



ONE VISION

November 2019
Volume 10, Issue 10

**INTEGRATION, EQUALITY, AND OPPORTUNITY
FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.**

All in the Day of an Advocate

by Kate Blaker

Have you ever had days where you wanted to just say, "what the heck?" I've had a month and half of those days.

Early in July, I went to work. When I returned home, I saw that layers of my street had been removed. I tried to go to the curb, and there was a six-inch rise which I could not ride my wheels over. I thought, "How am I going to get into my home?"

I had few options. There was a curb cut on my side of the street, but I could not use it. The only answer was to go up the steep hill of the adjacent street, cross to an alley, come slowly back down the hill on the sidewalk, and then use the walk to get to my apartment.

I immediately called the city. Since it was a holiday, I knew that I would not hear from anyone. I spent the next three days wondering how I would remain independent, since I would have to find an alternative way to leave my apartment.

That Monday, I tried to contact several city officials. It took several calls to receive any response. I was told that water company was responsible, and I had to contact them. I did, making numerous calls to explain my situation, and was told they would handle it. The water company contractor came out and poured a ramp of a cold mixture of tar, which will never harden. My chair can't cross that!

I made more calls, and finally reached a supervisor who wanted more details. We spoke and he stated that he would investigate this. This was the beginning of August.

I waited another week, and had not heard from the supervisor. I called the water company again, and they said my problem was reported "resolved." I told her, "No, it hasn't been resolved!" and that I would speak with the news and whoever else that would listen.

The next day, the supervisor called to report that he would meet with me and a city official in mid-September. We met, and **finally** I had a safe exit and entrance from my apartment to the sidewalk!

In the end, it took 22 calls and active advocacy to resolve my situation. I did thank all parties involved, and even added a message to the city official about considering informing citizens when work like this would be done on their streets.

*Transitional Paths to
Independent Living*



www.trpil.com

**Transitional Paths to
Independent Living
(TRPIL)**

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Do you have a story like Kate's?
If so, let us know... We might share it here!

(turn over for calendar)



November 2019

Day	Time	Event/Activity
Saturday November 2	9:00-6:00	Steel City Slam Wheelchair Rugby Tournament <i>Come cheer on the Pittsburgh Steelwheelers!</i> <i>Bus will be leaving TRPIL @ 9 AM</i>
Tuesday November 5	All Day	General Elections <i>Get out and vote! Let your voice be heard!</i>
Wednesday November 13	1:30-3:30	Wii Day <i>Come join your fellow TRPIL Members for some friendly competition with Wii Sports! We have golf, tennis, bowling, baseball, and more!</i>
Monday November 18	1:30-2:30	Red Cross Emergency Preparedness Presentation <i>Learn how to prepare in case of an emergency. Representatives from the Red Cross will assist in training.</i>
Wednesday November 20	1:00-3:00	Transportation Meeting <i>A representative from Freedom Transit will be here to speak with our members.</i>

RSVP for all events at least one week in advance!

As always, members can come in for Wii Wednesday (enjoy virtual bowling, golf, tennis, and more!) and Internet Café Training.

TRANSITIONAL PATHS TO INDEPENDENT LIVING STRENGTHENS CONSUMER CHOICE AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP THROUGH LEADERSHIP, SERVICES, AND PROGRAMS.

Have an Idea for Our Calendar?

Become a member (or renew your membership) by contacting **Matt Taylor** at mtaylor@trpil.com, or call **724.223.5115, ext 1385**.

