



Any individual or organization interested in raising awareness of Western Pennsylvania's disability rights history and educating the public through research, preservation, and outreach activities is invited to contact us at info@wpdhac.org.

**Join Us and
Help Preserve
Disability
History!**

About WPDHAC

The Western Pennsylvania Disability History and Action Consortium (WPDHAC) was established in 2015 to preserve and honor the historic struggle of Western Pennsylvanians with disabilities to attain human and civil rights. The Consortium educates the public about disability history in order to improve community access, participation and equal opportunity, and to ensure disability rights through existing and new policies and laws.

Western Pennsylvania is home to a significant amount of disability history. The region has a strong record of grassroots advocacy to ensure public education, transportation, and home- and community-based services, and to end the segregation of people with disabilities in the region's state-run institutions. The Consortium takes the lead on preserving and sharing that history.



info@wpdhac.org



www.wpdhac.org



[Facebook.com/WPDisabilityHistoryandActionConsortium/](https://www.facebook.com/WPDisabilityHistoryandActionConsortium/)



[@wpdhacdisabilityhistorycon7888](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7888)

The Consortium works closely with Achieva and the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University, and is an affiliate member of the Senator John Heinz History Center.



Western Pennsylvania Disability History & Action Consortium

**USING DISABILITY
HISTORY TO ENSURE
DISABILITY RIGHTS**



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"Disability is not a death sentence. In fact, it's probably one of the best things that ever happened to me, because it has taught me how to accept people...all people, no matter who they are."



— Florence Reed, Founder of
Working Women with Disabilities

Our Mission

The Western Pennsylvania Disability History and Action Consortium is a community-based archive that preserves and honors the historic struggle of people with disabilities to attain human and civil rights – and shares the lived experiences of today – in order to promote community access, participation, and equal opportunity.

Our Vision

Our vision is to engage the public in the dynamic history of people with disabilities, to honor people who were mistreated or denied their rights, to recognize the efforts of individuals with and without disabilities to effect positive change, and to raise public awareness of contemporary issues, including the ongoing effort to maintain humane policies and laws.

Our Accomplishments

The Consortium has accomplished significant achievements since its founding in 2015:

- **SURVEYING** 600+ individuals and organizations in 26 counties throughout Western Pennsylvania to document historic materials and stories and to offer preservation guidance. We have had meaningful engagement with 100+ entities.
- **ADVANCING** the preservation of disability history materials on a range of topics. Increasing the number of collections and amount of information about disability history available to the public.
- **HOSTING** one to three public events per year, in person and online. Attendance of 100+ at most events.
- **PRESENTING** 20+ talks about Western Pennsylvania disability history (in person and online) to student, community, academic and professional groups, including regional and national conferences.
- **PRODUCING** ten multimedia histories about a range of disability history topics.
- **REACHING** a growing online audience through newsletter, social media, and comprehensive website that acts as a hub for Western Pennsylvania disability history.
- **PARTNERING** with local, statewide, and national disability history groups to connect the Western Pennsylvania story to the larger narrative.



You can help with
this important work
by making a donation
at wpdhac.org