Myanmar, Mexico, and the Caribbean possible, as well as our work to train international development NGOs on disability inclusion in their important work.

This year, USICD launched an important initiative titled the "Triple I initiative (Invest in Inclusion Internationally)." Triple I focused on appropriations to the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for disability inclusion. We asked for USICD members and the disability community's help in convincing 27 members of Congress from 22 states to adequately fund and staff the USAID Disability Coordinator position and office, and also the U.S. Department of State's Office of the International Disability Rights Advisors. These members of Congress serve on either the Senate or House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs. We met with key staff from the White House, U.S. House and Senate, Foreign Affairs Committee and plan more meetings in 2017. Additionally, during the 2016 election campaign season, USICD staff and volunteer members reached out to candidates for U.S. Senate seats and inquired about the candidates' positions on ratification of the CRPD, making this information available on our website. Our education and advocacy efforts for this important goal must continue with the whole of our community's participation.

Through the Disabled Peoples International (DPI) of the North America and the Caribbean Region, USICD has become more acquainted with our Caribbean DPOs and civil society, participating in both a regional meeting of DPO leaders held in Kingston, Jamaica, and hosting the National Women and Youth Networks in North America and the Caribbean (NAC) via teleconference to learn about their successes and challenges. It was startling to learn in greater depth of the lack of systems of support and the ongoing stigma and exclusion of people with disabilities in their countries. USICD feels a strong obligation to engage civil society to support the human rights of our closest neighbors with disabilities and are seeking program partners and funding contributions from foundations and others who share this concern.

USICD's 2015 Gala to Celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities hosted by the Embassy of Finland in Washington, D.C. was a wonderful success! As USICD's only major annual fundraiser, funds generated from individual and corporate sponsorships, and ticket sales, are used to fund our capacity for initiatives such as the Triple I advocacy. This report contains the invitation to the 2016 Gala and provides details on who are honorees are this year. I hope to see all of our USICD members and friends attend this year!

Thank you,

Patricia Morrissey, Ph.D.

President

*Just A Few Photos ...*



# Celebrate

## THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

With Board, Donors, Friends, and Congressional, Corporate, and other Partners of the  
**United States International Council on Disabilities (USICD)**

THURSDAY  
*December First*

SIX UNTIL EIGHT O'CLOCK

**THE US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
HALL OF FLAGS**

1615 H STREET NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

### Reception with Passed Hors d'Oeuvres

Remarks at 7:00pm | Buffet

Special Presentation of the Dole-Harkin Award,  
by **Senator Bob Dole**, to **Senator Al Franken**  
of Minnesota and **Representative  
Cathy McMorris Rodgers** of Washington.

Special honor for International Advocacy presented  
to **Silvia Quan** of Guatemala

*Special Thanks  
to Our Sponsors:*

AS OF OCTOBER 18, 2016

**AT&T**

**The Bowen Group**

**Cornell University-K. Lisa Yang and Hock E. Tan  
Institute on Employment and Disability**

**Delta Airlines**

**JPMorgan Chase & Co.**

**Marriott**

**New Editions  
Consulting Inc.**



Tickets Available

**\$125**

Business Attire

Visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/USICDGALA>

**QUESTIONS?**  
**Contact Isabel Hodge**  
[ihodge@usicd.org](mailto:ihodge@usicd.org)  
or 202-495-7717

## Key Achievements

Our key achievements this year are a direct result of the hard work of our USICD Board, staff, members, interns, and volunteers:

