



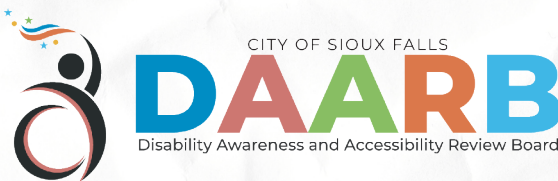
Welcome to our Living Library that highlights and celebrates unique stories of local individuals with various disabilities. This is a safe space for open dialogue between readers and volunteers, also known as "books." We have 8 books available for checkout today!

OUR WONDERFUL BOOKS:

- Dyslexia/ADHD by Deb Workman
- C3 Quadriplegia by Dylan Lesselyoung
- Autism/Aspergers by Keanu Lee Brown
- Mucopolysaccharidoses by Kendra Gottsleben
- Parkinson's Disease by Mark Edeen
- Multiple Sclerosis by Michele Marie Snyders
- STAG1 Mutation by Nellie Miller-Barrick & Kristin Miller
- Cerebral Palsy by Sarah Flute

RULES FOR READERS:

Respect the book, be curious, return the book in the same condition it was given to you. Both parties have the right to end the loan at any time.



Dyslexia/ADHD

by Deb Workman



About this book:

I am the Director of Education for the Black Hills Playhouse in the Sioux Falls office. My staff and I are the driving force of innovative BHP Education partnerships through which we provide the artistic direction of classes, productions, and camps inclusive of people with disabilities. I am committed to creating inclusive artistic spaces, and delivering exceptional regional theater experiences, while cultivating relationships to strengthen South Dakota communities. I believe in lifelong learning, leading with your heart and making a difference. I am the proud mother of three amazing individuals, each with their unique neurodivergent traits, and happily married to a wonderful person.

3 things I wish people knew:

1. I process what is being said to me slower, and when this happens, people assume I don't like what they are saying because I don't respond right away. When I was younger, I used to always say "What?" (even though I heard them) in order to give me more processing time while they repeated themselves.
2. People can be very successful without a college degree.
3. Navigating the Educational System for my neurodivergent children poses challenges when I am also neurodivergent.

Deb's favorite book is *To Kill a Mockingbird* by

C3 Quadriplegic

by Dylan Lesselyoung



About this book:

My name is Dylan Lesselyoung. I am 29 years old, and a born and raised South Dakota boy. I'm a huge outdoorsman. After a spinal cord injury in 2013, I assumed like many others that I would never be able to hunt again. After a lot of research, and help from some super innovative people, I was able to hit the field again! I use a specialized piece of equipment that mounts to my wheelchair and then allows a weapon to be mounted into it. I am able to aim using a joystick, and then a slight sip on a hose makes an actuator pull the trigger! I've been extremely fortunate to have hunted antelope in Wyoming, deer in South Dakota, and even bear in Michigan. I strive to show others that they, too, can enjoy the outdoors!

3 things I wish people knew:

1. My wheelchair does not define me or the places I can go.
2. I have a service dog named Linda.
3. I am the founder and president of a nonprofit, called Wheelchair Adventures, that helps people with disabilities find opportunities and resources to get outdoors.

Dylan's favorite book is *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

Autism/Aspergers, ADHD, Social Anxiety & Depression

by Keanu Lee Brown



About this book:

To describe myself as a person...I would have to say that I am, quite literally, a weird individual. I have lived most of my life being so. From a young age, I was very creative and yet very strange - I believed that I was a dinosaur. Along with this, I always got myself in the worst predicaments - almost drowning, getting my head stuck in a bear enclosure, even getting into a fight with chihuahuas. Growing into adulthood, I became 6-feet tall, yet still the same.

3 things I wish people knew:

1. I have a childish mindset due to my disability, which is why I sometimes act like a goofball.
2. I am very creative and artistic, which allows me to see the world differently, and envision stories in my head.
3. I sometimes feel as though people look at my disability and think of it as a hindrance or a lack of understanding, but in the end, I believe it just means that I am myself, and that's okay.

Keanu's favorite book is *Fangs* by Sarah Anderson.

Mucopolysaccharidoses Type VI

by Kendra Gottsleben



About this book:

Kendra has defined her life by a positive outlook and success in overcoming obstacles. She refuses to be defined by Mucopolysaccharidosis (MPS) - the rare genetic condition she has had since birth. Kendra enjoys a stylish outfit and shoes to match as she strives to make a difference. One of her favorite colors is yellow, which embodies her life motto: When life hands you lemons, make the BEST lemonade possible!

3 things I wish people knew:

1. My size doesn't reflect my abilities, nor what I have accomplished in my life.
2. God is an important part of my life. He made me the way He wanted me to be.
3. The obstacles in my life have helped me become who I am. They have also helped me realize that, no matter if we have a disability/rare disease or not, we all have obstacles in life.

Kendra's favorite book is *Kendra's Lemonade* by Kendra Gottsleben.

Parkinson's Disease

by Mark Edeen



About this book:

I have lived in South Dakota all of my life, and in Sioux Falls all but four and a half years when I was at school. Never married. I have worked as an analytical chemist, in civil engineering, software development and owned my own landscaping company. I was semi-retired until two years ago when, due to my Parkinson's, I fully retired. I enjoy cycling now on my recumbent trike, as well as snow skiing, wakeboarding, kayaking, paddle boarding and surfskis.

