

## UltraShorts

### WI Self Determination Conference

**Theme: Surprise – 10.31.18**

My toddler would not stay in the seat! Had to go with me ....imagine how surprised the handsome flight attendant was as the bathroom door swung out into the plane. Me with my dress up under my armpits and my pantyhose around my ankles. Thank you to the toddler for the exposure!

My family surprised me with a 30th surprise birthday party I was shocked and excited too it was something I'll never forget

When I was 18 my boyfriend didn't pick me up to drive me to school as he usually did on a daily basis. I was frustrated at first but became worried when he didn't show up for school all say. I was gone from school for about 5 minutes when the doorbell rang - my boyfriend was standing on my doorstep holding up 2 tickets to see my favorite musician, David Bowie. (This was the 80s so no cell phones or internet. He had driven to Chicago to buy the tickets)

I'm a mom, my daughter's 5th grade teacher, we'll call her Mrs A, I recall sitting in a meeting and hearing once again, you need to face reality. Mrs A had taken it upon herself to schedule her in only life skills classes for 6th grade, even though she had done very well in science, social studies and more. Mrs A, if you're out there, the reality is that We didn't listen and Sierra graduated and is now looking at college programs!

My husband is in a wheelchair now, but when we met he walked with two canes. People asked me why I would want to marry him knowing that he was going to become more disabled as we got older. Why? Because I love him. Well, I'll give the marriage two years. 40 years later, I'm the one who's getting more handicapped each year. I have Psoriatic arthritis. Now we're both handicapped!

When my daughter jammie was about 3 years old our family was leaving a restaurant. JB saw a chicken leg on another ladies plate. It looked good to her... So she grabbed the chicken leg and took a bite out of it. I was so shocked that she did that that I took the chicken like out of her hand put it back on the ladies plate and said sorry as we rushed out of the restaurant! I'm not sure who was more surprised!

I am a caregiver for my friend who has cerebral palsy. ,I have MS myself. We both use power wheelchairs and also work as a team around the home and in the community. We both use sUCH A, IRIS. We both find it ironic that a self directed supports program doesn't necessarily think outside the box but still centers on the medical model. Health eggs questions the situation. We hope for future change where everyone is on an equal platform with equal opportunity, both with participation as participants and with employment, even as a caregiver without regards to disability. This would be the true definition of self determination at home and in the community.

I like to sure a story about my relationship. It all started last year when I was NOT trying to find a boyfriend but this one time when most came back foem winter break when I was done with my homework and was going back to my dorm when a boy came up and was walking towards me and had a lot of stuff on my mind of almost everything that reasintly happen then he manged to calm me down and said if I wanted to kiss on the lips and we did I was so confused That I did know how I feeling and then I finally told him how I felt and he did two if I did say something then we wouldn't be girlfriend and boyfriend at all and thank god I did.

Matt Horrell- I advocated for another piece of cake!

Anonymous- It was the last day of high school. I thought I would be sad, but it was a happy and sad.

Josh- My parents surprised me for my 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. I was shocked and surprised.

Anonymous- When I was going to start college the people that ran the school said I could not go because there were no teachers to teach what I wanted to go for.

Kim Oster- When we got married and I came walking down the aisle he was so surprised to see me.

Carla- I was surprised to have won a down hill ski race! I was surprised to ride horses!

Janessa- When I was about ten years old my brother threw a baseball at my nose and broke my nose.

Anonymous- I drive my friend to a college class. On the first day of the instructor realized he is alter-abled. In a panic, the instructor wanted to talk to his case worker and asked me what to do. My reply was, "Why? Are you calling the parents and case workers of all your students? Maybe you should just teach the class."

Anonymous- I was surprised when my partner came over to watch me dance with school and I said no to because they had to leave the next day for Washington D.C. It was a complete surprise but in a great way. I was so happy they came to come support me even with their trip the next day.

Amy Newton- I was going to visit my mom and I needed to take an airplane. When I got there, they took me to a room to check for drugs and bombs on my wheelchair. When the lady bent down to check my chair, my guide dog gave her a big kiss on the face. She said that was the best part of her day.

