

## Member News

# Disabilities Advocate Uses His Voice for Good!



Henry Ritzberg, a food service worker at the Dover Air Force Base location, and member of the disability community, believes he has finally found his calling as a disabilities advocate and public speaker.

Ritzberg recently completed the John C. Maxwell curriculum, a nationally known leadership model with a focus on public speaking, teaching and personal growth. He was inspired to pursue this while attending the three-day SourceAmerica Grassroots Advocacy Conference in 2017. At the Maxwell program, he was trained in public speaking, leadership, coaching, and how to run one's own business. Ritzberg is ready to use his voice to be an advocate and share how his life has changed while being employed by ServiceSource on the DAFB. "I feel like I have a voice and I have something to say. I would like to give back to people who don't have a voice," Ritzberg told the CDCC.

Henry Ritzberg had the opportunity to exercise his passion for disability advocacy in Washington, D.C., in the midst of a prestigious company of officials such as Bernie Sanders, Lisa Blunt-Rochester, Joseph Kennedy, and more. He was given a standing ovation after a speech about his work with ServiceSource.

Ritzberg "talks from the heart" and isn't afraid to stand before big audiences. People tell Ritzberg he is "a natural" and has "the gift of gab" in this leadership role. He was referred, and paid his own way to the Speaker's Bureau in Palm Beach, Fla. "I am not lost without a cause. This was really way over my head, but I did it," he said.

Ritzberg loves his job, which keeps him physically active. He is "always in motion," which is good fit for him. When someone at the DAFB says, "Thank you, you do a wonderful job for us," that inspires him and makes him feel "extra special and extraordinary." Ritzberg plans to semi-retire in September, but will continue his work in food service at DAFB's ServiceSource. He will continue his efforts in public speaking disability advocacy to fulfill his sense of purpose and to help others.

Migrating from New York, Ritzberg has been at home in Dover for the past 24 years. In Delaware, he feels he can make "a bigger splash," especially with the support he has received from ServiceSource. Ritzberg wants people to know that people with disabilities

"want to have a fighting chance, dignity, be respected, and a sense of belonging." Ritzberg is ready and willing to use his voice, leadership, passion, and affiliation with the CDCC and Dover community to be a beacon of hope and advocate for people with disabilities.

He appreciates ServiceSource, his supervisor Tina Hunt, and the camaraderie he shares with his coworkers. "No matter what she may be going through, she has always been able to provide for her team. She has remained a leader to our group," and remains loyal, available, and accessible, Ritzberg shared. Most importantly she has given him a sense of pride to have a "Can Do" attitude. He thanks her profusely for the opportunities and her constant support.

"We are a cohesive team, we are family, we are a team with the same goal, to get the job done to the best of our ability. We often worry about one another, not of our ability, but because we are genuinely concerned about each other to ask 'How is your day? How are you feeling?' Is there anything I can do for you?" he added.

Ritzberg is inspired and motivated by his successful efforts so far, but is eager to collaborate with the local community even more. The CDCC welcomes Henry Ritzberg and ServiceSource to membership with the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce, and we look forward to seeing him continue to blossom into the disabilities advocate he was meant to be! Congratulations on your achievements thus far, Henry; we can't wait to see where your disabilities leadership journey takes you!

*For more information about Henry Ritzberg or ServiceSource Delaware, please contact [henryritzberg4@gmail.com](mailto:henryritzberg4@gmail.com) or call (302) 222-1726, or visit [www.servicessource.org](http://www.servicessource.org) or call (302) 222-1720.*



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In 1987, President Reagan recognized March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month to increase "public awareness of the needs and the potential of Americans with developmental disabilities" and to provide the encouragement and opportunities they need to lead productive lives and to achieve their full potential. Each March, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, Association of University Centers on Disabilities, and National Disability Rights Network join forces to highlight the ways in which people with and without disabilities unite to form strong communities. This campaign is critical in supporting the disabled workforce across the country, including Delaware.

ServiceSource is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to "facilitate services, resources and partnerships to support people with disabilities and others we serve, along with their families, their caregivers and community members, in order to build more inclusive communities," according to their official website. Their regional office in New Castle, Del., assists the Dover Air Force Base (DAFB) by employing disabled service workers on the base.

ServiceSource Delaware offers a wide range of services designed to assist individuals with disabilities and other significant barriers to employment to gain or regain the skills and the confidence they need to launch or resume a career. Services include assistive technology, Benefits and Financial counseling, community integration, employment services, affordable housing, interpreting & deaf services, vocational rehabilitation, and so much more. Service Source has received many awards for exemplary service and leadership for people with disabilities.