



U.S. International Council on Disabilities

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Delivered to Membership of USICD at the Annual Meeting in November 2021

11 Hope Road, Suite 111, #254 , Stafford, VA 22554

◊ <http://uscd.org> ◊ (540) 356-0815 ◊ info@uscd.org

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 as a relationship builder to people with disabilities for NGO, government, and corporate partners. USICD's 18-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 advance international disability rights and inclusive development and to build bridges among the U.S. and foreign governments, disability and human rights communities, and the private sector through strategic advocacy, convening, and training and education.

OUR VISION:

USICD envisions a world where the rights of persons with disabilities are universally recognized and respected, where persons with disabilities are afforded full and equal participation in their communities, and where persons with disabilities are self-sufficient and live independent and self-determined lives.

Understanding The Employee Experiences of Disabled Talent Webinar



Meg O'Connell, CEO
Global Disability Inclusion

28 October 2021
12:30 PM EST
REGISTER: <https://tinyurl.com/4n78992w>

Join USICD's NDEAM webinar to learn about the Global Disability Inclusion and Mercer's 10-year global study on employee engagement comparing workplace experiences of employees with disabilities to those without.



Understanding The Employee Experiences of Disabled Talent Webinar Flyer

Board of Directors, Staff, Consultants & Volunteers



Officers				
Dr. Patricia Morrissey	Candace Cable	W. Kirt Toombs	Jerry McCloskey	
<i>President</i>	<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>	
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Janet Lord	Kirt Toombs	Dylan Rafaty	John Wodatch	
Jill Houghton	Meg O'Connell	Michael Brogioli	Eric Rosenthal	
Stephanie Ortoleva	James McCormick	Bill Abrams	Stuart James	
Visit our board member bios at: https://uscd.org/about-us/uscd-board-of-directors/				
USICD Staff	USICD Consultants			
Isabel Hodge	Janet Lord			
<i>Executive Director</i>	Alison deFranco			
	Will Pons			
Pro bono Counsel				
Tim Keeler, Mayor Brown LLC	Miran Vila Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP			
USICD Volunteers				
Dr. Rebecca Posante	Mary Beth Riffle			
<i>Gala</i>	<i>Gala</i>			

Detailed bios for each of the above officers, directors, government representatives and USICD staff can be found on the [USICD website](https://uscd.org/about-us/uscd-board-of-directors/).

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Able South Carolina • Access Living • American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) • American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) • American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) • American Samoa University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (AS-UCEDD) • The Association of Oregon Centers for Independent Living (AOCIL) • The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) • Angel City Sports • Bridge Multimedia • • CBM Global • CBM International • Center for Disability Rights • Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin, Inc. • The Center for People with Disabilities • Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation • Michigan Developmental Disabilities Institute • Disabled Resource Services • DisabilityIN • Disability Inclusive Development Programs and Services • Disability Rights International • Disability Rights Ohio, Ohio Disability Rights Law & Policy Center • Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living • The K. Lisa Yang and Hock E. Tan Institute on Employment and Disability (YTI) • Gallaudet University • Global Disability Inclusion • Humanity & Inclusion • Independence First • Institute for Disability Studies • International Foundation for Electoral Systems • Kids Included Together • Michigan Disability Rights Coalition • National Council on Independent Living • National Disability Rights Network • National Organization on Disability • New Editions Consulting, Inc. • Not Dead Yet • Placer Independent Resource Services • Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of N. America • Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc. • Resource, Information, Support and Empowerment • Living Independently for Everyone at RCIL, Inc. • TASH • Trickle Up • The Arc of the United States • The CIL • The Independence Center (CO) • The Viscardi Center • Vermont Center for Independent Living



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Join the U.S. International Council on Disabilities and make waves.

Disability rights matter.

Dear Members and Friends of USICD,

Aloha once again from Honolulu! It has been a busy year for the U.S. International Council on Disabilities (USICD). Although we continued to work remotely and depended a great deal on Zoom, our relationships and partnerships have been strengthened. We are a respected participant and sought-after resource in disability rights discussions. We are willing to take on new challenges. We welcome opportunities to educate others. We highly value, as we listen, what we learn from others. Sometimes I see USICD as throwing pebbles into a water. When one hits the water, the ripples begin and expand. I hope when you read this annual report you will decide to help us make ripples and ideally waves in 2022!

On October 15th, our Executive Director met with the White House Director of Disability Policy to discuss making the Office on International Disability Rights a permanent office and our preference that the office be led by an Ambassador-at-Large. On October 28th, President Biden's announced the appointment of the new Special Advisor on International Disability Rights, Sara Minkara. We look forward to a new energy in the Department of State, however our work is not complete. Let me explain.

