

Katie Rodriguez Banister



Mrs. Katie Rodriguez Banister, Ms. Wheelchair Missouri 2010, survived an auto accident in 1990 that left her a quadriplegic, paralyzed from the chest down. After six months of rehabilitation and fifteen months of living with her parents, she returned to living independently in 1992.

Katie worked with the city of Webster Groves, MO for five years as their Access Coordinator. Katie's work experience prior to her accident includes Latch-Key Director, Sales Representative for Pitney-Bowes, and Social Director for Lodge of the Four Seasons.

With her husband, Steve, the two co-founded Access-4-All, Inc. with a mission to educate and empower others through motivational speaking and disability education. As a person who gives back to her community, Katie serves on the Community College Access Board, and has been a member of the Recreation Council of Greater St. Louis Board of Directors since 1992, serving two terms as President. Katie was a performer and founding member with St. Louis' "DisAbility Project" for six years. She served as a board member and President of the Delta Center for Independent Living from 1996-2002 and board member of the VSA Arts of MO from 1996- 2000. She co-produced her own motivational video "Change Takes Time."

Katie's honors include Ms. Wheelchair Missouri 2010, Energizer Keep it Going Hall of Fame Semifinalist 2010; 2001 St. Louis Woman of Achievement; Missouri Jaycees 1998 Ten Outstanding Young Missourians; St. Louis Jaycees Jr. Chamber of Commerce 1995 Ten Outstanding Young St. Louisans; MO Governor's Council on Disability 1993 Advocate of the Year; Central MO State University Outstanding Freshman in the Department of Recreation 1983-84, and Kirkwood MO Jr. Miss 1982.

Katie is a dynamic speaker, actor, author, poet, and consultant.

Katie has authored:

"Aunt Katie's Visit," (2003) an educational book for children, which has equally been enjoyed by parents, teachers and librarians.

"The Personal Care Attendant Guide," (2007) Demos Medical Publishing, a how-to guide on care giving; ways to find and how to be a good caregiver.

"A Pocket of Poems and How to Write Your Own" (2008) to encourage and teach young adults to write poetry as a coping mechanism

"Karmic Validations – The Signs and Symbols Along Your Way" (2110) The Universe is communicating. Are you willing to slow down enough to listen?