WE CAN BECOME THE ACCESSIBILITY LEADERS

STARK Ally

## Together, let's make Stark County the MOST ACCESSIBLE in the nation.

*The need is considerable.*

**13.6% of people living in Stark County experience a disability, according to the 2021 U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey.** And that doesn't include their families, which are also impacted. In fact, considering disabilities beyond those surveyed, it is estimated that 25% of Stark County residents have a disability that limits their participation in our culture.

*Those are the people who inspired us to start Stark A11y.*

**Everyone should have the chance to belong and flourish.** We want everybody to feel invited, included, and involved wherever they go and whatever they do. This means we have to improve access and engagement with Stark County small businesses, transportation, restaurants, events, parks, healthcare and educational facilities, and more.

**We must also eliminate barriers to employment.** Those living with a disability earn only 70% of those without and represent only 4% of employed Americans, despite comprising up to 25% of our county's population.

**The goals are to listen to the community** about what they want and need, advocate for action, and work towards a future in which everyone can embrace life more by enjoying the same great experience as possible.

***A11y is led by people living with disabilities, for the greatest understanding and expertise.***

***We will partner with local leaders to build meaningful relationships that drive change:***

- **Digital accessibility services** — Making sure websites, apps, menus, and other digital content are readily accessible
- **Accommodation support services** — Ensuring everyone gets the services and products they want and need to be independent and successful across daily activities
- **Employer assistance for inclusive hiring** — Closing the unemployment epidemic among those with disabilities
- **Training, education, events, and workshops** — Increasing empathy, best practices, accessibility, and inclusion
- **Local memberships and communities** — Verifying that those who claim accessibility and inclusivity meet those requirements, while guiding them along their accessibility journeys
- **Resource discovery and facilitation** — Connecting the 100+ specialized providers in Stark County that already do amazing work, but may be hard to find or difficult to determine if they are the right fit

STARK A11y

## Stark County CHAMPIONS ACCESSIBILITY and chooses inclusion.

"I got the idea for Stark A11y after noticing how few people with disabilities I saw out and about in our community and wanted to do something about it instead of just talking about it." — **James W.**

"When I found out about the educational and earning gaps, I knew I had to become part of the solution." — **Erin B.**

"There are some programs and special transportation that help somewhat, but there's a lot more that's needed so I can live like everybody else." — **Joey W.**

"My sister is a person living with a disability, and I want to do whatever I can for her." — **Lauren B.**

Find us on Facebook and join our group:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/starkcountyaccessibility/members/

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