For six years USICD has been advocating for a permanent office, with staff and a budget. During the Obama Administration, Judith Heumann, a member of our board, served as the Special Advisor at the discretion of the President. We pushed then, through the Trump Administration, and now, for a strong leader, a robust budget, and an experienced staff. We were successful in getting legislation introduced in Congress during President Trump's tenure, but it didn't make into law. Currently, a House version is being promoted within the State Authorization Act instead of as a free-standing bill. In the Senate, the principal sponsor, Senator Bob Casey of Pennsylvania, seeks a swelling of grassroots support and Republican co-sponsors, prior to introduction. So, USICD is looking for help from you! The case for a permanent Office on International Disability Rights led by an Ambassador-at-Large has been made many times in legislation, letters, talking points, and Op Eds: it would strengthen our commitment to human rights internationally; create expertise within the diplomatic corps on the value of addressing and supporting disability rights across the globe; and contribute to the reduction in poverty and abuse of people with disabilities in developing countries.

One area in which we are experiencing some real progress is in deinstitutionalization of children with disabilities overseas. Working in partnership with Disability Rights International and its leader, Eric Rosenthal, a member of our board, we provided consultation to the United Nations and others to make the case for and educate governments on

the moral and economic imperative to keep children with disabilities with their families with tested, appropriate supports.

With an influx of Afghans to the U.S., over 100,000, we have learned that at least 20 percent are people with disabilities. USICD is working closely with the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security on the evacuation and resettlement of Afghans with disabilities, especially Afghans who attended our 2017 disability rights conference held in partnership with the Embassy of Afghanistan. Our board secretary and CEO of the Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living, Kirt Toombs, is working on sharing with federal officials, a list of disability organizations interested in assisting with the resettlement of Afghans with disabilities.

This report captures other activities in which USICD has engaged in the last year – webinars, training, meetings and partnership initiatives, and fund-raising efforts. With regard to the latter, for example, I created a shop on Etsy.com, the LeftBrainArtStudio, where I sell digital prints I have created; and if you use Amazon Smile and name the United States International Council on Disabilities as the nonprofit you endorse, a percentage of your purchase goes to USICD.

Next year, we celebrate our 30th anniversary! We will continue advocating for an Office on International Disability Rights, the de-institutionalization of children and adults with disabilities, host more webinars, provide more online training courses, and convene even more meetings to address the needs of the global population of people with disabilities and represent them at high level international forums and events. I hope you will do three things within the next 12 months: 1) join USICD or renew your membership and give a membership as a gift to someone else; 2) buy a ticket and give a ticket as a gift to our gala, December 2, 2021; details at www.usicd.org; and 3) consider partnering with us or supporting us through the platforms I mentioned when you shop.

We are living in challenging times. We need to address climate change. We are experiencing negative divisions because some prefer to emphasize our differences rather than our common humanity. We operate in silos rather than reaching out to others to increase the volume of our collective voice and strengthen our impact. Please join USICD and help us make big waves in 2022! There will be no limit to our combined influence if we find ways to work together.

Thank you,

Pat Morrissey

Patricia Morrissey
President
U.S. INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES

A FEW 2021 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

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

- Met with USICD organizational members upon request.
- Attended the Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) annual meeting of members, co-chairs meetings, Veterans Task Force meetings, and launched the CCD International Ad Hoc Working Group.
- Participated in the UN Security Council meeting.
- Held the following webinars:
 - 30/30 Sports as a Tool for Advocacy and Development
 - The Power of Economic Development and Inclusion webinar in partnership with TrickleUp.
 - Understanding the Employee Experiences of Disabled Talent
 - A Call to Action: Protect the Right to Family and Prevent Institutionalization for all children. Challenges and Solutions (partnership with Disability Rights International)
- Co-sponsored Women on Wednesdays “WOW” webinars hosted by Angel City Sports.
- Upon request, participated in the following consultations:
 - UN Deinstitutionalization
 - USAID’s Disability Policy
 - USAID Youth in Development
 - UN Disability and Armed Conflict
- At the U.N. participated in the Civil Society Forum and co-sponsored the Disability Inclusive Peacebuilding side-event at the Conference of State Parties (COSP) in partnership with the US Institute of Peace, World Bank Group, Human Rights Watch, and the Harvard Law School Project on Disability, UN Peacekeeping
- Met with the US Access Board, New York City Mayor’s office, and the Department of Defense, Military Community & Family Policy’s Morale, Welfare & Recreation regarding accessible point-of-sale stands and international pin privacy standards
- Presented at USAID’s Diversity Speaker Series: Ability and Accessibility in the Workplace Exploring the A in DEIA.
- Presented at St. Cloud University’s ABILITY event on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Afghanistan
 - Sent a letter to President Biden, and the House and Senate Foreign Relations Committees and Secretary Blinken, regarding the evacuation of Afghan leaders with disabilities.
 - At the request of the State Department, provided a list of Afghans with disabilities requesting evacuation.
 - Met with the Department of Homeland Security to discuss Operation Allies Welcome - Afghans with disabilities (evacuation and resettlement)
 - Met with NIH to discuss hearing loss in refugees with disabilities.
- Attended the Department of State Democracy, Rights and Governance conference.
- Participated in the quarterly meetings of Disabled Peoples International (DPI) and DPI North America and the Caribbean (DPI NAC)
- Held meeting with Florida grassroots organizations on the Office of International Disability Rights Act.
- Participated in the Consortium for Building Inclusive Societies (CBIS) exchange program planning meetings.
- Attended the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) meetings and attended virtual High-Level Political Forum events.

