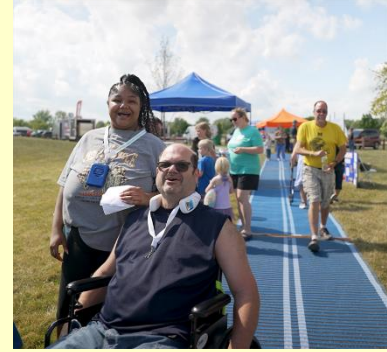


## OVER 500 ATTEND COMMUNITY ADA CELEBRATION

Hosts Disability Network of Mid-Michigan and Personal Assistance Options welcomed a crowd of over 500 people at a community event celebrating the 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).



The event was held July 27th at Auburn City Park and featured live music provided by the Stone Street Revival, a food truck and popcorn, and giant lawn games. Ike's Mobile Kayaks provided free kayaking on the pond and attendees could fish from an accessible dock. Over twenty vendors had information tables detailing resources available in the region.

"Collaboration is one of my favorite words in the business world. When done effectively, it can bring many benefits to organizations that seek to succeed in an evolving environment," said Kathy Allen, PAO Executive Director. "It was an honor and one of my favorite community collaborations to partner alongside with Disability Network of Mid-Michigan, to celebrate the Americans with Disabilities Act. The spirit of the ADA means that everyone has the ability to contribute to their community in a meaningful way. That sense of inclusiveness was felt throughout the entire event."



In addition to the picnic atmosphere of the event, information about the ADA – including quotes from various disability advocates – was placed throughout the park. A large timeline showing the history of the disability rights movement leading up to the passage of the ADA in 1990 adorned a banner at the event entrance. Display banners and signs were spread throughout the grounds offering perspectives on what life was like before the ADA for people with disabilities and how things have changed over the last three decades.

"The ADA guaranteed access to transportation, communications technology, employment, government buildings, and public spaces for people with disabilities," said Kelly PeLong, DNMM Executive Director. "It was sweeping civil rights legislation - the first of its kind in the world - that sought to make our communities accessible and inclusive to all. At DNMM, we are committed to advancing that vision and to promoting independence for all people with disabilities."

