

## 2013 Henry Viscardi Achievement Award Recipient



### **Rosangela Berman Bieler** **Senior Advisor on Children with Disabilities, UNICEF**

Rosangela Berman Bieler, originally from Brazil, is senior advisor on children with disabilities at UNICEF, and head of the organization's new Disability Section. A quadriplegic since she was 18, she has been a disability rights advocate for more than 35 years. Throughout her career, she has identified and creatively resolved many issues which have an impact on people with disabilities. Berman Bieler has lived in the U.S. since 1995, and has worked for the World Bank, IADB and other international organizations. Her expertise on disability-related issues covers areas such as humanitarian action, HIV/AIDS, media, gender and human rights.

Berman Bieler founded the Independent Living Center in Rio de Janeiro, as well as the Inter-American Institute on Disability and Inclusive Development (IID), which was created to promote social-economic and political inclusion in Latin America and Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa and Asia. IID played a key role on the development of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

"In much of the world, children with disabilities are hidden and discriminated against because of their impairments and barriers thrown in their way by society. They are often neglected or abandoned," Berman Bieler said. "UNICEF is committed to realizing the rights of children with disabilities, like those of all children. The 2013 issue of our flagship annual report *The State of the World's Children*, due in May, will focus on children with disabilities. This Viscardi Award is very timely and we hope it will continue to bring priceless visibility to this crucial issue."