

Reaching People with Disabilities through Healthy Communities

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This project has impacted my life because:	It shows that communities and organizations are taking the step to make the lives of people with disabilities easier for daily activities.
The most influential policy, system, or environmental change of this project to me was:	The environmental changes in the Lewis and Clark Public Health building included physical accessibility improvements for persons with disabilities, such as changing the length of time the automatic doors open, making signage improvements in multiple areas, and developing a system for evacuation during an emergency so that people with disabilities will have a method of evacuating the building. Hoping that people with disabilities will find daily activities easier because others will have already thought about the challenges they may face and will have removed those challenges or have alternatives in place for them already.
As a result of this, I/we: <i>(List how you have been impacted, influenced, affected – e.g. tell us something you can do now that you couldn't before, or what the change has helped to improve)</i>	Being a mother of a child with a disability, I know how hard daily life can be. Knowing that communities and organizations are taking steps to reduce that stress is a very overwhelming feeling of joy.
What was the emotional connection, self-efficacy, or "ah-ha" moment for this project?	My emotional connection was that I know how hard daily life in the real world is for a child with a disability. In addition, when you have to ask for something to get a daily activity done it makes you feel like a huge burden to people and businesses. However, knowing that they are thinking about these barriers ahead of time and trying to reduce them makes it so exciting for me.

Please note that testimonials may be edited for clarity by the NACDD Communications Department.