- Presented on the Office of International Disability Rights legislation at the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) International Subcommittee meetings.
- Continued development of training lessons for the *Improving DPO Stakeholders' Understanding and Monitoring of Disability Inclusive Development and Advancing the Implementation of CRPD Article 32* Rehabilitation International Global Disability Development Fund project.
- Hosted an AAPD summer Intern.
- Participated in the U.S. International Initiative for Disability Leadership (IIDL) meetings.
- Participated in the Department of State's Democracy, Rights and Labor consultation on COVID-19: Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance (DRG) partners Threats and Opportunities meeting.
- Kicked off planning for the virtual USICD Gala to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
- Participated in International Disability Alliance (IDA) and IDDC advocacy group meetings.
- Partnered with the World Institute on Disability on the Global Alliance for Disaster Resource Accelerator (GADRA).
- Met with staff from the following Senators' offices to discuss the Office of International Disability Rights Act: Senator Bob Casey, Representatives Dina Titus, and Joaquin Castro



Rehabilitation International Logo

The Power of International Economic Development & Inclusion





Bill Abrams – President
Trickle Up



Silvia Quan – President, Colectivo
Vida Independiente de Guatemala



Dr. Patricia Morrissey
USICD President



Jorge Coy – Trickle Up
Regional Representative,
Americas

DATE: Thursday, July 8, 2021
TIME: 2:30 – 3:30 pm EDT
VIRTUAL EVENT

trickleup



U.S. International
Council on Disabilities

The Power of Economic Development & Inclusion Event Flyer

TREASURER'S REPORT

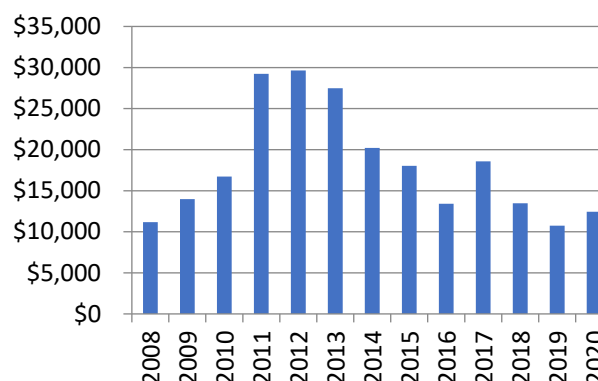
A community of funding and project partners has made USICD's work possible. General operating support and program grants for USICD's education activities have formed a core of USICD's grant funding.

An independent audit of USICD's 2019 financial statements conducted 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: Jerry McCloskey, Chair and Treasurer; Susan Parker, James McCormick, Michael Brogioli

USICD has consistently seen a drop in membership since 2014 in both organizational and individual members. Membership particularly surged during the campaign for U.S. ratification of the CRPD with an increase in individual members. 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 Revenue



JPMORGAN CHASE & Co.

Google



Adaptive Compliance
Solutions

New Editions
CONSULTING, INC.

