1. Front Cover- Homepage
   1. CTD is proud to unveil our new home online: TXDisabilities.org! Whether you're an advocate, a participant in one of CTD's annual events, a business, or a STAR Plus consumer, we've put everything you need in one place!
   2. Save the Date: March 4 & 5, 2013. Join CTD in Austin, TX for our 35th Annual Convention. Disability groups from all over Texas will host their conferences on these dates. When the meetings end, we hit the Capitol together!
2. ED Welcome
   1. DB letter

With 2013 just around the corner, you may notice that CTD is going through a few changes. First and foremost, we are launching TXDisabilities.org to better serve the community of Texans with disabilities, families, friends, advocates and service providers. After reading this report, you will recognize the look and feel of our new site, and we hope you'll feel right at home there! TXDisabilities.org is just part of our communications upgrades designed to bring the full force of people with disabilities into advocacy and make the world a better place.

Let’s not shy away from talking about the disability community as a force. We’ve got the numbers, the economic power, a potential swing vote in elections and the might of being right. I’m always reminded of the advice Dolores Salazar gave me 12 years ago: "If we can get together, nothing can stop us!" Dolores did not mean that people with disabilities should steamroll their way to unneeded handouts, extra benefits or free rides. She simply meant there should be no barriers to people with disabilities taking their rightful place as fully included, responsible, contributing members of society. And when barriers are present, we should fight to bring them down!

The Texas Legislature did not meet in 2012, yet CTD had significant advocacy successes. Please take a few minutes to read through our annual report for these victories, as well as public awareness and community work. To propel fair and decent public policy and practice forward, we need to do these activities, and CTD needs you to be shoulder-to-shoulder with us.

For a Barrier-Free Society,

Dennis Borel, Executive Director

* 1. sponsor spotlight

TXDisabilities.org and CTD's communications upgrade would not be possible without the generous support of our major project donors: Amerigroup Real Solutions, Superior Health Plan, and United Community Health Care [logos]. We appreciate their vision in valuing the voice of Texans with disabilities.

1. Board & Staff
   1. Board Listing
   2. Staff photo
2. Advocacy 1

While the Legislature does not convene during even numbered years, CTD’s advocacy efforts continued in full force in 2012. We worked hard on statewide campaigns, advocacy training, consumer protection measures, giving testimony, and much more.

* 1. There's a national campaign underway to inform policymakers and the public about the benefits of Medicaid and what could happen to Americans if Medicaid were reduced or eliminated. CTD is a driving force on the steering committee of **My Medicaid Matters TX**, helping to plan press events and organize other campaign activities. MMMTx’s final press conference of 2012 took place at CTD’s office, by the Capitol (above). In keeping with the holiday season, policy experts, families of children with disabilities, business leaders, healthcare workers, and seniors told reporters and TV cameras why they were thankful for Medicaid. Learn more about this campaign at **www.MMMTx.org**.
  2. CTD also takes a leading role in **Texas Forward**. This campaign brings together a broad spectrum of organizations that promote a balanced approach to state budget decisions. Member organizations vary widely in their missions, but all believe that meeting the needs of Texans and moving our state forward to greater prosperity and opportunity will require more than just belt-tightening and cuts in education, healthcare and other vital public services. CTD has been heavily involved in the strategic planning of Texas Forward and in preparing the campaign for the upcoming legislative session. To learn more about Texas Forward, visit **www.TXForward.org**.
  3. Awards & Recognition sidebar

CTD & Dennis Borel: Advocate of the year

CTD was honored to receive advocacy awards from all over the state in 2012. **San Antonio Independent Living Services** (SAILS) named CTD Executive Director Dennis Borel Advocate of the Year at its ADA Celebration, held every July. Since 1981, SAILS has worked to make San Antonio and the surrounding counties a better place to live, work and play for people with disabilities.

**Texas Parent to Parent** also honored Dennis with an Advocate of the Year Award this September. TxP2P works to support children with disabilities, chronic illness, and other special needs by empowering their families.

In October, the Volar Center for Independent Living in El Paso recognized CTD’s work as State Wide Systems Advocate in 2012. Volar advocates for human and civil rights and community options and empowers people to live the lives they choose.

CTD has enjoyed long, fruitful partnerships with SAILS, TxP2P, and Volar. We feel privileged to receive their accolades!

