

A QUIET

REBELLION

They are your neighbors, your friends, members of your family. They are artists and outdoorsmen, athletes and activists, conservationists, carpenters, veterans, and farmers. They are hippies, rednecks, city and county leaders, people of all political persuasions—just the kinds of people who make our community so interesting and diverse. But all of these people had a common goal: independence for people with disabilities.

Since the early 1980s, local disability rights advocates have fought quietly for changes in policies, programs, infrastructure, and attitudes with the goal of making Nevada County more accessible for people with all kinds of abilities. This is the story of how a small group of people representing a cross-section of Nevada County's population came together to create a more accessible community.

And the movement continues to this day.

The following exhibit, based primarily on oral history interviews conducted between May 2007 and August 2008 as part of the Documenting Disability History Project, explores the history of this 'quiet rebellion' using the words of the local disability rights activists who have led the charge towards equal rights for people with disabilities.

"The disability rights movement has been a quiet, grass-roots rebellion."

—Joseph Shapiro, author of No Pity