

ICS Welcomes “Road to Freedom” Legacy Tour

The ADA “Road to Freedom” Legacy Tour Bus was outside Brooklyn Borough Hall on July 14, 2015. The bus - which has traveled to 48 states – is here as part of ADA25NYC – the City’s year-long celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which was signed into law on July 26, 1990.

The Road to Freedom Tour includes displays on the history of the disability rights movement and the ADA quilt, with the signatures of thousands of people who have participated in the history tour. Independence Care System is a sponsor of ADA25NYC. Before touring the bus, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams was joined at a press conference by disabilities rights advocates from across the borough and city, including Marilyn Saviola, ICS Vice President for Advocacy and the Women’s Health Program.



Marilyn Saviola, Senior Vice President for Advocacy for Independence Care System (seated, white shirt) said, “Even though it’s been 25 years since the ADA was passed, there is no public or private hospital in New York City that is ADA accessible and despite strong City, State and Federal laws, no one is held accountable. With financial support from the City Council and our developing partnership with HHC we have been able to begin providing accessible women’s health services in some facilities. I look forward to working with Borough President Adams and the rest of our elected officials to ensure that people with disabilities gain full access to health services in the City of New York.

Borough President Adams (standing behind Ms. Saviola in white polo shirt) said, “Handicapped is a word we need to remove from our vocabulary. A person is not defined by their disability.”

Victor Calise, Commissioner of the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities (seated, gray suit) said, “The ADA has given us our freedom. We have a long way to go and I look forward to the next 25 years of progress using that freedom to expand the rights of every person with a disability.”

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Independence Care System is a nonprofit organization that supports people with physical disabilities to live at home and participate fully in community life. We offer specialized care management services for people with spinal cord injuries, MS and other disabilities. Our community-based wheelchair evaluation, repair and maintenance program ensures that our members have the carefully fitted, well-functioning wheelchairs they require to be independent. Our Artists on Wheels program provides free classes and studio space to people with disabilities. In 2012 ICS was recognized for our contributions to the field of assistive technology with the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America Leadership Award.