



MISSION MOMENTS

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Tangram's Self-Advocates

Advocacy is an important activity for individuals with disabilities—it is a way to spread awareness about inclusion and an opportunity for individuals to use their voices around issues facing those with disabilities.

Self Advocates of Indiana is a statewide group with up to 30 self-advocates from eight regions around the state sitting on its board.

Tangram is pleased to have a group of 11 self-advocates. The group is newly formed, but already has bold ideas for spreading awareness and raising their voices on issues that impact the lives of individuals with disabilities.



Tangram Self-Advocates at the Statehouse

In February, Tangram's Self-Advocates joined other self-advocate groups at the Indiana Statehouse where they gave valentines to Governor Eric Holcomb and other legislators that carried the message, "DSPs: The Heart of It All," in support of increased wages for direct support professionals, who provide vital support to individuals with disabilities across the state.

Tangram's Self-Advocates 2017

Doug Hughes, President
 Clarissa Moeller/Beverly Rackley, Co-Vice Presidents
 Charlie Anderson/David Losey, Co-Treasurers
 Joseph Loy, Sergeant-at-Arms
 Melissa Derbes, Secretary
 Megan Smith, Advisor 1
 Stephanie Clay, Advisor 2
 David Miller, Member
 Keith Miller, Member

Tangram's Self-Advocates, who meet the second Monday of each month at Tangram, recently elected a slate of officers to lead their group and hope to expand their membership in the coming months.

In celebration of Disability Awareness Month in March, the group distributed bookmarks, pencils, stickers, and buttons at the Garfield Park Branch of the Indianapolis Public Library. Future plans include planning and hosting a sock hop to raise awareness for disability rights and issues.

We know that these enthusiastic and committed individuals will make great strides as they advocate for respect and inclusion and highlight the important issues faced by individuals with disabilities. We look forward to sharing more of their successes with you! Enjoy the following photos from their impactful trip to the Statehouse!

[Your donation supports inclusion of and opportunity for individuals with disabilities. Give today!](#)