1. Advocacy 2
   1. Advocacy Trainings

We took this interim year not only to prepare for session ourselves, but also to work with advocates and organizations all over the state. From the Disability, Education, and Employment Conference in **Beaumont** to Volar CIL’s Annual Our Lives Conference in **El Paso**; from our own convention in **McAllen** to the SILC’s Annual Conference in **Dallas**, we travelled far and wide to train our members and allies on successful advocacy strategies. Current Board President Rodney Hanneman journeyed all the way to **Chicago** to present at the Allies in Self Advocacy Summit on advocacy in Texas!

* 1. Consumer Protection

CTD put $2 million into the pockets of community attendants In the **CBA program** by uncovering a flaw in state administration, then fighting upstream to get the problem recognized and fixed.

Each year, CTD staffers serve on a variety of workgroups and boards. In 2012, we worked with the **Consumer Directed Workgroup**, **Direct Workforce Committee**, **Rehabilitation Council of Texas**, **Texas Board of Architectural Examiners**, **Promoting Independence Advisory Council**, and many more!

In Senate hearings, CTD testified against **Electronic Visit Verification (EVV)**, an unpopular system for tracking attendant hours. Because of our efforts and those of our partners, state senators granted consumer directed services programs an exemption from an EVV requirement.

* 1. Community Development

Our own **consumer directed services agency** continued to grow in 2012. In February, we trained a group of new CDS partners to help us serve our clients in Beaumont and El Paso.

CTD brokered a meeting among executives from **DARS**, the federal State **AmeriCorps** office and the Texas administrators at the **OneStar Foundation**. The result was a commitment to collaborate on expanding community service opportunities in AmeriCorpsVISTA for people with disabilities.

* 1. Consumer Spotlight sidebar

CTD Says No to Unethical HMO

This year, Molina Healthcare, an HMO operating in Medicaid managed care, announced a 10% cut to providers and the removal of dental, transportation and behavioral services to consumers. CTD immediately recognized how this would negatively affect consumers: in attendant care alone, the 10% cut would slash wages close to the federal minimum, jeopardizing the quality and availability of community care. CTD had been building a business relationship with Molina, but severed all ties with the HMO upon learning of their change in policy. We issued a press release condemning their actions, returned their sponsorship money, and strongly supported ADAPT's "Leave Molina" campaign to encourage consumers to switch HMOs (over 18,000 did). Lastly, CTD secured a commitment from Rep. Mando Martinez to file consumer protection legislation to prohibit such practices.

It is our hope that the backlash from Molina's attempted money grab at the expense of their customers will prevent similar situations from arising in the future.

1. CTD Events
   1. **“iMake A Difference!”,** the 34th Annual Convention of The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities was held in McAllen, TX September 14-15, 2012. Several outstanding local politicians joined us, including **State Representatives Sergio Munoz and Eddie Lucio III**, whoreaffirmed their support for the disability community, and **Rep. Armando “Mando” Martinez**, who announced his intent to file legislation protecting consumers in Medicaid managed care programs. During the **classic grass roots resolutions** process, members decided on CTD public policy initiatives. **Rodney Hanneman of San Antonio** was elected CTD President
   2. We had a blast at this year’s Film Fest! The events began on Sept. 29 at the Goodwill Community Center, where we screened action drama The Lookout. The following weekend, the Fest continued at the Alamo DraftHouse South Lamar. Dave Dauber from The Gene and Dave Show had our audience rolling in the aisles as our special guest emcee. Highlights of the Fest included the premiere of Welcome To CTD, produced by one of last year’s emerging level Short Film competition winners, Alex Murphy.

* top films from the Short Film Competition
* action drama The Lookout
* documentary Shooting Beauty
* The Master of the Guillotine.
  1. This year, our Pen 2 Paper writing competition went quite well.  Almost 70 pieces of work were submitted, including our first ever comic entry.  We made a new sponsor connection with Carve Magazine, a literary fiction magazine based in Dallas, which will publish selected Pen 2 Paper winners next year!  Our usual public readings at our film festival and at a local Half Price Books were well received. Check out videos from the Half Price reading on our Youtube channel.

d) Honors & Recognition sidebar

* + 1. The Austin Film Society invited Cinema Touching Disability Founder and Coordinator William Greer to serve as a judge of entries to the **Texas Filmmakers' Production Fund** (TFPF). Once a year, AFS awards these grants to emerging film and video artists in the state of Texas whose work shows promise, skill, and creativity. CTD is delighted that William has been selected to participate in this prestigious event in the Austin film community.
    2. Press listing: AAS, DMN, Tribune, SA Express, Ft. Worth Star Telegram, Public News Service, My Fox Austin, BOR

