

The Biography of Tim Kolb

Tim Kolb was born on January 1, 1947 with a rare form of Muscular Dystrophy known as Werdnig-Hoffman Syndrome or spinal muscular atrophy. When he was diagnosed at age 8 months, doctors told his parents he would not live more than a few months beyond the time of their diagnosis. On January 1st, 2012 Tim will, by God's will, celebrate his 65th birthday.



As a child, Tim attended Franklin Public Schools in his hometown of Franklin, Nebraska. Upon graduation from high school in 1965, Tim's family moved to Kearney, Nebraska and maintained two homes for six years while Tim attended Kearney State College. After completing his student teaching at Kearney High School, in 1970, Tim graduated from college in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education (BSE) for his double major in Physics and Mathematics.

Tim's activism in disability issues began in earnest in 1989 when he was denied 24 hour care and faced the threat of life in a nursing home. After losing his appeal to the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services, Tim took his case to district court. Finally, in 1991, District Court Judge Bernard Sprague ruled in Tim's favor and directed the state to provide the 24 hour care requested which saved tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars and enabled Tim to live in his own home in Franklin where he and his wife Karen live today.

In early 1995, Tim was instrumental in getting modifications made to the Nebraska Nurse Practice Act which allowed competent adult persons with disabilities to direct their own care in their own home and community. The modifications were made through an amendment to the Act which became known as the "Tim Kolb Amendment." The amendment was subsequently passed by the Nebraska Unicameral in June of 1995.

Currently, Tim is a member of the Nebraska Statewide Independent Living Council (NESILC), is a liaison from the NESILC to the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) -- an advisory Council to the Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation agency under the Department of Education, serves on the board of directors of Independence Rising [a Grand Island based Center for Independent Living (CIL)], and is the CEO and Executive Director of the Kolb Foundation for Disability Education (KFDE). Between 2004 to 2007, Tim and his Foundation was under contract to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to serve as the Consumer Network Coordinator under the state's Medicaid Infrastructure Grant. Tim is also a member of the Nebraska Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (NCCD) as a representative of his Foundation.

Among his personal goals are the promotion and facilitation of independent living through increased availability of home and community-based services and removal of regulatory disincentives to marriage and employment for persons with disabilities throughout the state and nation. Toward that end, Tim continues to work through his Foundation in cooperation with other advocacy based organizations and state agencies to bring about legislative, regulatory, and social changes necessary

to assure the integration and inclusion of persons with disabilities as full participants in the world community. Tim's goals for himself and others with disabilities are summed up in the motto of his Foundation which reads, "Living... Not Just Surviving."