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December 3rd- International Day of Persons With Disabilities

Center for Persons With Disabilities

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The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was established to help people understand disability issues and encourage them to support the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities everywhere.

Around 10 per cent of the world's population, (650 million people) live with disabilities; 50 million in the US alone. People are often unaware of the many challenges that they face. Individuals with disabilities have a high rate of unemployment and often lack access to adequate education and health care. In many countries there are no supports for this group of people and they live in isolation and poverty.

Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General, stated that "Despite these obstacles, persons with disabilities have displayed great courage and resilience. But even as we continue to be inspired by those who reach the highest levels of human achievement, such successes must not obscure the difficulties faced by those who live in desperate conditions and lack the rights, privileges and opportunities available to their fellow citizens."

Taking a moment to observe this day will raise awareness of the challenges people with disabilities face and promote support for the national and global efforts that will improve health and rehabilitation services for those with disabilities and their families. It will focus attention on the many benefits for everyone when persons with disabilities are included into all aspects of life.

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was established by the World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons and was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1982.