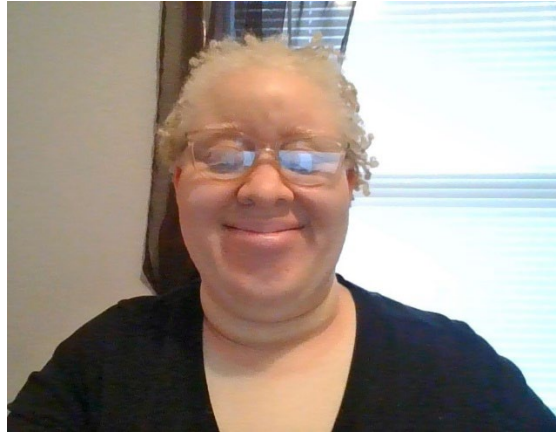


April 2022



*Have Advocacy, Will Travel*

My name is Felicia Clayborne and I've been involved in advocacy since before I found out that was the word for what I was doing. I was recently appointed to the WI Board for People with Developmental Disabilities, but my advocacy journey starts long before that. I always stand firm on disability rights. We all need that and it's something for us to stand firm on.

When I was in Junior High School, as part of Student Council, I would present my story and thoughts to classrooms and to the Milwaukee School Board. One of the big issues I wanted to solve was crossing the busy street right by my school. There was no automatic Pedestrian Signal (APS) making the cross dangerous especially for anyone with visual impairments. We ended up meeting with the police department, school administration and the city Alderman in the area and petitioned to get an APS installed. We were able to get it installed and I have worked to get several more installed on busy streets around my church and I am currently working to get one added by where I live currently.

I started attending the annual Disability Advocacy Day at the capitol in Madison. At first, I was nervous to tell my story and talk to legislators thinking they wouldn't listen and might be rude. I was happy to be wrong when I realized that they were just people and were open to hearing me out and actually enjoyed my suggestions. I've made it a priority to go to Disability Advocacy Day every year since and I keep in touch with my legislators throughout the year. Some of my priorities when talking to my legislators are, transportation, health care, mental health services and safety for people with disabilities in our communities.

In 2014, I was volunteering for a travel organization when the president (of the organization) called me and said I was "too disabled" to come back and that they didn't need my help. Instead of letting that dampen my spirits or joy of traveling, I decided to get to work and create my own travel organization. By 2017 I had started Abilities Travel Club for people with disabilities and older adults. Before the pandemic we would plan local and statewide trips to experience new things and for many in the club work on independence skills. I quickly realized so many people had never been to a museum or bought a bus ticket before and figured, what a better way to learn than exploring the city and state that you live. We are starting to plan trips again now that people are vaccinated and things are starting to open up again.

When I'm not working and advocating, I am a huge sports fan and follow all of the Wisco teams! I also started podcasting about 6 years ago and that keeps me very busy. I started out doing a show where I would just give messages of encouragement and talking about hope to anyone who was listening. Since then, my format has changed, and I now interview a new guest every episode while still giving encouragement and talking about hope. My podcast is called

Kingdom Hope Connections Podcast if you want to check it out. All in all, advocacy is what I do whether its travel, podcasting, talking to legislators, Advocacy is what I do!