



COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

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PATRICIA L. GATLING

Commissioner and Chair

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NYC COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RECEIVES GRANT FROM
CHRISTOPHER & DANA REEVE FOUNDATION FOR 'RAMP IT UP NYC' - A SERIES OF
INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEOS FOR MEMBERS OF THE DISABLED COMMUNITY**
Social Media Campaign Will Expand Reach of the Commission's Equal Access Program

New York City Human Rights Commissioner/Chair Patricia L. Gatling announced that the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation is supporting the production of a series of short educational videos for individuals with disabilities seeking accessibility solutions. The videos will be part of a new social media campaign 'Ramp It Up NYC' and will expand the Commission's equal access and disability efforts under the City's Human Rights Law. The \$6,250 Quality of Life grant was awarded to the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City on behalf of the NYC Commission on Human Rights for this work. The award was one of 89 grants totaling more than \$500,000 awarded by the Reeve Foundation to nonprofit organizations nationwide that aid in providing more opportunities, access, and daily quality of life for individuals living with paralysis, their families, and caregivers.

The Commission's new "Ramp It Up NYC" series will include 5 captioned 3-minute videos illustrating common situations requiring accessibility accommodations in housing, employment and public accommodations, the Commission's and other relevant organization's contact information, and the necessary steps to remedy the situation. The Commission will team with disability advocate and filmmaker Lawrence Carter-Long to produce the videos, which will be posted on the Commission's website, social networking and other new media sites, and linked with city agency and disability organizations throughout the City.

"The Reeve Foundation's Quality of Life grant will enable us to reach a much wider audience through the use of social media, informing people with disabilities of their rights under the City's Human Rights Law and empowering them to fully participate in all areas of life," said NYC Human Rights Commissioner/Chair Patricia L. Gatling. "Public education is so critical because one needs to know about the law in order to use it. We thank the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation for their assistance in this effort."

"Dana Reeve created the Quality of Life grants program to provide people living with paralysis freedom to experience life to their fullest potential," said Peter T. Wilderotter, president and CEO of the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. "Organizations receiving these grants help to keep her vision flourishing by providing more opportunities and support in day-to-day life for these individuals, their families, and caregivers."

The Reeve Foundation's Quality of Life grants are divided into three categories, Actively Achieving, Bridging Barriers, and Caring and Coping. Some Quality of Life grants are funded through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Award #1U59DD000338). These grants are awarded to nonprofit organizations that address the needs of people living with paralysis caused by spinal cord and other injuries, diseases, and birth conditions.

Since the late Dana Reeve developed the program in 1999, more than 1,700 grants have been awarded, totaling over \$13 million.

Protecting and Promoting Human Rights Since 1955

About the Reeve Foundation

The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research, and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis through grants, information and advocacy. For more information, and to review the entire list of Quality of Life grant recipients, please visit our website at www.ChristopherReeve.org or call 800-225-0292.

About the New York City Commission on Human Rights

The New York City Human Rights Law is one of the most comprehensive civil rights laws in the nation. The Law prohibits discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations based on race, color, creed, age, national origin, alienage or citizenship status, gender (including gender identity and sexual harassment), sexual orientation, disability, marital status, and partnership status. In addition, the Law affords protection against discrimination in employment based on arrest or conviction record and status as a victim of domestic violence, stalking and sex offenses. In housing, the Law affords additional protections based on lawful occupation, family status, and any lawful source of income. The City Human Rights Law also prohibits retaliation and bias-related harassment. For more information on the Commission's programs and services, please visit www.nyc.gov/cchr or dial 311.

About the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City

The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, which facilitates innovative public-private partnerships through NYC's five boroughs. The Mayor's Fund serves as an important vehicle for foundations, corporations and individuals to contribute to public programs and enhance the City's ability to serve its residents. For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/fund.

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