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## **Book Release: Lifespire A Story of Advocacy**

October 17, 2011—New York, N.Y.—In a time when many individuals with developmental disabilities were forced into institutions, a small group of dedicated parents became their voice, their champions, and their advocates. In the book, *Lifespire: A Story of Advocacy and how a Small Group of Parents Changed the World*, author Kevin E. Rice takes the reader through a remarkable journey of New York in the fifties, through New York today, home to over 600 agencies and a new world of hope and opportunity for the developmentally disabled.

Lifespire, a New York City based nonprofit organization dedicated to helping developmentally disabled individuals reach their life's aspirations, has released their first book that discusses their organizational history, cultural history for the developmentally disabled, the years of Willowbrook, up through the organization celebrating their sixtieth year. The foreword, written by former Lifespire Chairman Robert J. Krakow, Esq, sets the tone for the story:

"The schools cast children out once they were teenagers. For many disabled children, what existed beyond school was a terrifying void.... This recipe for advocacy has survived: today's parents and their children are the beneficiaries of this legacy."

In a world where available resources are being depleted and more children are entering adulthood, the book is more than just a story of how the world for these children and families has changed, the book is history encapsulated: protecting the past so that it may represent advocacy and passion for years to come.

"The story of the parents who created ACRMD, now Lifespire, is the best inspiration for action. It must be told far and wide so that committed parent-advocates may learn to effectively fight new battles for the sake of their loved ones. Our beloved children deserve nothing less," said Krakow.

Serving as a reminder of the horror of institutionalization and lack of government funding, *Lifespire: A Story of Advocacy*, acts as both inspiration and a testament to what a small group of passionate parents can achieve.

Published by Lifespire, Inc., the book is available online at [www.lifespire.org](http://www.lifespire.org). Please send requests to [info@lifespire.com](mailto:info@lifespire.com).

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Lifespire is committed to the principle that all individuals with a developmental disability are able to become contributing members of their family and community. It is Lifespire's aim to provide these individuals with the assistance and support necessary so that they can attain the skills needed to maintain themselves in their community in the most integrated and independent

manner possible. For more information about Lifespire and those they serve, log onto [www.lifespire.org](http://www.lifespire.org).

Call Lifespire to order the book at Phone: (212) 741-0100 or email [info@lifespire.org](mailto:info@lifespire.org)