- Published 7 newsletters, 9 blog posts, 228 Facebook posts (2,844 Page Likes), 5767 Twitter followers (48.9K Twitter impressions (537 per day))
- Relocated the USICD office to the National Youth Transitions Center in Washington, D.C.
- Enrolled USICD in the 2016 Combined Federal Campaign (#64402)
- Facilitated and conducted four training and capacity building events in Myanmar.
- Met with delegates and advocates from Albania, Vietnam, Kenya, Nigeria, Indonesia, Oman.
- Conducted a webinar for Brandeis University Heller School for Social Policy
- Presented on Conflict and Resolution for internal fellows at the IREX Community Solutions Program
- Presented on USICD at a Respectability Lunch and Learn event.
- Published a letter of support for the Marrakesh Treaty.
- Published Consolidated Disability Findings from U.S. Department of State (DoS) Country Reports on Human Rights
- Convened a call of *Disabled Peoples' International North America and the Caribbean Inc. (DPI NAC Inc.)* members as well as the *National Women's Network Coordinating Committee (NWN CC)* members to discuss challenges, successes and operations.
- Attended the annual United Nations Conference of States Parties (COSP) to the CRPD and co-presented in an Article 20/personal mobility panel at a COSP side event.
- Submitted feedback to the World Bank on their second draft Environmental and Social Framework (ESF).
- Launched the Triple I Initiative (Invest in Inclusion Internationally) to focus attention on appropriations to the DoS, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for disability inclusion.
- Published a statement of solidarity for those killed in the heinous attack in Sagami-hara, Japan
- Hosted and conducted training for four interns as a part of USICD's Youth in International Development and Foreign Affairs internship program
- Conducted disability inclusion training for World Vision
- Conducted disability inclusion training for The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs
- Developed dossiers and background information on the need for inclusive foreign assistance.
- Met with key staff from the White House, U.S. House and Senate, Foreign Affairs Committee.
- Developed a handout on Zika and the gaps in foreign policy.
- Conducted outreach, compiled and published a list of Senate Candidates and where they stand on the CRPD.
- Prepared materials for and co-hosted the Global Roundtable on Disability Inclusion at the U.S. Business Leadership Conference in Orlando, FL.
- Participated in the planning committee for the Global Independent Living Summit
- Participated in the planning committee for the Harkin Summit
- Led the planning and coordination of the Global Disability Rights *Now Exploring the U.S. Model* DC Conference. This prestigious and high-level conference was part of the RightsNow! Strong Communities Through Enforcing the rights of Persons with Disabilities Project, funded by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State and administrated by Mobility International USA. The conference brought government and NGO representatives from six countries (Armenia, Kenya, Mexico, Vietnam, Peru and Guatemala). USICD also regularly contributed content to the project website at <http://GlobalDisabilityRightsNow.org>, which shares toolkits on disability rights implementation.



## Treasurer's Report

A community of funding and project partners has made USICD's work possible. General operating support and program grants for USICD's education activities have formed a core of USICD's grant funding.

An independent audit of USICD's 2015 financial statements conducted in April 2016 by AAL Certified Public Accountants found that all financial records were accurate and maintained in conformity with standard accounting principles accepted in the United States. A copy of this audit is available upon request.

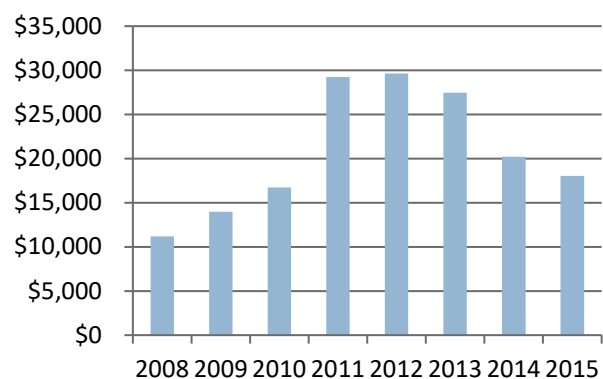
**Finance Committee:** David Hutt, Chair and Treasurer; Jennifer Dexter, Barbara LeRoy, Shelia Newman, Jerry McCloskey

### MEMBERSHIP REVENUE

USICD has seen a drop in membership since 2014 in both organizational and individual members. USICD membership today spans 26 states and the District of Columbia, and includes centers for independent living, academic departments, protection and advocacy organizations, international development actors, and a breadth of others who are all committed to the fundamental rights of persons with disabilities.

Membership particularly surged during the campaign for U.S. ratification of the CRPD with an increase in individual members; the challenge of a stalled CRPD in the U.S. Senate is reflected in reduced 2014-15 membership purchases. The board and staff are working to counter this trend through improved communications and advocacy that engages our community.

