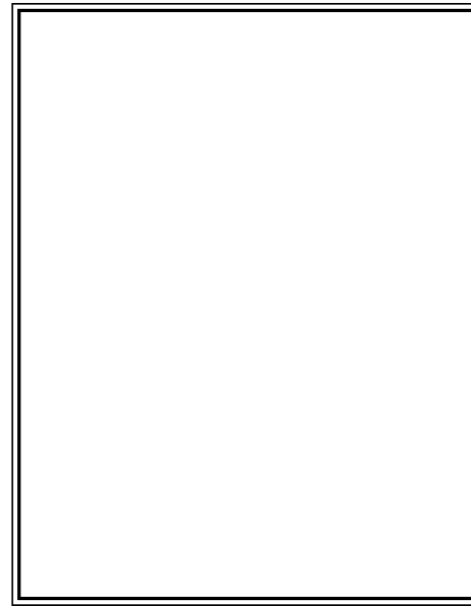


## LEAP BOARD MEMBER RECEIVES ADVOCACY AWARD

William Trier, a LEAP board member since 2002, was a co-winner of the prestigious Elsie D. Helsel Advocacy Award given in October, 2005 by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council. The award honors an outstanding advocate--a person who has worked actively in support of improving the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Trier, an advocate for over 30 years, has been instrumental in the development of the Personal Assistance Services Cooperative. He is active with several disability organizations as well as with the Center for Community Solutions, United Way Services, and the Older Adult Emergency Preparedness Task Force of Cleveland. Trier is an attorney, on leave of absence from Thompson Hine LLP.



*"It all comes down to the basic support philosophy that an individual with a physical disability should be able to live as independently as they want to in the manner they want to. That's the bottom line. That's what every individual should be able to do, period."*

## LEAP WISH LIST

The following items are needed by LEAP. If you can donate one or more of them, please call Maria Wolf, Communications Director, at (216) 696-2716 x109 or [mwolf@leapinfo.org](mailto:mwolf@leapinfo.org). Thank you!

### Office Supplies

New desk chair  
Two metal bookcases  
1", 2", and 3" binders  
Five drawer file cabinets  
Literature and brochure holders

### Program Supplies

Vibrating alarm clocks (for deaf youth)  
Creative supplies: poster board, art supplies, decorative paper, scrapbook supplies  
Rewritable CD-Roms and DVD's  
Photo storage boxes  
Easels and easel pads  
Mini digital video tapes (for recording)  
Paper towels, latex gloves  
Medium to large suitcase on wheels  
Two wheelchairs (Must be in good/excellent condition)

### Staff/Consumer/Volunteer Recognition and Rewards

Gift cards to restaurants, stores, movies  
Certificates or tickets to theatres or local events  
Gift Cards to office supply stores to buy recognition items  
Gift cards for gasoline  
Gifts cards for the store "Things Remembered"

### Equipment

Small copier  
Two digital cameras  
New laptop computer  
Small microwave, small refrigerator

### General/Agency-Wide

Gift cards to office supply stores for general supplies  
Promotional items to pass out at events  
Donation to purchase LEAP promotional items (such as pens, mugs, note pads, and so forth)

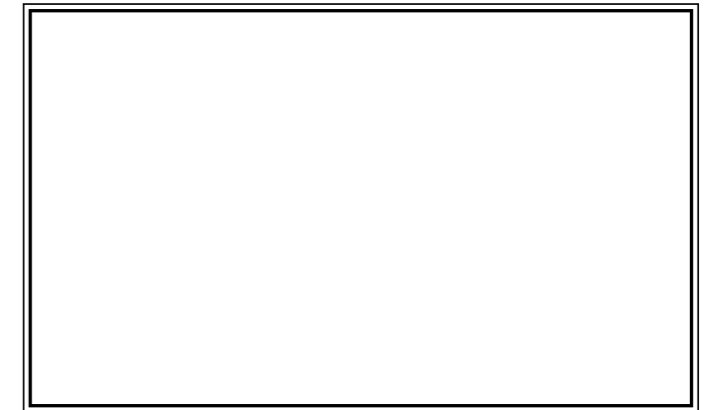
## DISABILITY RIGHTS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

John Leoni, a graduate student of history at Case Western Reserve University working on his thesis, joined with LEAP and disability advocates throughout Cleveland to document the history of the disability rights movement and independent living philosophy and movement in Cleveland from the rise of self-advocacy in the 1970's to the present.

John's "Cleveland Disability Rights Movement Oral History Project" documents this history through a compilation of oral/video histories. He notes, "I want to tell the story of Cleveland's disability rights movement through the voices of the advocates who built the movement and brought civil rights to the disability community and the community at large. I am also interested in documenting the voice of non-disabled advocates."

The project addresses the successes disability advocates have achieved, as well as what political and social obstacles they have encountered locally. He plans to submit information regarding LEAP and the Doris Brennan Center

for Disability Education and Advocacy for inclusion in the Encyclopedia of Cleveland History, and place a collection of oral histories in the Western Reserve Historical Society archives." He would also like to establish a website which will chronicle the Cleveland movement and enable the larger community access to the video interviews. Following graduation, John hopes to continue documenting local disability movement history in communities across the country.



