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KASA on the Move with Trainings for SVILC

By Danielle Lucchesi Fellguth

In February, KASA provided training for the Silicon Valley Independent Living Center in California (SVILC). KASA Board Co-Chairs Danielle Lucchesi Fellguth and Hamza Jaka, along with former Project Director Naomi Ortiz, trained SVILC staff on facilitation and worked with SVILC to co-host an anti-bullying training for kids with disabilities ages 9 to 12. The KASA Task Force developed training materials specifically for kids this age and KASA Board members demonstrated strategies for how SVILC youth could train their younger peers.

This anti-bullying training included information for the kids on disability history, advocacy skills, and conflict resolution. There was also a session on disability pride. Attention-grabbing activities allowed youth to practice the skills they learned.

After the training, Danielle Lucchesi Felguth connected with Sara Moussavian, member of the SVILC Youth Council. Here is a sneak peek of the interview.

DF: How was the training for you in general?

SM: It was great! It was a great learning experience. I definitely learned how to facilitate better and work with younger youth. It was a pleasure working with KASA. It was not only good for learning facilitation, but it brought staff closer together to work on one project instead of individual projects. It was interesting to see how a national organization was ran and involved with statewide groups.

DF: What did you expect?

SM: We planned for more obstacles than those that really happened. We worried that not many youth would attend. I was surprised at how interested they were and was very pleased with the energy.

DF: What were some things that really stuck with you?

SM: Facilitation tips that I learned, like listening before interrupting and acknowledging each other's views to show we care about their opinion.

DF: What do you think youth learned?

SM: The youth learned how to solve conflict with others. The participants were actively engaged and learned to solve problems from role playing. They learned how to find a solution instead of just fighting and not getting the outcome they want.

DF: Why are these trainings important?

SM: As individuals, we grow from trainings like this. I didn't know what facilitation consisted of. The skills were all valuable skills for people in the long-run. Without them, we wouldn't be able to manage the youth council. The training gave staff more time to grow and learn more in regards to skills and leadership.

If you want to be a part of national KASA's success, visit our website at www.fvkasa.org.

KASA CONNECTION!



KASA Membership Drive

KASA is hosting a membership drive, and we want you! Your input and feedback is important to us. We work to include our members in meaningful ways in our youth-driven, grass-roots project. If you want to learn more or have something to say...join us today!

Here are just a few of the things our members get as being part of KASA—and membership is FREE for youth.

Benefits of a lifetime KASA Membership:

- o Lifetime access (subscription) to our email listserv, full of opportunities and resources.
- o Discounts on our reports and manuals.
- o Access to youth experts on youth leadership and meaningful youth involvement and/or gain access to youth who can speak at your meetings and attend your trainings. (See KASA's "Guide to Presentations and Technical Assistance" brochure)

DF: Do you think it is important to pass this information on to youth?
SS: Yes. It is good as leaders to pass down what we know so they can pass it down to all generations. These topics were good to pass down because they will be valuable skills either now or later. They may have situations where they need to solve. Information like this will be helpful to them.

Overall, Sara said that she enjoyed working with KASA and appreciated what she learned during the training on how to work with younger kids.

Task Force gives the 411 on National Kids As Self Advocates

By Emily Sinton and Jennifer Thomas

On April 27, 2011, the KASA Task Force presented "The 411 on National Kids As Self Advocates". This informational teleconference/webinar allowed participants the opportunity to connect with KASA and learn what KASA is all about.

Those who participated on the teleconference/webinar also learned how to access KASA materials and trainings. All of these materials are created by youth for youth. The Task Force Members also gave information about what goes into running a youth-led group like KASA. The importance of youth involvement was discussed as well.

**The topics presented were really great. I loved the uniqueness of KASA and what their mission is for youth with disabilities.
--Participant**

To develop this teleconference/webinar, the Task Force Members selected materials and information they wanted to share. They held extra teleconference calls to practice, and shared information and materials through e-mail. The Task Force also invited KASA Board Members to present with them.

Did you miss *The 411 on National Kids As Self Advocates*? If so, go to www.fvkasa.org to check out the recording

To keep up with what KASA is doing, join us on our website or on Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=52342247092>

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Summer 2011 **Visit Kids As Self Advocates on the web at: www.fvkasa.org**
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Our network features youth and young adult leaders as resource experts on living in the community, managing our health care, going to school, advocacy, civil rights, getting a job and much more!

