

# QUOTES FROM LEADERS IN THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY & OTHERS

**“Being a LEADER is more than  
leading a meeting.**

**Being a LEADER is about building  
relationships –  
knowing who knows who, and  
who knows what!!”**

Bobby Silverstein – aid to Senator Harkin and author of the ADA  
– and noted disability activist

**Leaders don't apologize for who  
they are or what they stand for.**

-June Isacson Kailes, a national leader in the Disability Rights Movement

**SELF-ADVOCACY is a STRONG VOICE FOR  
AND BY PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES,  
promoting independence, empowerment,  
leading by example, AND communicating,  
networking AND encouraging each other.**

-Justin Dart, Justice For All - 1997, Noted Disability Rights Leader

**DISABILITY PRIDE** cannot happen in isolation. To feel **Disability Pride**, one must be a part of the **Disability Community**.

Nadina LaSpina, The Ragged Edge, March/April, 1998

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful and committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever does.*

Margaret Mead, U.S. anthropologist (1901 - 1978)

**“Nothing about US,  
without US!”**

A slogan of the Disability Rights Movement (in other words, people with disabilities should always be “at the table” when disability issues, policies, or funding are being discussed)

**If you think you are a second-class citizen, YOU ARE!**

- Ted Turner, tycoon

*People acting together as a group can accomplish things that no individual acting alone could ever hope to bring about.*

-Franklin D. Roosevelt, former U.S. President

**Get into politics as if your life depends on it. IT DOES!**

-Justin Dart, leader of the national Disability Rights Movement, 1996

*“Life is either a daring adventure or it is nothing.”*

-Helen Keller, author & educator (1880 - 1968)

*Leaders lead by leading; that is, by motivating, strategizing, mobilizing, organizing, influencing, inspiring, asking questions, learning, listening, documenting, collaborating, and taking action with confidence & passion.*

- Cherie Clark, Disability Rights Activist

**“The unjustified segregation of people with disabilities in institutions, when community placement is appropriate, constitutes a form of discrimination prohibited by the ADA.”**

-The Olmstead Supreme Court Ruling in plain language

**When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion.**

- Ethiopian proverb

**If a man is called to be a street-sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause and say, here lived a great street-sweeper who did his job well.**

- Martin Luther King, Jr., Civil Rights Leader

**It is NEVER too late to give up your prejudices.**

- Henry David Thoreau

**Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it.**

-Michael Jordan, great basketball player and American icon

**“Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm!”**

-Ralph Waldo Emerson, American poet, essayist, and philosopher

**Never look down on anybody unless you are helping them up.**

-Jesse Jackson, Civil Rights Leader

**Here is a test to find whether your mission on earth is finished: If you're alive, it isn't.**

-Richard Bach, Author

**“The truest definition of leadership is to build people, to be able to nurture and encourage and support people speaking for themselves, to build confidence in people, to call on people to be their own best selves.”**

-The late Senator Paul Wellstone

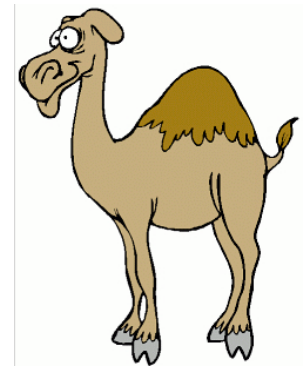
Integrity is not a 90 percent thing, not a 95 percent thing; either you have it or you don't.

-Peter Scotese, designer & builder

What is a friend? A single soul shared by two people.

-Aristotle, Greek philosopher

Do not free a camel of “the burden of his hump” – you may stop him from being a camel at all.



-G.K. Chesterton, English writer

*Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.*

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

**“Gone are the days when a person with disabilities needed others to do and make decisions for them. Who knows more about their needs than the individual themselves?”**

-Keith Ruff, disability rights activist, Iowa City

**Disabilities are yet another manifestation of global diversity. Let us always be committed to the fundamental principles of dignity and equality for all human beings.**

- Kofi A. Annan, Secretary-General, United Nations

**Life isn't about finding yourself.  
Life is about creating yourself.**

-George Bernard Shaw

**You know the hardest thing about having cerebral palsy and being a woman - It's plucking your eyebrows. That's how I originally got pierced ears.**

-Geri Jewell

**Character is doing the right thing when nobody's looking!!**

-J.C. Watts

**"Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can.**

**Tomorrow is a new day; begin it well and serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense."**

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

**We must ALWAYS guard the civil rights and civil liberties of all citizens, whatever their background. We must remember that any oppression, any injustice, any hatred, is a wedge designed to attack our civilization.**

-Franklin D. Roosevelt, 32nd President of the United States (1933–1945)

**The giant oak is an acorn that held its ground.**

-Anonymous

**“If you make it fully accessible,**



Original ISA



Updated ISA

**WE WILL**

**COME!”**

(Not available in Braille and other accessible formats: the “Original International Symbol for Accessibility” and the “Updated “Original International Symbol for Accessibility” – the updated version has a look as if the person is “in action.”)

**“He who has a thousand friends, has not one friend to spare.”**

- Author Unknown

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