

Serving Kansans with disabilities



Message from the Executive Director

By Chad A. Wilkins

As we round the corner into the fall of our 25th year of service, we are given the opportunity to reflect on where RCIL has been and where RCIL is going. We were founded by Bill Reyer on September 21, 1984 as the Osage County Resource Center for Independent Living in Carbondale, Kansas. Our corporate name was later changed to Resource Center for Independent Living. The original directors in the Articles of Incorporation were Bill Reyer, Patricia Peterson, Marjorie Varner, and Genevieve Jones. Also listed on the original documentation was Pat Noble, President and Sue Dubois, Secretary.

Since 1984, we have served thousands and thousands of consumers in numerous counties throughout the state, and have grown from a staff of less than 10 people located in one office in rural Osage County to an 81 person staff located in 13 offices across the eastern third of the state of Kansas. As we look forward to our future, RCIL will continue to provide our many programs and services to the people of the great state of Kansas, as well as continuing to raise the bar for Independent Living Standards. Last year, staff developed a strategic plan to serve as the blue prints for our future goals as we strive to become one of the greatest Independent Living Centers in the United States.

This fall RCIL will be hosting four ***Walking & Rolling with RCIL*** events. These events are designed to raise awareness about accessibility issues and how they affect people with disabilities, as well as a fund raiser for our Build A Ramp Program (BARP). BARP has increased independence by repairing or constructing ADA compliant ramps for people in need and is funded solely through donations. We look forward to seeing you there!

- **September 12, 2009 – Emporia Walk & Roll**
- **September 26, 2009 – Iola Walk & Roll**
- **October 3, 2009 – El Dorado Walk & Roll**
- **October 24, 2009 – Paola Walk & Roll**



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Please call your local RCIL office for more information about these events and to find out how you can get involved!

An Americans with Disabilities Act Overview

Source: Overview of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the ADA Amendments ACT of 2008 <http://adaanniversary.org/2009>

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Amendments Act of 2008

On September 25, 2008, the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) was signed into law and became effective January 1, 2009. The U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives both unanimously passed the ADAAA.

The ADAAA focuses on the discrimination at issue instead of the term “disability” by rejecting the holdings in several Supreme Court decisions and portions of Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s (EEOC) ADA regulations. The Act retains the ADA’s basic definition of “disability” as an impairment, or being regarded as having such an impairment. However, it changes the way that the statutory terms should be interpreted. Most significantly, the ADAAA:

- Directs EEOC to revise the portion of its regulations that defines the term “substantially limits”;
- Expands the definition of “major life activities” by including two non-exhaustive lists:
 - The first list includes many activities that the EEOC has recognized (e.g., walking) as well as activities that EEOC has not specifically recognized (e.g., reading, bending, and communicating);
 - The second list includes major bodily functions (e.g., “functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, respiratory, neurological, brain, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions”);
- States that mitigating measures other than “ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses” shall not be considered in assessing whether an individual has a disability;
- Clarifies that an impairment that is episodic or in remission is a disability if it would substantially limit a major life activity when active;
- Provides that an individual subjected to an action prohibited by the ADA (e.g., failure to hire) because of an actual or perceived impairment will meet the “regarded as” definition of disability, unless the impairment is transitory and minor;
- Provides that individuals covered only under the “regarded as” prong are not entitled to reasonable accommodation; and
- Emphasizes that the definition of “disability” should be interpreted broadly.





Kansas Disability Caucus 2009- Yes! WE Can Work!

Consumers, along with RCIL staff and board members recently attended the 11th Kansas Disability Caucus at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Topeka. The Caucus, sponsored by the Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas (SILCK), Kansas Health Policy Authority (KHPA), Kansas Rehabilitation Services, and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), provided an opportunity for people with disabilities and their advocates to gather and “learn about the mechanics of the policy making process and encourage their participation in it, to determine major issues facing Kansans with disabilities, and to elicit solutions for the issues identified.” At the first Caucus in 1988, ninety people met, developed, and helped pass the first consumer directed personal care assistance program in Kansas.