Joe- I was in special Olympics bowling in 1998. I came in first at state.

Steven A. Patterson- When I lived in Lithia, Florida in 2012, I was about 13 years old and I wanted a girlfriend and wasn't afraid to be rejected. I asked her out in class, she said no, and to HER SURPRISE, I didn't cry or get upset. I was actually okay with it! And to my surprise, she at least respected me!!

Joe William Frenett- In the air in sky we in the air we are okay we are in New York City we go out to eat we go because my mom is in New York City.

Anonymous- I'm surprised that the Kalahari is building a new convention center.

Anonymous- I worked in a hospital as the discharge planner. I had foot surgery and not wanting to miss work needed to use a wheel chair in order to stay off my foot. A visitor at the hospital came up to me and said, "Isn't it nice they gave you a job."

Kathi- I was surprised to see my friend Madie again yesterday and she remembered me and gave me a hug.

Anonymous- I was in high school. I was in special E.D. I was bullied. Nobody cared about how I would feel. I felt angry, sad, and not accepted.

Anonymous- I love my godson, Walter Francis. He is so cute and full of love and life. P.S. He has down syndrome like me.

Anonymous- Just a suggestion: the next time someone says I will pray for you. "Thank you, but I've got this. But if it helps, I will pray for you."

Christa Beloin- I was at confirmation camp. I was outside in nature singing. My friend Jacob Setskey snuck up behind me. I discovered my lyric/creativity with words. My friend helped me discover my musical talent.

Anonymous- I was a little girl visiting my aunt in NYC! My parents slept in her twin beds, brothers in sleeping bags, and I slept with my great aunt on her pull-out couch. After the first night, Aunt Betty woke up and bent over to kiss me good morning. She kissed my feet! I did a 180 in my sleep!

Dd- I was so excited to see my sexy surgeon two days past op. that I got up and flirted around the room forgetting to close my gown. Surprise- I still wasn't wearing underwear.

Emily- He gets it!! One day in high school my history teacher/soccer coach was doubting my learning disability based on performance on the soccer field. My mom helped to talk with him, provided my accommodations and from then on it was either, "He/She gets or not!!"

Lisa Gilson- I was volunteering with the CCD program at church and saw this big red book and aske what they did with it. I was told it was used by lectors to read on Sunday. I opened it and started reading and Sr. Jolene heard me. She asked if I would like to read in church and I said yes. That was in 1995 and I'm still being a lector today.

Nealy- My mom also surprises me with a lot of new things that I need to learn from my mistakes. She always makes me proud and happy, and I surprise her too with the same thing.

Anonymous- I was at home and in my car was a mouse climbing on my parents leg my mom and dad yelled.

Melinda Beloin- I was driving to my Grandma's house when a squirrel ran out in front of my van. I hit it and it dies. I was so upset! I went into Grandma's house and told her I hit a squirrel. Grandma thought I said, "I hit a girl." Grandma asked me, "Where?" I said, "In front of the school." Grandma was very upset until I told her, "Grandma it's okay, it was a squirrel not a girl."

Anonymous- While I was dancing with friends someone in a scary costume surprised us.

Dan B.- I love to liv in Stoughton. I have a great job. I was surprised to get that job and am surprised at how well the people treat me.

Anonymous- The first night here we tried the 45oz drink here at the Kalahari, I was surprise not to wake up with a headache.

Anonymous- Managed to pull off a surprise party for a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary for a wonderful couple. 200 people plus in a very small community. It was a fantastic day!!

Jeanne Peplinski- My super power is servicing people and helping people in need.

Anonymous- My cat angel likes the top of the dryer.

Tomeka Lee- I love Stacey. She is a sweet heart. She helps me out a lot.

Abigail Straley- My super power is helping others and helping volunteer at local places.

Aimee Shraxton- I love to read but try to read and open the book.

