

## **Jo Waldron, President and Co-Founder**

Ms. Waldron has almost thirty years of experience in executive level positions in corporate manufacturing, as an entrepreneur, a corporate executive, and is an experienced inventor of accessible technologies and products for people with disabilities.

Deaf since birth, Ms. Waldron has overcome what at times seemed to be insurmountable odds, becoming one of nation's leading advocates for people with disabilities. She was selected by President Ronald Reagan to receive America's highest honor, "The President's Trophy," and was appointed "Disabled American for the Nation," representing all Americans with disabilities and the Presidents of the United States, since 1987. She served on NASA's Space Shuttle Design Project Team (extensive experience and expertise in executive management, Human Resources, design and manufacturing lead production responsibilities in manufacturing plant environments).

For over a decade, Jo served in a Chairman's appointed position and as the Primary Speaker on the former President's Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities (appointed by Mr. Harold Russell), which recently merged with the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Policy.

She spent over eleven years working with Congress in the creation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the access to technology section (Section 255) of the Telecommunications Act, including the FCC Communication Plan proposed by the Telecom Industry.

Ms. Waldron has worked with the FCC on Notice of Inquiries and Notice of Proposed Rulemakings, including the Hearing Aid Compatibility Act. She continues to work closely with the FCC and other government agencies, as well as the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA), Personal Communications Industry Association (PCIA), Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), and numerous other global organizations regarding their telecommunications and communications access issues and solutions.

She has developed hearing access standards for the worldwide telecommunications industry. Ms. Waldron has worked closely with Fortune 100/1000 companies in telecommunications, communications, computer, and media industries, such as: Texas Instruments, Motorola, Ericsson, AT&T, BellSouth, Plantronics, IBM, Samsung, Hewlett-Packard, Ford, VoiceStream, Omnipoint, Sprint PCS, Nortel, Mitsubishi, and other leading telecommunications and related companies. She has received many national awards and is listed in numerous Who's Who nationally and internationally. She is the primary inventor for multiple patented hearing access technologies and is co-inventor of patent pending technology of the

Able Planet, Inc. LINX™ technology. The inventions have received numerous international and national design and engineering awards.

Jo Waldron serves as President and Co-Founder of the Able Kids Foundation, a research-based, solutions-oriented nonprofit that partners with local, national, and international organizations, eliminating barriers and expanding opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

She has also served on numerous national, state, and local Boards and chaired fundraising campaigns for many nonprofit organizations.