1. Collaboration & Community
   1. Community Spotlight sidebar: CTD Staffers serve as experts in Interfaith Inclusion Project

CTD VISTAs Susie Angel and Terri Stellar were recruited to help plan and participate in the Keep Austin Faith Inclusive Symposium in October. The purpose of this one-day event was to gather religious leaders, people with disabilities and their families and service providers to discuss ways to make faith communities more accessible and inclusive. The symposium screened several short videos, including ones of Terri and Susie (below) telling about their own spiritual journeys. Susie also sat on a question and answer panel with other people with disabilities.

The symposium was presented by OneStar Foundation, Jewish Family Service, and Texas A&M University’s Center on Disability and Development, and was funded through a grant from The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities.

* 1. CTD 2.0 new web stuff, rebrand, video projects (probably also in Dennis' letter)

CTD has finally joined the 21st century online! Over the years, it had become plain that our old website just wasn't cutting it. So, during the spring of 2012, we hired a local web consultant firm to design something new. Whether you're an advocate, a participant in one of CTD's annual events, a business, or a STAR Plus consumer, we've got everything you need in one place at www.TXDisabilities.org.

In keeping with our new look, logo, and website, we wanted to reach out to potential members in a new way. We worked with local filmmakers to produce two video projects. Up and comer David Bukstein directed a brand new Public Service Announcement (PSA) for us. Between December 2011 and January 2012, we shot six different spots on location all over Austin to capture how some of our members exemplify our mission. Also this winter, Alex Murphy, winner of the 2011 Cinema Touching Disability Short Film Competition, volunteered to shoot and edit an information video about CTD. We premiered *Welcome to CTD* at our 2012 Film Festival, and it's been a hit ever since! View Bukstein's and Murphy's fine work at our new home online, www.TXDisabilities.org!

Don't get the idea that we were holed up behind our computers all year! In 2012, CTD staff was heavily involved in tons of community events in our home base of Austin. To kick off the year, the whole staff attended the Grand Opening of Kenguru, a Pflugerville-based producer of wheelchair accessible cars. Staffers helped plan White Cane Day, Disability Mentoring Day, the ADAPT Fun Run, and the Accessible Fishing Pier on Ladybird Lake. We served on committees for SafePlace, the OneStar Inclusion Team, and the Austin Mayor's Council for People with Disabilities. We helped Texas Rowing for All earn a big grant from the Olympic Opportunity Fund. We always enjoy working with our friends at other organizations, and we can't wait to see what partnerships emerge in 2013!

1. Back cover: Get Involved at TXDisbailities.org
   1. As a member-driven organization, CTD needs YOU to succeed in our mission. What does membership in CTD entail? We want you to be involved in our efforts in ways that work for you.
      1. **Sign up** as a member and join thousands of Texans with disabilities, families, workers, advocates, policy makers, and businesses in building a truly barrier free Texas.
      2. **Subscribe** to The Messenger, our free monthly e-newsletter, to stay current with CTD events, advocacy opportunities, disability news, and more!
      3. **Donate**. Your donation is your personal commitment to our cause and work. Large or small, every donation counts at CTD!
      4. Be an **Advocate**. At the Capitol or home, in a crowd, or as a crowd of one: make your voice heard! Learn about our current campaigns and our access advocacy resources.
      5. **Participate** in a CTD event. Attend our annual Convention or Film Festival, submit creative work to one of our artistic competitions, and keep an eye out for special events and consumer education opportunities.
      6. **Follow Us** on Social Media. We use our Facebook and Twitter pages to stay in touch with members, post photos, inform you about special offers, and more!
   2. Get Involved Spotlight sidebar
      1. Visit TXDisabilities.org to learn more about joining CTD and benefits for members, signing up for the newsletter, donating, and more.
      2. Save the Date: CTD’s 35th Annual Convention and Rally March 4 & 5, 2013 in Austin TX.
      3. We’re on Facbook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Flickr @TXDisabilities.
   3. Footer
      1. Contact info, need email
      2. Mission: CTD works to ensure that persons with disabilities may work, live, learn, play, and participate fully in the community of their choice.