



Dear Friend,

I have been meaning to send out an update on our successes and progress for quite some time now and have been unable to do so until now. Please forgive. I know it can be very frustrating waiting for [with]tv to get where we all want it to be. All I can say is that such an endeavor takes an immense amount of passion, energy, creativity, and time. The team of volunteers that works daily on [with]tv for the benefit of all has this, and more. I want to thank Connie, Anna, Mitch, Kathy, Rick, Amber, Scott, Stephen, Elizabeth, Karen, Vince, Day, Jennifer, Rob, Sofya, Mitch, Ron, Chester, and so many others for all they do. It is frustrating for all of us. We all have day jobs (well, I don't), (well, that is not quite true, I do assist Victoria daily and she assists me!) We all have much on our plates and everyone is waiting for the day when we can all greet each other daily in our 100% accessible workplace as members of our 100% inclusive workforce. Then we will no longer be volunteers, but will be employees of [with]tv. I look forward to that day and in spades. Then, no more 'Mr. Nice Guy'.

Seriously though, we all believe in what we are trying to do together, and that means so much to me and keeps me going when I may want to stop. What we are all working on is a project that will indeed benefit us directly in terms of employment, health benefits, and a creative outlet for our energies. But it will immediately benefit and impact upon so many others throughout the world and that is where [with]tv's true value resides. So here is what we all have been up to. If I leave anything out, please forgive and advise. Will be more communicative, more frequently, going forward. Just remember there is a lot to do every day. Volunteers in all areas welcome with open arms.

First - our Vice President for Business Development entered us in a Business Plan Competition. She became aware of this particular competition very close to the deadline so we managed to hurriedly get in under the wire with an application. We were not able to give it our full attention, but Anna felt we should at least make a stab for it. She then presented our Executive Summary and made a pitch at the competition and the result?

HOORAY FOR OUR TEAM...AND ANNA. We took fourth prize!

So what does that mean? Well first and foremost, it validates us since the judges were venture capital and business folk in NYC with close ties to Columbia Business School and NYU Stern School of Business. It brings attention to us, adds "an arrow to our quiver" and carries a small, but much needed monetary prize of \$1,800.00.

There will be more of these contests along the way and they are excellent practice for more formal meetings as we seek initial major funding, the one remaining obstacle in our path to success. We are well prepared for these meetings with a fully developed Business Plan, Executive Summary, Budget, Poster, and wonderful PowerPoint Presentation. This information is boiled down to an appropriate size and is in a PR Kit that my wife, Kathy Forbes, and I have assembled. I think we make a compelling argument for investors, especially those with an eye on socially responsible investing that returns more on the dollar than simply an expected fiscal return.

Our blog <http://withtv.typepad.com/> continues to be the leading advocate for [with]tv and for PWdBC. Connie Kuusisto continues to serve [with]tv as our blog master. She does that and so much more. Additionally she handles the blog for her and her husband Stephen Kuusisto at <http://www.planet-of-the-blind.com/>. She now has a full time job at a lab at University of Iowa in addition to all her other chores, and makes a futile attempt to have a life beyond all that. We so appreciate her.

We now have an Internet talk radio show called ***A Different Perspective – Radio***. Read all about it at <http://www.webtalkradio.net/>. Now, like most things I do, I think I started to run before I was crawling, let alone walking. So up to now, the technical quality has been spotty. The conversations I have had with our guests, however, I am quite proud of and happy with. Additionally we are beginning to amass an audience, mostly of people without a disability. This summer I am broadcasting starting this week out of the radio station WVOF at Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT. The university is committed to providing us with this opportunity and we do appreciate it. I am fortunate to have the guidance, support, and expertise of employees Stephanie, David, and Dan. When summer ends, I will revert to recording out of my home office again for awhile, but they assure me they will have me up to speed on new and easier equipment so my technical issues will hopefully be behind us.

Currently, we are not seeking any advertising, as we want to be fully up to speed first. Once we are comfortable, then we will seek supporters. Needless to say, we are still in strong need of an experienced radio ad sales representative. This person should be experienced and willing to either volunteer their efforts or accept as payment a % of the income they bring to [with]tv through ad sales. Either of these relationships would be welcome. As always, we believe some knowledge of - and familiarity with - the community of people with disabilities would be welcome. Lastly, we urge anyone with the above credentials who happens to be a person with a disability to please come forward.

