
NEWS

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PHIL PANGRAZIO TO BE HONORED AT MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BREAKFAST

Phil Pangrazio, Arizona Bridge to Independent Living (ABIL)'s executive director, will be honored with the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Living the Dream Award. Joining six other honorees, Pangrazio will receive his award at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Breakfast, "Stand Up for Justice," on Jan. 15 from 7-9:30 a.m. in the Phoenix Convention Center's South Ballroom.

The Living the Dream Award recognizes those who have made the City of Phoenix a better place to live through a lifelong commitment to creating a compassionate and socially just society. The breakfast is sponsored by the Arizona Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee and supported by the Phoenix Human Relations Commission.

"It is an incredible honor to be recognized with this award," said Pangrazio. "At ABIL, we work to eliminate barriers so people with disabilities can participate in all aspects of community life. I think this award speaks volumes about the progress we've made to ensure that people with disabilities have choice and control over their lives and have access to the necessary resources to be independent and self sufficient as possible."

Pangrazio earned a master's degree in health services administration and policy and a bachelor's degree in justice studies from Arizona State University. He is a current member of the organization for non-profit executives (ONE). His board memberships include serving as treasurer of the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL), vice president of the Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition and member of the Diversity Leadership Alliance (DLA). Pangrazio is a founder and player of quadriplegic rugby in the state of Arizona and a member and former president of Speaking First Toastmasters of Tempe, Ariz. Pangrazio is a resident of Ahwatukee.

Arizona Bridge to Independent Living offers and promotes programs designed to empower people with disabilities to take personal responsibility so that they may achieve or continue independent lifestyles within the community. The independent living philosophy states that people with disabilities should have the same civil rights, options, and control over choices in their own lives as do people without disabilities.