We provide information on scholarships, conferences, and events around the country.

Check us out on our website and see what other resources we have to offer and become a member today!

Featured Article

By Bryan Dooley

As you may have noticed reading this newsletter, the theme this issue is travel. To go along with this topic, the following article, "Bryan's Odyssey", details the experiences I encountered on my trip to the Southwest United States. I hope you have as much fun reading about it as I had living it. Find it at: <http://fvkasa.org/reports/index.php>

Creative Process

By Bryan Dooley

This month the membership committee was curious about the KASA board member's favorite places. Therefore, for our creative process this month we asked the following question: What is your favorite place and why?

Danielle Lucchesi Fellguth wrote, "My favorite place is in the middle of Times Square at night because I love the atmosphere and the lights . . . it's magical!" Although I have never personally been to New York, I can tell by photographs and movies what a magical place it is. The size of the city, the sounds, smells, and the lights all combine to create an atmosphere like no other, from what I hear. I would love to visit someday.

Hamza Jaka compares the fantastic views of two large cities by saying, "Anywhere with a great view, San Francisco is great, as is Islamabad, Pakistan. A view shows the beauty of the world, and also inspires me to get going for the day!" I think nature can inspire people, no matter where in the world you are located. Everyone has probably seen San Francisco; it is used in movies and television on a daily basis. Although Pakistan is in a very different part of the world, I am sure there are many beautiful areas.

As for me, if I could visit anywhere, I would (because I am a History geek) visit significant places in the Disability Movement. Places like the University of California at Berkley, where Ed Roberts attended school. Roberts was one of the first people with a disability to attend college. In addition, I would like to see the different places where the 504 sit-ins occurred. These were the longest peaceful sit-ins by citizens in America.

As you can see, the board has a variety of interests. This diversity is one element that makes us a strong and interesting board.

New KASA Board Members

The KASA Board has been developing trainings and new materials. They also have new members. Join the Board in welcoming:



Cashimawo Akpiri
Montgomery, AL
Age 17



Jon Drennan
Berkeley, CA
Age 18



Brandon Le Master
El Paso, TX
Age 18

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KASA CONNECTION!

Connecticut KASA

CT KASA has been working on the medical home booklets, editing, and revising them. At their last meeting the members of CT KASA talked about transportation.

New KASA Task Force Members

In addition to reviewing documents and preparing for *The 411 on National Kids As Self Advocates* teleconference/webinar, the KASA Task Force has also brought on new members. They are:



Tionna Jackson
Long Jack, MO
Age 15



Tracy Allard
Smithfield, RI
Age 12

Not Pictured: Rebecca Lotz

International Traveler

By Jennifer Thomas

KASA Board Member Hamza Jaka recently had the opportunity to travel to Syria recently. Hamza says he learned the value of teamwork, as well as patience, through KASA. "All of our projects [in Syria] revolved around group work (including creating a concept for a comic book. See the Silver Scorpion, or email: ttrombetta@openhandsinitiative.org for more info.)" Hamza shared his perspectives on disability, as well as disability happenings in Pakistan. He is currently working at the Office of Disability Employment Policy at the US Department of Labor. This internship is through the American Association of People With Disabilities Summer Internship Program. Hamza says he would love to visit Japan, China, Kenya or Spain next. When asked what advice he would give to a young person with a disability who wants to travel abroad, Hamza said the following: "There's nowhere you can't be, as long as you understand that some countries aren't yet as accessible as the US or Europe, and be ready for anything. The memories await!"

KASA Stats

The following are KASA's Stats since the last newsletter Six months ago:

576 average hits per day

Top 5 Web Downloads:

- Disability Portrayal and the Media Today —2049 hits
- How To Give A Presentation—1846 hits
- My Story About Surviving a Hospital Stay —1160 hits
- How to Ride the Bus—1045 hits
- Funding Higher Education—939 hits

Top 5 Requested KASA Documents:

- *Keeping Track of Your Health Care*
- *KASA Brochure*
- *KASA How to do a Job Search*
- *Interview Skills*
- *What is Self Determination?*

129,691
Total Hits
on the
Website

THANKS TO OUR KASA DONORS!!

Thanks to our donors! **With your support** KASA hires young adult consultants, shares teleconferences and webinars, and gets needed "real life" information out to youth! Besides our much-valued financial donations, KASA would also like to deeply thank our many in-kind donors!

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