

Sample letter to reporters

All across United States of America, Developmental Disability Awareness Month is celebrated each March. The purpose of this awareness month is to help educate the general population about individuals with developmental disabilities and the issues that are important to them. As professional communicators, you are in a unique position to shape the public image. The words and images you use can create a positive view of people with developmental disabilities. We hope that in March 2018 you will connect and report about persons with developmental disabilities. Excellent contact sources are People First of Missouri (www.missouripeoplefirst.org) or the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council (<http://moddcouncil.org/>)
(feel free to insert your contact information if desired)

In honor of Disability Awareness Month, March 2018, we are connecting all reporters in our area with the ADA National Network's "Guidelines for Writing about People with Disabilities." This webpage offers preferred language, style and appropriate portrayals of people with disabilities. Found at <https://adata.org/factsheet/ADANN-writing>.

Additionally, The University of Kansas Research and Training Center on Independent Living has an excellent guide to writing about and for people with disabilities. Found at <http://rtcil.org/products/media>

Help us celebrate National Developmental Disability Awareness Month 2018.

Sincerely
(Insert name)