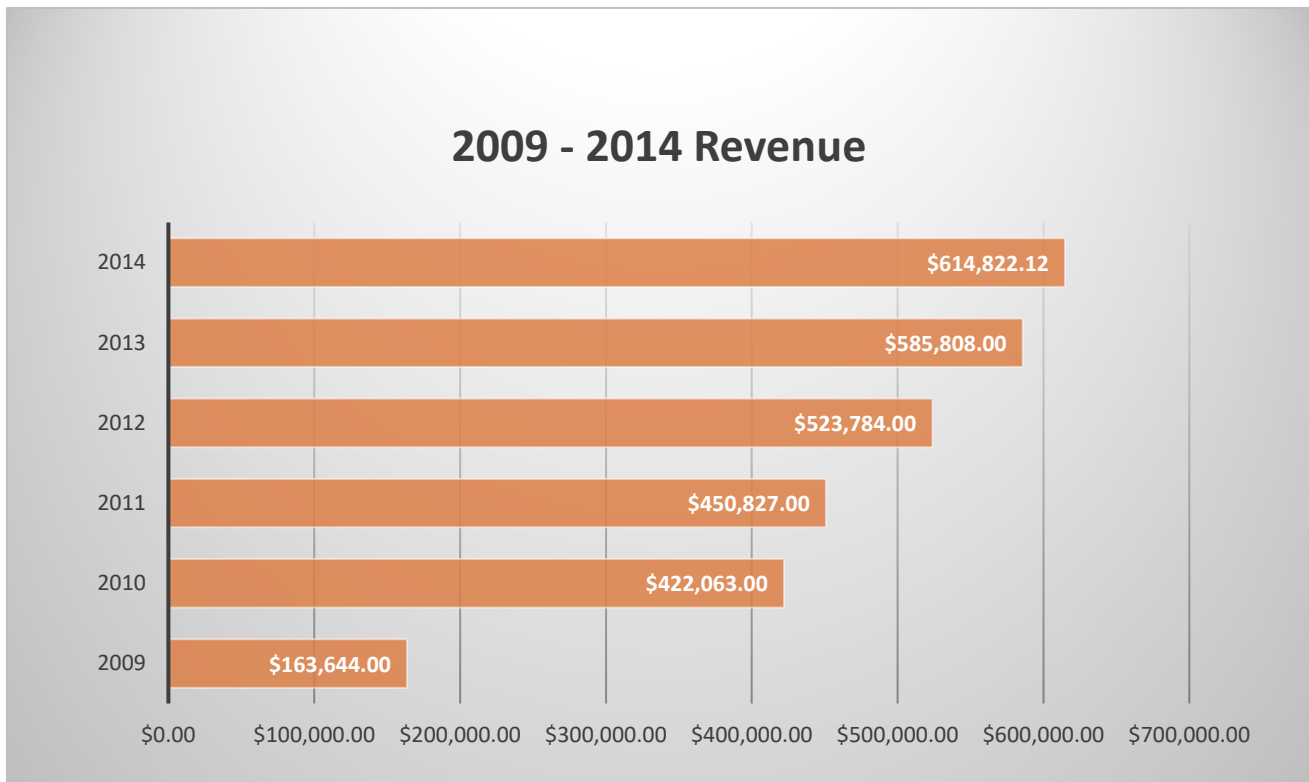
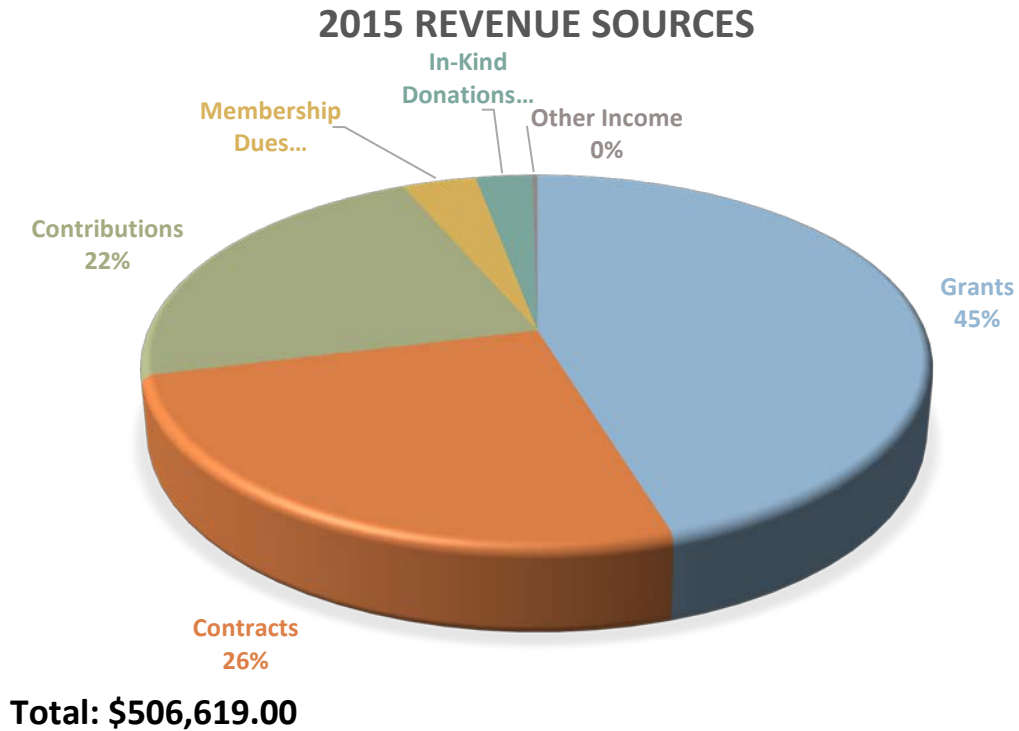
### Membership Revenue



