

## Introduction to Lanny Taulbee

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“It’s awesome when you find a career that you’re perfectly suited for,” says Lanny Taulbee, the new disabilities coordinator for KCCVS. “All my adult life, I’ve been in training for this position.”

Lanny was diagnosed with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis at the age of 7 and by the time he was 10, he could no longer walk and used a tricycle to get around. Lanny attended high school with the help of a wheelchair purchased through an educational program. After high school, he underwent a series of surgeries that enabled him to walk with the use of crutches.

Lanny majored in fine arts at the University of Kentucky, studied advertising design at the Art Institute of Ft. Lauderdale and majored in architectural technology at Lexington Community College. He has worked as a paste-up artist in the display advertising department for a daily newspaper, assisted the editor of the Kentucky Cattlemen’s Association’s monthly membership magazine, the Cow Country News and worked in other art-related positions.

Artistically, Lanny’s skills are versatile. He is accomplished in media including oils, watercolor, acrylics and pencil and ink, and his work has been featured in a number of gallery and show exhibits. In 2001, he participated in The Guild’s first exhibit at Barnes and Noble Booksellers and in 2002, he was chosen through a juried selection process to exhibit his works at the Kentucky Appalachian Artisan Center in Hindman. Lanny’s work also has been shown in exhibits sponsored by Louisville’s Center for Accessible Living and in 2003 he received best in category honors and his work “Horse Gazing” received the People’s Choice Award at The Guild’s Singletary Center exhibit.

During his education, training and previous employment, Lanny found help and support through various programs, including Medicaid, food stamps, supplemental security income, Social Security disability income and services from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. Sometimes things went smoothly, but often, he said, “it was a nightmare, dealing with changes in policy, overpayments and disqualifications.”

“Now I can utilize all that I’ve learned through first-hand experience to assist others in my position at KCCVS,” he said. “As disabilities coordinator, I will be encouraging other persons with disabilities to take a chance and further enrich their lives by becoming AmeriCorps members. All the while, I will be watching out for them to see that their needs are addressed while completing their terms of service, and guiding them through the maze of disability-related services. “