



**"Sharing our Strengths: Tools for Empowerment & Change"**

**May 31 – June 1, 2012**

**Nashville Airport Marriott**

**REGISTER NOW!**

## **LEARN TOOLS FOR**

**ECONOMIC WELL BEING**

**PERSONAL FULFILLMENT & QUALITY OF LIFE**

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**SUCCESSFUL ADVOCACY**

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**



### **KEYNOTE PRESENTERS:**



**Alex Plank** is the 25-year-old guy behind [WrongPlanet.net](http://WrongPlanet.net), the incredibly popular site for individuals with Asperger's Syndrome, autism, and other neurological differences (and parents/professionals). Wrong Planet has more than 57,000 registered members and its discussion forums contain millions of messages. Alex is self-employed, without use of any agency programs. He is a graduate of George Mason University with a BA in film and video, having received accommodations through college.



**Ari Ne'eman** is the President of Autism Self Advocacy Network. The first person with autism to be appointed to the National Council on Disability (NCD); Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee; Ari has also received the Advocates in Disability Award from HSC Foundation, Expanding Horizons Award from United Cerebral Palsy, and is a TASH board member. An accomplished speaker, Ari has given lectures at cross-disability events, on topics ranging from self-advocacy, self-direction, Home and Community Based Services, inclusive education and other areas.



**John McKnight** - Anyone interested in successfully including people on the margins into neighborhood and community life needs to listen to John McKnight and study asset based community development. John is a community organizer, an academic and a brilliant storyteller. He is deeply committed to promoting the ability and capacity of people, their neighbors and their associations. He believes every community has welcoming places and that every person has a gift, ability or skill to share. It is a matter of finding these gift-focused people and connecting them with people on the margins.



**Erik Carter**'s research goal is to identify those skills, supports, and experiences that enable adolescents with significant disabilities (intellectual disabilities, autism, and multiple disabilities) to live rich and personally satisfying lives during and after high school. His research has followed three primary strands. The first strand focuses on interventions to support youth with significant disabilities socially and academically within inclusive schools. The second strand focuses on equipping middle and high school students with significant intellectual disabilities to transition successfully to life after high school. The third strand focuses on increasing the capacity and commitment of communities to include meaningfully children and adults with significant disabilities, as well as engaging new partners in these efforts (employers, parents, community leaders, congregations).



**Brett Leake** is a comedian, uses a wheelchair and has muscular dystrophy. He is very funny and delivers a positive message. [Brett Leake's website](#)

## Conference Fees

All fees include breakfast and lunch:

One Day (Thursday or Friday) -- **\$100**

Two Days (Thursday and Friday) -- **\$190**

The Awards Banquet and Dance hosted by The Arc TN: \$40\*

*\*This is a separate fee and not covered by stipends.*



**FOR ALL MEGACONFERENCE INFORMATION, VISIT:**

[WWW.TNDISABILITYMEGACONFERENCE.ORG](http://WWW.TNDISABILITYMEGACONFERENCE.ORG)