**Membership Committee:** Joan Durocher, Faith McCormick, Jill Houghton, Glen White, Pat Morrissey

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## REVENUE SOURCES



## Internship Program

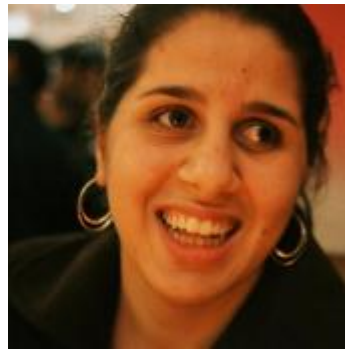


### USICD's Youth in International Development and Foreign Affairs Internship Program

For the fourth year, USICD brought a cohort of students and graduates with disabilities aspiring to careers in international development to Washington DC for the summer to complete internships in various international organizations in the DC area. USICD's Youth in International Development and Foreign Affairs internship program was launched in 2013 with the support of the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation (MEAF). The 2016 program was made possible with continued funding from MEAF.



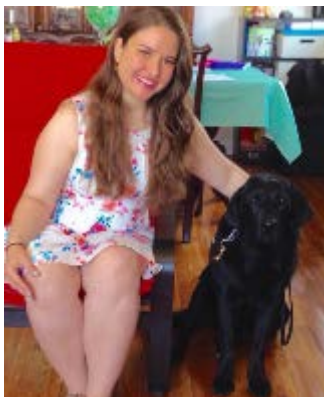
Hannah Chadwick  
World Learning



Shafeka Hashash  
Women's Refugee Commission



Elizabeth Heideman  
National Democratic Institute



Vivian Fridas  
USICD



Interns, mentors, task supervisors, USICD staff and others gathered at a local restaurant in June

## Sponsors and Partners

### MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS AND DONORS:

- Anonymous Donor Advised Fund
- JP Morgan Chase
- AT&T
- New Editions Consulting, Inc.
- The Bowen Group
- Google
- Alston & Bird
- Deloitte
- Google
- World Learning
- The Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation
- Global Connections, FHI360
- Cornell University - K. Lisa Yang and Hock E. Tan Institute on Employment and Disability

### MANY THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS & NETWORKS:

- Disabled Peoples' International
- Rehabilitation International
- The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities
- Disability Rights International
- InterAction
- The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
- US Business Leadership Network

