

# BECOMING A FIELD ASSOCIATE



# Anabaptist Disabilities Network

## A Brief Insight into ADN

***Our Vision:** Faith communities are transformed when individuals with disabilities and their God-given gifts and experiences enjoy full inclusion in the Body of Christ.*

***Our Mission:** ADN supports Anabaptist congregations, families, and persons touched by disabilities to nurture inclusive communities.*

Persons with disabilities often exist on the margins of church inclusion because of physical and attitudinal barriers that prevent their full participation. ADN was formed as a non-profit networking organization designed to provide vital resources and advocacy to help congregations remove barriers and promote the full engagement of people with disabilities of all kinds.

ADN has been shaped by the Anabaptist tradition. Our resources are available to faith communities from every tradition, across the U.S., Canada, and beyond.

## The Outreach and Work of ADN

- **Congregational Accessibility Advocates:** ADN partners with churches through the Congregational Accessibility Advocate program. Accessibility Advocates speak up for people and families with disabilities in their congregation whose needs may be overlooked. They also promote breaking down stigmas and stereotypes towards those with disabilities.
- **Publications:** ADN has published three books which support congregations and families in their journeys with disability. The books, *Supportive Care in the Congregation*, *Circles of Love*, and *After We're Gone* are available for sale.
- **Resources:** ADN equips congregations and families to nurture the full inclusion of those with disabilities by providing: consultations, church accessibility evaluations, speakers/presentations/workshops for congregations, and a plethora of inspiring articles on disability awareness, advocacy, and inclusion through our website and newsletters.
- **Volunteer Field Associates:** ADN Field Associates are volunteers who work from their home locations in partnership with ADN on program areas that contribute to ADN's mission.

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574-343-1362. 877-214-9838. [AnabaptistDisabilitiesNetwork.org](http://AnabaptistDisabilitiesNetwork.org)

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## Roles and Responsibilities of ADN Field Associates

- Field Associates play a vital role in carrying out ADN 's mission to nurture inclusive faith communities by advocating in their home congregations and communities.
- Field associates are followers of Christ, active members of their congregation, and passionate about creating environments in which people with disabilities can thrive.
- Field associates come to the role with their own area of interest and experience in disability. Some associates may experience disability themselves, care for children or family with disabilities, or have worked in the field professionally. ADN field associates represent their own unique encounters and interest in all kinds of disabilities including, mental illness, vision and hearing disabilities, mobility disabilities, intellectual disabilities, caregiving, youth and disability, or long-term illness.
- Field associates support the mission of ADN through their own advocacy efforts which match their gifts, experience, and passion. This may include attending conferences, speaking at churches or doing presentations, providing consultations, writing for the ADN newsletter or blog, or helping in other ways as requested and as available. ADN field associates choose their own degree of involvement and time commitment, but agrees to:
  - Write for the blog or newsletter a minimum of one time a year
  - Report back to ADN monthly with any advocacy or disability involvements
  - Being available as a resource to your congregation and the ADN network

## Interested in joining the team of ADN Field Associates?

### Next Steps:

1. Contact ADN staff to discuss your interests and experiences.
2. If both parties believe that the Field Associate role is a good fit, a one-year agreement is made outlining your area of focus your goals for sharing your gifts with people touched by disability, ADN, your congregation, and community.

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