Melissa- I'm a direct care worker for Marie. She's a vary independent, strong lady and I'm proud of her accomplishments so far.

Anonymous- Christmas 2014, my daughter was four, almost five. I had the elves take her bed on December 5<sup>th</sup> and St. Nick left her a note telling her they would return it. On Christmas Eve she came home from Grandma's to a customized bed and barbie bedroom with a note from Santa.

Kim- My name is Kim. I'm a caregiver. My husband is my best friend. He suffers from myotonic muscular dystrophy. Everyday is a different challenge for us.

Sheri- Keep advocating- A recent experience was leaving my son in an institutional hospital, with an unknown place for him to discharge to. His IRIS program (transfer) request was in limbo with DHS, and neither IRIS program would

communicate with me (the guardian) to confirm he had an adult family home for respite on his plan. I had to end up calling the DHS State Administration, among other agencies, to even confirm that he could discharge from the facility. You know you really need advocacy when your own IRIS program will not talk or help you. All ended well.

Marisa Molinaro- I am with my friend at Kalahari and for head waters. With fun at the Kalahari.

Keaton- I was feeling shy when I started to be an intern and I was surprised when I started working with Sherrie and Trudy in physical therapy.

Nicole Pliska- I lead a very active lifestyle, volunteer at the humane society, S.O.W.I., and have worked at a grocery store for 17 years.

Tom Ellinger- My friend that I know has a disability and she has a hard time. So it is hard for her so I start to help my friend but my friend needs help so I'm always there for my best friend.

Anonymous- As a mother, I know my daughter has a disability. Doctors and specialists say she does. I want some place to ask for resources to my daughter through the state. A person there told me that was just kids things.

Anonymous- I surprise that I can do a round cartwheel hip flop. I wish that my car Roy came home.

Aaron Vangrade- I joined the careers force as good guy or superhero guy for all of mankind man of all for God/Jesus.

Andrew Gerbitz- Hi, my name is Andrew Gerbitz. Madie and I like to do things together... (can't read the rest).

Anonymous- I own my own art business. My agency helped me submit my work for a contest. One day I went in to work and Lance said, "Barb guess what? You won." I felt surprised!

Anonymous- Two years ago we returned from vacation to a new dog- surprise! Last year we didn't go on vacation. This year we returned from vacation to a gold fish- surprise! Now I'm scared to go on vacation and believe my mother in law either misses us greatly when we go on vacation or really thinks this is funny.

Anonymous- My three-year old son sometimes says the funniest things. We had read the book "Love you Forever" the night before and it talks about how a mom wanted to sell her toddler to the zoo because he was driving her crazy. So, on the way home from daycare my three-year old told me, "I'm going to sell you to the zoo mommy!" I said, "Oh no!... What do I get to eat there?" He scrunched up his face angrily and said, "You only get pizza and coffee!" "You know me too well," I said.

Anonymous- I got my first car when I was 17-years old.

Valerie- Years ago my brother and his fiancé were planning their wedding. I started hearing all who was going to be in it. So, thinking why not me I thought I was close to him and her. I was surprised when I went over to the house and was told I was going to be the bridesmaid.

Savannah- I want to live with my own boyfriend and be best buddies. He can take me to go out for ice cream or dancing. We can hang out.

Anonymous- My daughter is 19 and has Down Syndrome. She has many career ideas: teacher, barista, fashion model, and party planner. First, I want her to clean her room!

Anonymous- When I was putting my four-year old daughter to bed and she hugged me and told me that she loved me and she would never let me down. I remember thinking how could she know these words. So surprised.

Anonymous- I've learned to become brave. I've learned that no matter what condition you are in, have faith and believe in yourself.

Anonymous- I am a president founder and owner of a travel group. I volunteer for Vision Forward and other organizations. I am thankful for my family and friends. I have had life challenges through my life. I am grateful.

Ms. Michelle Ray- When you understand that everyone goes through very tough times, you won't even take anything personal. Life is about understanding, patience, and peace.

Ben- Happens often when people are in the hall and a fire drill happens.