With over 600 people in attendance, the theme for year’s Caucus was “Yes, WE Can Work”, and showcased programs such as the Working Healthy Program/Medicaid Buy-In, which allows people with disabilities to work without losing their healthcare coverage.

Numerous breakout sessions, with topics ranging from Independent Living History & Philosophy to Benefits of Peer Support and the ADA Amendment Act were also provided. The caucus sessions divided participants according to the region of the state they reside in and in those groups they identified barriers to independent living and potential solutions to each issue area. Shannon Jones, Anne Marie Hughey, Jennifer Schwartz, and Andy Imparato also gave an update on disability issues at the State and National level, and Mike Donnelly facilitated a session on youth transition. Our own Toni Martin, a Peer Specialist from Emporia, was recognized with a Kansas Disability Caucus award for her “endless pursuit of civil, human, and equal rights for people with disabilities.”

We look forward to taking what we learned this year at the Caucus and beginning to advocate for more programs and services for people with disabilities!

RCIL Membership!

Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc. (RCIL) is a non-profit organization that is governed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors. We are consumer driven in that over half of the members of the Board are people with disabilities. Members of the board are elected from the RCIL Membership group. We are actively seeking to build our membership! RCIL has two types of memberships. Our Associate Membership is open to anyone. Benefits include receiving our RCIL newsletter that provides information about RCIL programs, services, and special events. To become an Associate Member, a donation of \$10 is encouraged. Our Full Membership is open to the public by application. Once an application is submitted, the Board of Directors will review and select qualified applicants to serve in the membership. If you or someone you know would like to become a member or would like more information, please call 1-800-580-7245.



Pictured Above: RCIL Board of Directors

From left: Dana Pinkston, Sandra Bullock, Chairperson of the Board Donald Lawton, Jr., Anita Casey, Ruth Mounkes, and Phyllis Satterfield.

RCIL is grateful for the generous support we have received throughout this year. A special *THANK YOU* goes to the many individuals, businesses, and organizations that have shared their resources to help us reach our goals!

Raymond Anderson	Vickie Gillespie	Osage County Attorney's Office
Bruce Andrews	Lisa Ginzel	O'Shaughnessy Liquor Inc.
Tricia Barrett	Johnna Godinez	Overbrook Community Chest
Alberta Beust	Robert Gordon	Paradigm Services
Marianne & Mark Bertison	Marie Gorton	Meredith Pendlay
Marge Bolyard	Mary Kay Griggs	Personal Service Insurance Inc.
Frank Brentine	Roger Hammond	Pete's of Erie, Inc.
Becky Brewer	Doris Hammons	Piley's Liquors
Broadway Home Medical	Tania Harrington	Michael Pitts
Mildred Brown	Darla & Jason Hennigh	Lela Prine
Buzzard's Pizza	Andrea Hermreck	Freda & Wally Proctor
Capri Motel	Linda Herrick	Kathy Reed
Anita Casey	Mike Higgins	Jessica Rogers
Earl Casterine	LeRoy Hidreth	Andi Schafer
Mike Chambers	Curtis Holtz	GK & DE Schmitz
Christ Lutheran Church	Raymond Hovestadt	Sue Ann & C. Gregory Schultz
Sherry Clymer	Caylon Huckaby	Linda & Alan Skeet
Margaret Cook	Gerald Huffman	Pat & Connie Snethen
Kathy Cooper	Tricia Hultgren	Bobby Sparks
Rosie Cooper	Heather Humphrey	Donna Stahl
Country Lanes	Ruth Humphrey	Rachael Strecansky
Elizabeth & Scott Culley	Iola Register	Dee K. Thompson
Juanita Curley	Carma Johnson	Su Thompson
Daisy Mae's Café	Kansas Youth Empowerment	Titan Transportation
Kate Wilson	Academy	United Way of Bourbon County
Julia Davis	Carol Keighley	United Way of El Dorado
John Davis	Kelli Kern	United Way of Winfield
Kim Dayhoff	Joyce Lacey	Merlin Wall
Loren DeBaun	Nancy & Richard Lindbloom	Wal-Mart
Dirt Busters	James Looper	Janet & Patrick Walsh
Kathie Easom	Lyndon State Bank	Troy & Susan Warner
W.S. Edwards	Jimmie Maish, Sr.	Jan Wheeler
El Dorado Charities Auxiliary	Barb Marlnee	Luke White
Philip & Bernadine Faulkner	Toni Martin	Marilyn White Estate
First Congregational Church	Don McCullah	Chad Wilkins
Women	Betty & Homer Melgren	Deone & David Wilson
David Foster	Osage County	Donnalee & Eldon Mounkes
Macy Gaines	Michelle Campbell	



