



Steve Banister

Growing up with Klinefelter's Syndrome (born with an extra chromosome, also called XXY47,) Steve dealt with a myriad of learning disabilities (LD.) The public school system he went to in the 1970's did not recognize LD as a serious condition and was of little assistance. Luckily, Steve's mother, a former school teacher and librarian didn't give up and helped him learn how to learn.

Steve graduated with a Bachelor's in Educational Studies (BES) degree in Rehabilitation Counseling; emphasis in Rehabilitation Psychology from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1986. He then worked as an Independent Living Specialist at Services for Independent Living (SIL) in Columbia, Missouri. In 1991 he was promoted to Program Director and always kept a client caseload in addition to administrative duties. During his tenure of assisting people with all types of disabilities learn independent living skills, self-advocacy, etc, Steve facilitated SIL's Epilepsy Support Group for over 10 years.

In 1999, Steve moved on to a Program Manager position at the National Multiple Sclerosis Society-Gateway Area Chapter in St. Louis, Missouri, where he managed over twenty MS Self-Help groups in eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois. Steve also oversaw a telephone self-help program and facilitated a care-partner self-help group.

From 2001 through the present, Steve has been Vice President of Access-4-All, Inc, assisting his wife Katie Rodriguez Banister in creating disability awareness books, presentations, providing attendant care for Katie and helping to advocate for a more accessible society.