3 things I wish people knew:

1. Questionable balance eliminated some of the activities that I loved, such as cycling, as well as doing normal things around the house, such as getting on a ladder.
2. Sometimes I have mask face, as well as monotone speech, that makes me wonder if people feel that I am bored or uninterested in what they have to say.
3. Certain positions make it difficult to move and I feel weak, as well as slow. I've had people at the grocery store, for instance, ask me to hurry up.

Mark's favorite book is The Bible.

Multiple Sclerosis

by Michele Marie Snyders



About this book:

I am a wife to my husband, Brad, of 35 years. I am a mother to two sons, Austin and Trevor. I have a wonderful daughter-in-law, Michelle, and I'm a grandma to Owen. I am a clinical social worker, and currently work as the Hospice and Palliative Care Program Manager for the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organization.

3 things I wish people knew:

1. I have a lot of “used-to-dos” that are still a part of who I am, because they made me what I am today.
2. Advocating for people with serious illness is an important part of who I am and what I do.
3. I love learning new things and creating new programs.

Michele’s favorite book is *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant.

STAG1 Mutation

by Nellie Miller-Barrick & Kristin Miller
(Daughter and Mom)



About this book:

Nellie is a lovable, huggable, inquisitive, adventurous, and spicy 5 year old. She also happens to have a rare genetic mutation. Her mutation doesn't define her, though. Nellie's smile, hugs, and personality leaves a lasting impact on all who meet her.

Kristin is a middle school science teacher in Sioux Falls. Kristin became an outspoken advocate for awareness and inclusivity after the birth (and later diagnosis) of her daughter, Nellie. Kristin serves on the Harrisburg Disability Awareness Commission, is a member of the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Collaborative Family Leadership Group, and is a board member for Rare By Design. Kristin and her family can often be found camping, hiking, playing outdoors, and gardening.

3 things Nellie wishes people knew:

1. That I am not carrying around an iPad, it's AAC device and it helps me to communicate.
2. Even though I don't always verbally talk, I can understand what you are saying and can communicate in my own way. It's important for people to model communication for me (AAC, verbal, or signing).
3. How much I love being outside, love animals, love compliments about my outfits, and that I love being around other people.

STAG1 continued on next page...

3 things Kristin wishes people knew:

1. How proud I am of Nellie and my family. I'm also very thankful for the special community that we get to be a part of because of Nellie's disability.
2. How much advocating is still left to do. Our society has made great strides, but I won't give up fighting to make it even greater for Nellie and others.
3. I wish that people knew the extra mental load that we carry as parents. We often have to worry about coordinating schedules, appointments, working with many doctors and specialists, extra paperwork to get services and accommodations, and whether or not the environment we are going into will be right for Nellie. There have been times that this extra weight has caused us to break down, but thankfully our community of support has been there to pick us back up.
4. How much I love inclusive playgrounds.

Nellie's favorite book is *The Fiery Littly Dragon* by Cara Jenkins.

Kristin's favorite book is *Raising a Rare Girl* by Heather Lanier.

Cerebral Palsy

by Sarah Flute



About this book:

I was born April 20, 1974, to my adoptive parents, Del and Sharon Basche. I spent most of my childhood in Sioux Falls. I graduated from Roosevelt High School.

3 things I wish people knew:

1. Regardless of my disability, I am very intelligent.
2. I have the same desires in life as everyone else.
3. I am very determined to challenge what people think of me, and I will tell you like it is.

Sarah's favorite book is *Eat, Pray, Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert.

ABOUT THE DISABILITY AWARENESS & ACCESSIBILITY REVIEW BOARD

The Disability Awareness and Accessibility Review Board (DAARB) is an extension of the Human Relations Commission. It acts as an advisory body to the Mayor, City Council, and the City ADA Coordinator on disability awareness and universal accessibility of City buildings, programs, and services. This board was created as a merger of two previous boards, the ADA Accessibility Review Board and the Disability Awareness Commission. Meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of the month at City Hall, and are open to the public.

224 W. 9th St.
Sioux Falls, SD 57117-7402
605-367-8745

BOARD MEMBERS:

Tana Zwart, Chair - Term expires January 2026*
Sarah Jorgensen, Vice Chair - Term expires January 2026*
Kristen Barnhardt, Secretary - Term expires December 2026*
Jamie Reindl - Term expires December 2024
Cathleen Zepeda - Term expires July 2025
Patricia Herman - Term expires December 2026*
Devin Jenelle Labbee-Darling - Term expires July 2026
Mychelle Garrigan - Term expires July 2026
Josh Mueller - Term expires March 2027

* Second Term

STAFF:

Lyndsey Meier, Human Relations Specialist
Amber Mulder, Senior Assistant City Attorney

The City of Sioux Falls Disability Awareness and Accessibility Review Board (DAARB) is proud to celebrate the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 34th Anniversary!

On July 26, 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law; this landmark civil rights law affirmed the inherent dignity of every person, regardless of disability. The ADA prohibits discrimination by local and state governments, provides standards for privately owned businesses and commercial facilities, stands against discrimination in the workplace, and ensures equal access to healthcare, social services, transportation, and telecommunications. We have come a long way, but there is still work to do!

#ThanksToTheADA #ADA34 #ADANetwork
#DisabilityPride



Pssst!

We have something super exciting in the works to mark 35 years of the ADA in 2025. Make sure to stay tuned. Follow @ADASiouxFalls on Facebook.