RCIL would also like to thank the following businesses for donating cash, or goods and services to sponsor and support "Walking & Rolling with RCIL":

United Access, Kansas Graphics, Kansas Continental Express, Inc. , Infiniti Logistics, BETO Junction Travel Plaza, RDG Truckin, LLC, The Liquor Locker, JRS General Rental, Savage Services, Home Buddy, Home Lumber & Supply Company, Oklahoma Boys BBQ, Waddel & Reed, Emprise Bank, Broadway Home Medical, El Dorado True Care Pharmacy, Iola Respiratory, Wal-Mart of Emporia, Gambino's of Emporia, The Iola Register, and KISS 103.1 FM

RCIL Friends Group Schedule

Current RCIL Friends meetings

2nd Wednesday of the month - Osage City
 3rd Tuesday of the month - Topeka
 3rd Tuesday of the month - Ft. Scott
 3rd Wednesday of the month - Overland Park
 3rd Friday of the month - Wyandotte
 4th Tuesday of the month - Iola
 4th Tuesday of the month - Ottawa
 Last Wednesday of the month - El Dorado
 Last Monday of the month - Emporia
 Last Monday of the month - Eureka

Find RCIL Online!

If you love to surf the web, check out our Website at <http://www.rcilinc.org>. Do you belong to Facebook? RCIL is now on Facebook! In the search field, type in RCIL to see our group and fan pages. Both our website and Facebook pages have updated information about current and future happenings as well as our location and general information about RCIL. Happy surfing!

Walking & Rolling With RCIL!



RCIL is proud to host four *Walking & Rolling With RCIL* events, targeted to increase awareness of accessibility issues that Kansans with disability issues face everyday. Enclosed you will find a registration form along with a sponsor sheet with event details. **Come join us for some food, fun, and give-a-ways!**

- September 12, 2009 – Emporia Walk & Roll
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- October 24, 2009 – Paola Walk & Roll

Net Pals Contest!

RCIL is having a contest to get consumers registered to receive emails and information updates via Net Pals. Please go to the RCIL Website (www.rcilinc.org) and click on the Get Involved tab on the left hand side, then at the bottom of that page click on the RCIL Net Pals link, put in your email address and your name. You will receive a confirmation email asking you to click on a link; once you have done that you will be signed up to receive great information on disability issues, legislative issues, statewide events and RCIL events! We will draw one lucky winner from the people who register by November 1, 2009, to receive a gift card in the amount of \$20 to Wal-Mart! Remember this contest is only for consumers!

9th Annual Fishing Has No Boundaries



The Wheatland Chapter of Fishing Has No Boundaries (FHNB) will be holding it's 2009 fishing festivities at El Dorado Lake September 26th & 27th, 2009. FHNB gives anglers of any age and range of disability the ability to go fishing, use accessible equipment and boats, and to enjoy the day! For more information, please call our El Dorado office at 1-316-322-7853.



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620-365-8144

Overland Park
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913-362-6618

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.rcilinc.org
