Key Talking Points
World CP Day – Saturday 6 October 2018

WHY THIS ISSUE IS WORTH OF ATTENTION AND EFFORT

Cerebral palsy is the most common childhood physical disability (affecting an average of one in every 500 people). There are over 17 million people living with CP, tens of millions of family members devoting their lives to the care of their loved ones, and tens of thousands of doctors and therapists involved in the diagnosis and treatment of CP.

When people with CP have the same opportunity as everyone else to live up to their potential, they prove how significant it can be—not just for individuals with CP, but for everyone in the society’s in which they live. One need not look any further than the poets and comedians and computer programmers and writers and activists living with CP to realise what a powerful contribution the community of people living with CP can make around the world.

Yet people living with CP are one of the least understood, and most stigmatised communities in the world.

World CP Day conducted research—from the tribal regions of Pakistan to Poland, from Brazil to Baltimore, from Sydney to Sri Lanka—and found incredibly frustrating realities everywhere.

Too little money is being spent on prevention and supportive tools; too many doctors and therapists lack the knowledge to diagnose and treat people with CP; too many families lack access to basic information and support; too few educators have the training to ensure people with CP get the education they deserve; and, perhaps most importantly, it is still far too easy to keep people with CP out of sight, out of mind and out of options in communities around the world.

This is not just a question of human rights. It has a direct impact on our collective social and economic wellbeing. The artistic, economic, social, scientific and political contribution of 17 million people—and those who commit everything on their behalf—are simply unrealized.

It does not have to be this way—especially in 2018.

Information is available. Support exists. Effective policies can be shared among countries. New therapies and preventative tools are emerging every day. People just do not have access.

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE, VALUES AND BELIEFS

It is time to close the gap between the everyday circumstance and the very real potential of people living with CP.

The community of people living with CP are not asking their society to “give” them a “chance.” This is a mandate. A demand that people living with CP are equal citizens and deserving of the same rights as everyone else.
That gap between potential and everyday reality is not going to close until every member of the community of people dealing with CP decide that it is important that every other member of that community have access to the tools and information they deserve.

We can help provide a platform for the community of people living with CP to join together. To combine their resources and energy and knowledge. To share their stories and best ideas. Until everyone living with CP has the same rights and opportunities as everyone else.

WHY WORLD CP DAY IS THE RIGHT PLATFORM FOR THIS MOVEMENT

Our goal is not to replace or compete with any of the excellent national and regional Cerebral Palsy organizations. It is, instead, to empower them. To give them, and the people they serve, unprecedented access to literally everything. World CP Day is the right place for that to happen, because it is the only truly global platform that has been built for the community of people living with CP. Its original intent was to create awareness, and share ideas, and we have proven (in just a couple short years) just how fruitful this platform can be in doing so.

Just as important, it was the first platform of its type purpose built for all people whose lives are deeply impacted by CP—including people who have it, people who provide support and care for those who have it, people who are at the forefront of medical and therapeutic progress, and, finally, everybody else who needs to know about CP—which, by the way, is everybody else.

So it was really only natural—in fact it was obligatory—that, once we understood the potential and the reach of the platform, we would extend it to address all of the categories of issues impacting people living with CP.

HOW WE MAKE THIS WORK

We intend to make this work the way all social movements work: well-choreographed, well focused crowd sourcing. There can be no progress unless it is of, by and for people living with CP.

World CP Day supports local efforts with three activities:

1. Ensure the platform is as useful, accessible and transparent as it can possibly be
2. Ensure that everyone who can further the conversation is both present and welcome
3. Finally, to ensure that the threads/trends/issues get enough exposure that real dialogue and debate and about real solutions will happen.

There is no magic or mystery, there is just the everyday work of making sure that this movement has the tools and focus it needs to assure everyone with CP, anywhere in the world has every opportunity to live up to his or her fullest potential. Full stop.

HOW YOU CAN JOIN AND CAN STAY CONNECTED WITH THIS WORK.

1. Visit http://worldcpday.org/
2. Sign up for News
4. Join us on the Map and share your story
5. Read about the Campaign and take action!

CONTACT US

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