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## **VOR National Disability Advocate To Participate at New York Family & Professional Resource Fair for Families of People with Developmental Disabilities**

MANHATTAN - Michael Klurfeld, VOR's New York State Coordinator, will represent the national organization at the Family & Professional Resource Fair, sponsored by the Manhattan Developmental Disabilities Council, on December 11, 2013.

VOR advocates for high quality care and human rights for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) across the country.

Klurfeld's twin sister, Jessica, has Cornelia de Lange Syndrome and an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and like a substantial percentage of the ASD population, Jessica has some challenging behaviors.

"Because of her behaviors, Jessica has lived in New York State-approved out-of-state residential schools for the past ten years," explained Klurfeld.

Although Jessica is now 24 and is supposed to be moved back to an age-appropriate placement in New York, she remains at her school in New Hampshire until an alternative in her home state becomes available.

"Unfortunately, the wait to bring my sister home is indefinite," says Klurfeld. "New York contracts much of its residential services to private providers, but few of any are willing to accept someone like Jessica. It's a huge problem."

His sister's needs are what motivated Klurfeld to get involved in VOR and let other families know about the organization.

"VOR is the only national organization that recognizes the varying needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities," says Klurfeld. "VOR fights for people like Jessica who fall through the cracks in the system."

The Family & Professional Resource Fair will provide Klurfeld and other exhibitors – advocacy organizations and service providers – the chance to share information about their respective

organizations. Educational Workshops for families, covering topics like special education and self-directed supports, will also be offered.

The Resource Fair will be held on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at the Hotel Pennsylvania at 401 Seventh Ave at West 33<sup>rd</sup> St., in New York City. Attendees will receive a free updated Manhattan Family Support Directory and other valuable resource materials. Those interested in attending the Fair are encouraged to contact the Manhattan Developmental Disability Council at 718-859-5420, or visit <http://www.manhattanddcouncil.org/annual-events/family-professional-resource-fair-is-121113>.

For more information about VOR and our national activities in support of a full array of residential and support options based on the needs of the individual, please visit [www.vor.net](http://www.vor.net), or contact VOR directly at 877-399-1624 or [info@vor.net](mailto:info@vor.net).

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**About VOR:**

VOR is a national organization that advocates for high quality care and human rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Offering community, legal, medical and educational resources for families of individuals with special needs, VOR is committed to providing help for people with disabilities. Standing up for long term care facilities and community disability programs, VOR is dedicated to maintaining individual and family choice for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For more information about VOR, please visit us at [www.vor.net](http://www.vor.net).