We will be offering to do Public Service Announcements for all non-profits associated with the community of people with a disability. This next show will feature two for Autism Speaks and for Mental Illness in addition to our spots for PWdBC and [with]tv. All these spots, or at least all that we create in-house, will feature professional voiceover talent who happen to be people with a disability. We will feature a gallery of these folk with their bios, pictures and resumes. We are putting more and more people to work daily. Now we just need the money to pay them and for their benefits, but we move forward!

Elizabeth Durgin is a recent volunteer in CT and is doing much for us as well. She is attempting to work on the web site also and we thank her for that. This remains an area of strong need though. What we have is a very good basic business web site but we are eager to have more. That requires more money than we have and more expertise as well. So if you have either and want to work with us, let us know. In the meantime, Elizabeth labors on and we thank her for her hard work.

Now in terms of 'behind closed doors' developments, much is going on as well. In a nutshell, we are now actively seeking major investors and have so much work to do in this area. Remember; we are all volunteers and the vast majority of this I am doing, so please be patient and please volunteer and do what you can to get us funding. Anna Pakman and I met with one potential investor who is creating a venture capital fund for the sole purpose of investing in companies that cater to our community. No word yet, but we go forward. Mitch Marovitz and I traveled to the PA offices of another potential investor and remain in discussions there for full three-year funding. If this were to prove successful, we would be off and running at once.

Also, Mitch, Rick Boggs, and I have been in continuing discussions with another potential partner. They are seeking some close captioning services from us, and some description services of a large number of their movies. In return, we would receive payment in the form of cash, bartered advertising time, and carriage on

their satellite link going out to the US, Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, along with twenty countries in Asia. These conversations look promising, but we continue to pursue other avenues as well.

Last of all there is some interest in our eventual content from a cable system in Europe that goes into over 12,000,000 homes along with interest from two faith-based US cable networks as well. This is all very early on, but the important point is where we are today and where we were a year ago. We may not be moving fast enough for all of us, but we are moving.

I also know that there is a leading mid-west University interested in pursuing a relationship and perhaps inviting us to be located on their campus and to pursue grants and investor funding together. This is especially exciting to me, as I believe that young people of college age and younger are so integral to our success at [with]tv and to the future of our community.

Anna Pakman has secured for [with]tv an agreement for Columbia University and Teachers College to provide us with interns. Additionally, we have taken on our first intern. Ms. Tara Orfei is a Business Major at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield University. Her area of interest is marketing and she has lots of energy, ideas and our passion has taken hold of her. We welcome her to [with]tv. Mitch Marovitz will be her contact at [with]tv. She will be working in marketing and may be contacting some of us along the way.

Day Al-Mohammed continues to spread the word about us at her site and to work on video with Scott Rains in our behalf. Take a gander at her work. <http://dayinwashington.com/>

Scott Rains recently returned from Glacier Bay Alaska. He has brought back some lovely pictures and wonderful stories which you can take a look at on his blog. Here it is: <http://www.rollingrains.com/> Scott is leaving us again soon, this time to India and Brazil. Before he takes off though, he will be with me again on our Internet talk show. He and I, with him doing most of the grunt work, are developing some exciting plans for a workshop created and funded via PWdBC that would involve empowering people with a disability to tell their own story via media and not have to rely on others. The hope here is to get folks skilled and able to develop and retain some creative control of their own stories as they attempt to market them to [with]tv and elsewhere. The exciting thing here is that this would all take place on the high seas. He and I have lots of ideas and he is weaving them all together. This program would be brought to us through [with]tv and PWdBC. It is the hope that PWdBC will soon be in operation, training people with a disability in the performing arts, along with film & TV production, close captioning, description for the blind, and our story-telling through media mentioned above.

Well, that is how I spend my time pretty much, doing the above and more. Wish I were better, but doing my best. We still have lots of needs, of course, so if you have any interest in supporting with your time or money, by all means, please do. We always need volunteers, especially in the areas of ad sales, legal, web development, etc. Remember PWdBC is a 501 c 3; so if you have money to donate for which you wish to receive a tax deduction, please consider us.

That is it for now. We at [with]tv thank you all for your help. Stick with us and do what you can.

Howard Renensland
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[with]tv & PWdBC

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