The Chronic Times

Monday, October 20th Your Weekly Newsleaf from Wildflower Wisdoms™ Living ME



Wildflower Wisdoms™ Living ME magazine

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sunflowers & Safe Travels





For this week's **Chronic Times** **Travel Special**, let's focus on the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Lanyard, a discreet tool making travel more accessible for people with invisible disabilities. Launched in 2016 at Gatwick Airport in the UK, the program quickly spread to other countries and sectors. The lanyard—a bright green strap decorated with sunflowers—signals to staff that the wearer may need additional support, such as extra time at security or clearer instructions, without the need for verbal explanations.

Today, the Sunflower Lanyard is recognized at over 130 airports worldwide, including major hubs like JFK in the U.S., Schiphol in the Netherlands, and Sydney in Australia. It's also used in supermarkets, public transportation systems, and even some universities.

One story highlighting the program's impact involved a traveler with autism at Gatwick who shared how wearing the lanyard helped them receive assistance without needing to repeatedly explain their condition, making their airport experience far less stressful. This lanyard has grown into a globally recognized symbol of inclusivity, promoting better accessibility for millions.

NEWS SPLASH

We're looking for volunteers with WordPress and accessibility expertise to help us test and refine our site. If you have these skills or know someone who does, please reach out. You can contact me directly at <u>Monique@</u> <u>WildflowerWisdoms.com</u>; Together, we can create a more accessible space for all.



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