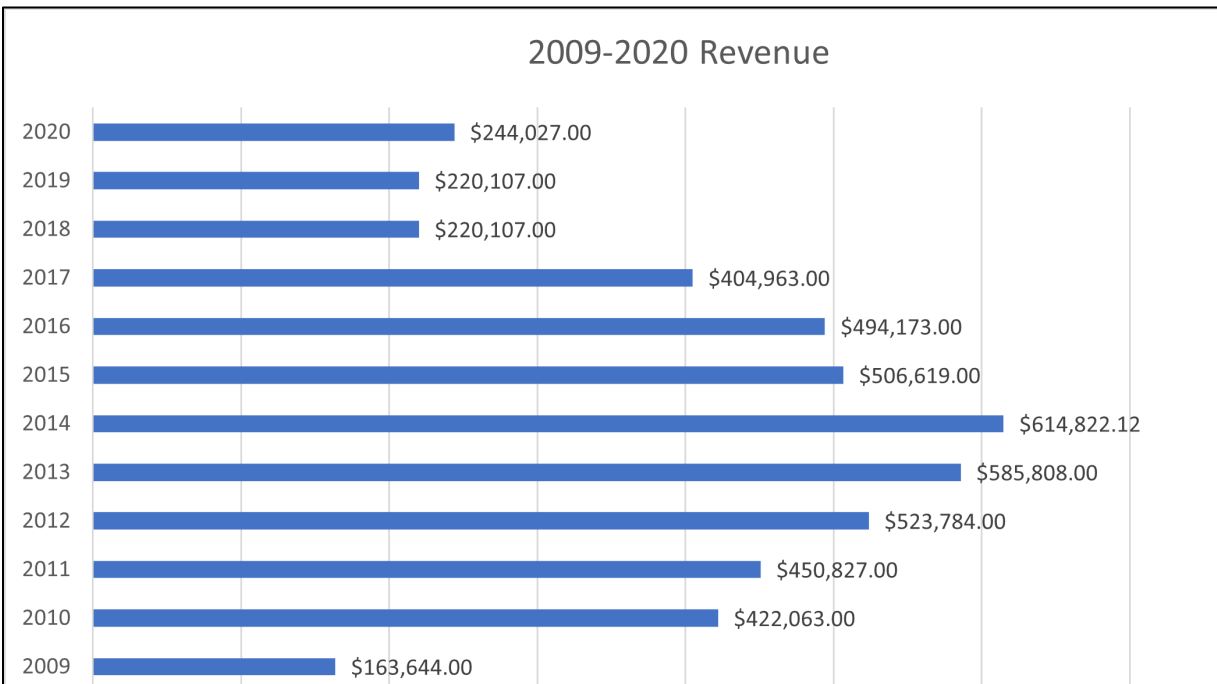
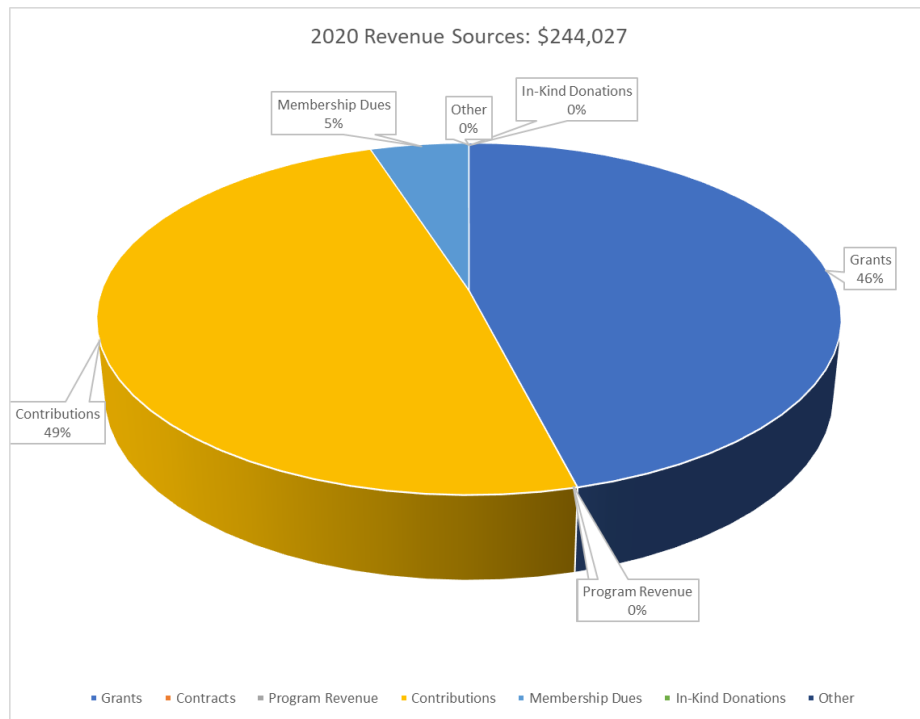


Paralyzed Veterans
of America

Senator Bob Dole
Dr. Patricia Morrissey
Mr. Bill Abrams

Thank You to Our Sponsors!!

2020 Revenue Sources: \$244,027



Purchase Gala Tickets at:
<https://tinyurl.com/3djfnsb5>



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

2 December 2021
7:00 until 8:00 pm EST

Virtual Event

Special Presentation of the Dole-Harkin Award to
Senator Bob Menendez of New Jersey and to
Dr. Victor Pineda of World Enabled.

Special honor for International Advocacy
presented to
H.E. Mrs. Catalina Devandas



Senator Bob Casey



H.E. Mrs. Catalina Devandas

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors!!

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Google

New Editions Consulting
Source America

Senator Bob Dole
Paralyzed Veterans of
America

Eastern Oregon Center for
Independent Living

Mr. Bill Abrams
Dr. Patricia Morrissey

**Sponsorship
Opportunities are
Available!**



Dr. Victor Pineda

Contact Isabel Hodge at:
ihodge@uscd.org for
sponsorship details.