Disability advocates share their stories. From Left to Right: Bob Strother, Kathy Cotman, Alice Sporar, Ben Bonnanno, Tony Charillo

## LORAIN FORD MOTOR PLANT AND FERRO CORPORATION JOIN LEAP IN HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Ferro Corporation, a leading global producer of technology-based performance materials for manufacturers, and workers at the Lorain Ford Motor plant had a common goal this past holiday season. Recognizing that during the holidays it is a struggle for some families to put food on the table, let alone buy gifts, they joined with LEAP staff in donating items for holiday food baskets.

The Ford workers have been involved with this project for the past 5 years. In 2005, they helped provide and deliver Thanksgiving food baskets to 70 Lorain county families identified by LEAP. Baskets were filled with all the traditional holiday fixings, from turkey and stuffing to side dishes and desserts.

In December, Ferro Corporation joined with LEAP for the first time to provide 20 food baskets and grocery store gift cards to consumers in Cuyahoga county. LEAP staff assembled and personally delivered the baskets just before Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who donated or participated in this labor of love, helping to make the season a bit brighter for individuals and families in need, right here in our own community.

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

To make a contribution to Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential to support its mission, contact Maria Wolf, Communications Director, at (216) 696-2716 x109, go online to [www.leapinfo.org](http://www.leapinfo.org), or send your donations to:

**LEAP  
P.O. Box 93825  
Cleveland, OH 44101**

Contributions to the Doris Brennan Endowment Fund may be sent to the address above, or directly to:

**The Cleveland Foundation  
Doris Brennan Endowment Fund  
1422 Euclid Avenue, Suite 1300  
Cleveland, OH 44114**

Persons interested in volunteering with LEAP can contact Maria Wolf at (216) 696-2716.

**Effective Advocacy Starts With You!  
Here's How YOU Can Get Involved**

- (1) Receive **e-mail alerts** when your action is needed on legislation. Send your e-mail address to [dnebel@leapinfo.org](mailto:dnebel@leapinfo.org) and put "Sign Me Up" in the subject line.
- (2) Become a member of our new **Advocacy Yahoo Group**, and receive a bi-monthly e-newsletter with breaking news, events and requests for action on issues that affect persons with disabilities. Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/leapadvocacy> to subscribe.
- (3) Participate in our **Online Forum**. Go to [www.leapinfo.org](http://www.leapinfo.org) and click on "Online Forum", a discussion group for advocates interested in individual or systemic change. For questions, contact Deborah Nebel, Director of Public Policy, at (216) 696-2716 x 106



A Center for Independent Living

*Absolute Equality*

*Our Mission:  
Consumer-directed to ensure a society of equal opportunity for all persons, regardless of disability.*

2005 was a great year for LEAP in terms of visibility, awareness, reputation, new friends and supporters, and mission driven services. We began the year with a CARF survey that recognized our passion for justice: "LEAP provides services to youth and adults with disabilities, offering quality programs and services in a manner in which dignity and respect are paramount. The mission of the organization clearly reflects a person-first environment that promotes individuals with disabilities to experience life without barriers."

LEAP ended the year with a new Strategic Plan for 2006-2008 focusing on five broad areas: Communications, Governance, Development, Organization and Program, and Infrastructure. The comprehensive involvement of the community in the development of our strategic plan included input from consumers, board, staff, friends, funders and other stakeholders. The residual effects of that effort include many people who have taken it upon themselves to sing LEAP's praises far and wide.

As a result, 2006 brings:

- 1. A new employment partnership with Jewish Family Services Association (JFSA)/Ascentia: Pathways to Community Living. Ascentia works with individuals and families living with mental illness. LEAP and Ascentia's training and Placement Program (TAPP) are working together to provide employment services to persons with disabilities.
- 2. A partnership with the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging (WRAAA) for the development of the first state pilot for an Aging and Disability Resource Center;

- 3. Centralized and focused public policy initiatives addressing local, State and Federal policies impacting persons with disabilities;
- 4. A new focus on assistive technology including working with Community Technology Centers, developing community resources for assistive technology, and planning the development of an Assistive Technology Center;
- 5. New board members, new sources of resources, new donors, new volunteers, and new directions under the strategic plan.

Disability is not a 'population' of people--disability is personal. Virtually everyone knows someone with an illness, injury, disease, or condition that limits their independence in some way. LEAP has tremendous potential to address so many unmet and undermet needs in our community, and we welcome your involvement in helping us serve your family, friends, and neighbors with disabilities.

I look forward to an exciting 2006, and I look forward to your participation in sharing our message and letting us give those whom you know an opportunity to be part of something great. Please call our Communications Director, Maria Wolf, at 216-696-2716 ex. 109, to share your ideas, offer your skill and talents as a volunteer, or learn about the various ways you can donate to LEAP. For more information, please visit our website at [www.leapinfo.org](http://www.leapinfo.org)

*From the desk of  
Melanie Hogan, Executive Director*

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