

Celebrating Fifteen Years of Community Integration Efforts

This year we celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1999 decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, which requires states to ensure that people with disabilities receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). By recognizing the rights of people with disabilities to access the supports and services necessary to remain in their own homes and communities, rather than in institutions, *Olmstead* breathed new life into the ADA's Integration Mandate. As DOJ continues to enforce the Supreme Court's *Olmstead* decision, we take this opportunity to recognize and reflect upon the progress that has been made so far.

We Invite You to Share in the Celebration –

Here's how! Submit a video telling us about the personal connection you have to *Olmstead* – whether you are a person with a disability, a family member, an advocate, or a stakeholder – or highlighting community integration efforts in your state or hometown. We'd love to gather a range of videos showcasing life in the community – whether it's a video of you at work or volunteering; with your family, friends, or significant other participating in one of your favorite activities; in your home; participating in advocacy events in your State; or doing another activity in your community. If you'd prefer, you may also submit photos instead of a video.

The following are optional prompts that may help in shaping your submission:

- Before *Olmstead*, I/my family member... Now, as a member of my community, I/he/she ...;
- At first I was afraid about what life in the community would be like for me/my family member, but ...;
- No one ever believed that I could do ..., but ...;
- All I needed to succeed were the following supports ...



President Obama with Lois Curtis, commemorating *Olmstead*

Video Submission Guidelines

- Please submit *only one* (high-definition) video.
- Please ensure that the sound is clear so we can hear your story!
- Submit a signed consent form (attached as separate document).
- Send your video on a USB drive, labeled clearly with your name, city, state, and contact number (optional) to the following address:

Office of Communications
(Attn: Milton Thomas)
5600 Fishers Lane
Rm 14-27
Rockville, MD 20852

- The deadline for submissions is **March 31st, 2014.**
- If you have any questions, please contact Kristina Majewski at (202) 305-0181.
- *Please note that submitting a video does not guarantee that it will be included in the final video compilation.*

For inspiration, visit DOJ's [Faces of Olmstead](#) page to read the personal stories of a few of the thousands of individuals whose lives have been improved by the *Olmstead* decision.

[Link to http://www.ada.gov/olmstead/olmstead_about.htm](http://www.ada.gov/olmstead/olmstead_about.htm)