



*“Start by doing what’s necessary,
then do what’s possible, and suddenly...
you are doing the impossible.”*

- Francis of Assisi



A hundred years ago, children with disabilities were routinely placed in institutions, where they remained for the rest of their lives.

But by the time the civil rights movement began, parents were pursuing a different life for their children, demanding that their sons and daughters be moved out of institutions and allowed to receive an education. Alongside other civil rights activists, they were passionate advocates.

With the passage of the Rehabilitation Act in 1973, for the first time in history, the civil rights of individuals with disabilities were protected by law. Access to an appropriate public education followed, and in 1990, we celebrated the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act, promoting the inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of society.

Since 1994, EBI has been assisting adults with disabilities to live and work as independently as possible, and to be empowered to make choices about their own lives. Today, EBI consumers are accomplishing what once was considered “the impossible.” Jeanna is employed at a Montessori preschool, having passed the college early childhood education classes required for her job. Charlly manages the audiovisual equipment of a large non-profit agency. Sharon is experiencing her first ever friendship. Enoch regularly uses public transportation to access resources in the community. And Eric is living independently after the loss of his longtime partner.

Despite the current climate of uncertainty, EBI and our consumers will follow the direction of the parents and disability rights advocates who dramatically changed the course of people’s lives.

EBI will continue to do what is necessary, what is possible, and with your support -- as much as we can -- the impossible.



“I think you would agree that we are entering an uncertain time in our nation’s history. No one knows how the decisions our political leaders make over the next several years will affect vulnerable communities, including people with disabilities.

One thing I do know is that EBI will continue making sure that the people we serve have a real chance to lead dignified, self-sufficient lives in communities of their choosing. EBI will fight to protect the mandates that make the vision of equality, independence and respect a reality for people with disabilities.

Please give generously this year so we can stand ready for the challenges ahead.”

Mary Lou Breslin, EBI Board Vice President
Senior Policy Advisor, Disability Rights Education
and Defense Fund



East Bay Innovations
2450 Washington Avenue, Suite 240
San Leandro, CA 94577
www.eastbayinnovations.org