

Introduction to the Disability Market

Charles D. Hammerman is the President and CEO of The Disability Opportunity Fund, Hammerman brings many years of involvement with initiatives for people with disabilities and significant experience in the financial markets. Prior to The DOF, Hammerman founded the Burton Blatt Institute, an organization to advance civic, economic, and social participation of persons with disabilities in a global society. Hammerman was appointed Director of CDFI Initiatives at Syracuse University by Chancellor Nancy Cantor. Hammerman was a senior member of Merrill Lynch's Global Private Client Group. He also spent four years with Merrill Lynch's Equity Capital Markets division and four years in the Office of General Counsel. Before Merrill Lynch, he was an Assistant US Attorney in New York and began his career as an associate at Morgan Lewis & Bockius. At Merrill Lynch, Hammerman created its 'Disability Awareness Professional Network' in New York and was a member on the firm's Diversity Advisory Committee to Management, representing employees and customers with disabilities. As a result of his leadership, in 2005 and 2006, Merrill Lynch was recognized by Diversity Inc. Magazine as the Number One Company for Employment of People with Disabilities. Hammerman received his BA from Washington University in St. Louis in 1985 and JD from Fordham University School of Law in 1988. He and his wife Nanci live in NY with their seven children including a 19-year-old daughter with cerebral palsy. Hammerman is a board member of: The Interfaith Nutrition Network, Achilles International, Israel Elwyn and B'nai Brith Perlman Camp. For 18 years, he has been actively involved in the National Business & Disability Council, in Albertson, NY.

Amy Ogulnick is Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations at The DOF, responsible for the direct and indirect marketing strategy, web design and overall branding. She is responsible for promoting the mission of the organization and for coordinating the capital raising strategy with the marketing efforts. Prior to the creation of The DOF, Amy worked with several nonprofit organizations, using the design and implementation of branding and fundraising events and strategic programming to help organizations grow internally further their missions and raise awareness. Amy spent several years at Greentrak, Investment Tracking Service, a financial services company. Amy joined Greentrak at its inception and was responsible for corporate identity, marketing and partnerships. Greentrak was sold to a publicly held, leading financial services software company in 2002. Until 1995, Amy was a designer at Vignelli Associates, an international, award-winning design firm. There she worked on a variety of projects including: corporate identity, graphic standards and interiors for national and international businesses, for clients such as Xerox and Brookstone, airplane and subway interiors for Alitalia and the MTA, and design projects throughout New York City. Amy received her BA from Washington University in St. Louis in 1986 and Industrial Design Degree from Pratt Institute. She was a winner of the GE National Design Competition, and holds a patent for her design.

Nanci Freiman is currently the Director of Administration and Finance for The Disability Opportunity Fund. After receiving her Master's in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling from NYU, Nanci began her career at UJA's Trades and Business School, providing outreach in the New+L30 York City High Schools and alternative programs. Following, UJA, Nanci was at the International Center for the Disabled working within their employment services division, and running their food services training and placement program. Nanci's experience also included private vocational rehabilitation. She provided medical and vocational assistance to those injured on the job or on long term disability. In 2000, Nanci was the first Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor hired by a Long Island public school to provide transition services for young adults who were aging out of the school system. She gave transition seminars to parents and created a handbook to be used by the administration to understand the needs of the individual students. In her roll at The Disability Opportunity Fund, Nanci oversees the Administrative day to day of the company. She also provides Technical Assistance to individuals and organizations on a variety of different issues. She is the liaison for the United Way Access to Home program and created the curriculum for the DDPC Transition Education Program in conjunction with St. Mary's Hospital for Children.