

Accessible Cities Alliance

ACA Progress Report: 12 in 12 July 2005-July 2006

It is with great pride that we, on behalf of many hard-working and dedicated advisors, present the ACA's major accomplishments of its inaugural year.

Launched ACA Website @ www.ada411.com

- received more than 13,000 hits for information
- linked to partner websites, including Will County Community Development, City of Joliet and Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- features federal, state and local resources on accessibility laws
- details financial incentives, as well as IRS tax credits/deductions
- includes Accessible Business Directory for use by persons seeking accessible public accommodations, by category (per City of Joliet inspections)

Presented "Winter Compliance Workshop" to building department directors/inspectors from municipalities throughout Will County

- featured Great Lakes ADA and Accessible IT Center Director on ADA Title III, and Illinois Accessibility Code Specialist from State of IL Capital Development Board
- Will County Executive, Larry Walsh, keynote luncheon speaker
- resulted in mutually beneficial partnerships to promote access, and request for ACA to assist with effort to increase support in towns without current resources for inspections

ACA leaders develop strong working relationship with City of Joliet Building Department through enforcement of Joliet Accessibility Ordinance

- ADA Inspector, since November, 2005, has worked closely with ACA to coordinate Accessible Business Directory of fully compliant businesses, and serves as educational resource to provide owners with specific access plans
- City will continue to enforce Ordinance with non-compliant business owners and support ACA efforts to work on parking, entrances and restrooms
- City will work with ACA to develop Recognition Program for businesses, allowing fully accessible locations to display access stickers for disabled consumers to easily identify access features available

Secures involvement of three local financial institutions in offering reduced interest rates on business loans applied to creating increased access

- First Midwest Bank, Founders Bank and NuMark Credit Union

Successfully secures sponsorship of 21 companies and individuals to support outreach goals and public awareness campaign

- Print and radio advertisements
- Promotional postcards, featuring key local leaders, promoting ACA mission
- Light pole banners hung throughout City of Joliet
- Compliance Workshop for Building Inspectors and Contractors, Architects
- Palm cards promoting mission and sponsor support
- ACA banners for community special events
- Targeted mailings to business owners, contractors, architects

Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry works with ACA leadership on educational outreach to businesses

- Chamber leaders play vital role to secure ACA sponsors
- Newsletters, promotional mailings and educational outreach to members
- Continue networking with neighboring Chambers to promote mutual goals

ACA assists City of Lockport with enactment of Lockport Accessibility Ordinance, modeling similar City of Joliet Ordinance passed in 2004; continues work with City of Lockport Downtown Revitalization Plan

Two dozen advisors, bolstered by 21 sponsors, representing all facets of community, draft action plan to continually promote increased compliance

ACA efforts draw attention and praise from national and state disability advocates, including: U.S. Department of Justice; National Organization on Disability; Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living; Great Lakes ADA and Accessible IT Center; Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities in Illinois

ACA Speaker's Bureau reaches out to community organizations, including:

- Will County Board and Will County Commission of Persons with Disabilities
- City of Joliet Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities
- Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry Executive Board
- Joliet Spotters, Agencies United, Latino Biz Coalition and Joliet Rotary

Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living, ACA Coordinating Agency, continues to bolster ACA efforts, promoting mission, advisors, sponsors and accessible businesses to disability community through aggressive outreach

Media Relations and Community Outreach Plan creates visibility, secures support of area leaders and generates awareness of ACA goals and vision

- Chicago Tribune, Joliet Herald News, Times Weekly, WJOL-AM
- Contractors Association of Will and Grundy Counties, Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry, and Will-Grundy CIL newsletters

Join us as Joliet City Council (7/18), Lockport City Council (7/26) and Will County Board (7/20) issue proclamations heralding the ACA, and declaring July 23-29 "**Accessibility Awareness Week**" in the Joliet/Will County region.

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*HELP US CONTINUE THIS PROGRESS! STAY INFORMED AND INVOLVED!  
Keep in touch and tell us how you can help break down barriers, proving*

***Good Access IS Good Business!***

***We've come far but have far to go!***

Contact us at any time by calling 815/729-0162 (V) or 729-2085 (TTY),  
or log onto [www.ada411.com](http://www.ada411.com).

Thank you!

Denise Winfrey and Val Rand, Co-Chairs