



*Serving Kansans with disabilities*

Message from the Executive Director  
By Chad A. Wilkins

We are excited to announce that RCIL has been named the Northeast Access Site for Assistive Technology of Kansans (ATK)!

**What is Assistive Technology (AT)?** AT is any device or service that can be used to increase the independence or productivity of people with disabilities. There are all types of AT ranging from high tech devices such as computer equipment and power chairs to simpler devices such as adapted spoons and extension grabbers.

**What is ATK and the Kansas Equipment Exchange (KEE)?** ATK is a statewide project coordinated by the Kansas University Center on Disabilities. The project is guided by an Executive Advisory Board composed of individuals with disabilities, family members and representatives from agencies. ATK connects people with disabilities with the assistive technology they need to learn, work, play and participate in community life safely and independently. Specific services include: information and assistance, device demonstration, short-term device loan, assessment, training, assistance locating funding to purchase technology, and access to quality, refurbished durable medical equipment and other assistive technology devices.

We will be hosting Lunch & Learn events throughout October and have an open house at the RCIL office in Topeka to introduce us as the newest ATK Access Site. Invitations will be sent to consumers residing near the events.

The Northeast Kansas Assistive Technology for Kansans Access Site serves residents of Brown, Doniphan, Jackson, Atchison, Leavenworth, Shawnee, Jefferson, Wyandotte, Osage, Douglas, Johnson, Franklin and Miami Counties and can be reached by calling (800) 526-3648 or (785) 266-0009.

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

Message from Executive Director	1
Build a Ramp Project	2
Braille Services	2
Peer Employment Mentoring	3
Consumer Success Stories	3
Legislative Update	4
ADA 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	4
Fishing Has No Boundaries	5



## Build a Ramp Project

Summer is winding down, but RCIL's Build a Ramp Program (BARP) is still accepting applications!

The BARP was created to increase independence by building accessible ramps at the homes of individuals with disabilities. These ramps provide individuals with increased access to their homes and the opportunity for greater participation in their communities.

**How do you apply?** To start the application process obtain two (2) bids from contractors (with ramp dimensions) and then contact Adam Burnett at (800) 580-7245, on the TTY at (785) 528-3106 or adam@rcilinc.org.

Complete applications will be considered on a first come, first served basis. Applicants that have secured volunteer labor, donated materials, and/or additional funding sources will be given preferential consideration! Projects will be awarded while funds remain available.

Some BARP basic eligibility criteria:

- Total household income less than 80% of the area median income for your county, according to the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development.
- A disability determination, or demonstrated need, verified by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party (Your physician or RCIL Targeted Case Manager).
- Reside in the RCIL core service area (or are a current consumer).
- Have not previously received BARP assistance.
- Applicant must not currently have an accessible entrance.

**How can you help?** Our goal is to build as many ramps as possible with the limited resources we have available. Therefore, we are seeking volunteer labor and donated materials to help us create or maintain independence for as many individuals as possible. Contact Adam if you would like to participate in any way!



## Braille Services Provided by RCIL

RCIL is pleased to offer Braille translation services to our consumers, community partners and businesses in our communities.

We have a basic cost of \$1.75 per Braille page and additional pages at \$0.50. We can make reprints for \$0.75 per Braille page. RCIL offers free quotes, free shipping, no set up fees/charges and no minimum number of copies. Also, we are set up for multiple languages, most file types, and we have multiple binding options. We also offer Interpoint or single page Braille and we can do large print publications.

If you are interested in RCIL's Braille services, contact Mikel McCary at (877) 719-1717 or mccary@rcilinc.org.

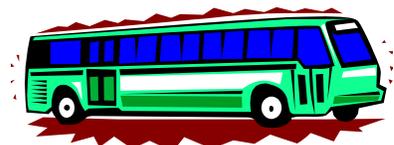


## Sign Up For Net Pals

Net Pals is a group that receives emails about events, resources and advocacy updates. If you are interested in joining you can find RCIL Net Pals on the Get Involved page of the RCIL website [www.rcilinc.org](http://www.rcilinc.org). You can also call (800) 580-7245 and say you would like to sign up for Net Pals.

## Rides to Medical Appointments

Medical Transportation Management (MTM) provides transportation to consumers that need to attend Medicaid covered medical appointments. To request transportation, you must have a Medicaid card and you need to contact MTM at (888)240-6497 at least 48 hours before your appointment. For more information contact your Targeted Case Manager or contact MTM Customer Service at (800) 766-9012.



## Peer Employment Mentoring Program

“Mentoring is a brain to pick, an ear to listen and a push in the right direction” – John Crosby

RCIL’s Peer Employment Mentoring Program can be defined as people with disabilities supporting each other while achieving their employment goals.

This is possible when a person with a disability, who is currently employed (Mentor), acts as guidance and gives advice to another person with a disability who is trying to enter the work force (Mentee). The mentor will communicate with the mentee via telephone, email or in-person on a regular basis.

Benefits of being a part of the Peer Employment Mentor Program include learning from peers and having a positive role model and trusted friend. Employment mentors are resourceful and open minded people who provide support. RCIL will provide the mentor with as much support and guidance as they need also.

If you would like a supporting hand or are interested in becoming a mentor contact Pepper Daniel at (877) 719-1717.

## Need to use a Computer?

Do you ever wish you could use a computer to search for jobs, housing, prescription drug programs, and other resources? RCIL is a place for you. We have resource libraries in all offices except for the Burlington office. In each resource library there is a computer with internet access so you can search for jobs and/or find other resources you need. You can also use the computer to create a resume, write letters to legislators, take computer trainings and much more.

Resource libraries also have material related to disability issues, ranging from advocacy to independent living skills to personal assistance services.

If you are ever near a RCIL office, feel free to stop by and check it out. RCIL staff would be happy to give you a tour of the library and assist you in finding resources you need.

## Consumer Success Stories

The following two consumers have successfully achieved their independent living (IL) goal.

Sherrie, whose IL goal was to have easy access to her home, was able to accomplish her goal in 6 weeks. She was able to accomplish her goal by speaking to Jonathan at RCIL in Ottawa office. Then he worked with Independence Inc. and the consumer was connected with KATCO in Emporia. Through KATCO Sherrie was able to get a low interest loan to purchase a ramp. She can now enter her house without falling while trying to use high steps and is able to bring her scooter into the house.

Sherrie has learned that “Anything is possible” and if you “Do what you can do and take your time it (your IL goal) will be accomplished.”

Richard’s IL goal was to be independent and live on his own. It took Richard from December 2009 to April 2010 to be able to accomplish this goal. He now is able to come and go as he wants, has working AC/heat, running water, access to healthcare when he needs it and he can make his own decisions. Richard has learned that if you are in a bad situation you have options. “You have to step out of your comfort zone” and say things have to change. In his case things have changed, some for the good and some for the bad. But, he is more relaxed, more confident, happier and is able to meet people and is starting to date. Richard’s advice for anyone starting their IL goal is “Although situations may seem bleak, grim or you have no place to go, follow one truth which is, seek help. This does not mean we’re weak. It means we are smart enough and brave enough to ask for help.”

If you have accomplished your IL goal and would like to share, please call (800) 580-7245.

## ***Americans with Disabilities Act 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***

July 2010, was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). To celebrate this milestone, the website [www.2010anniversary.org](http://www.2010anniversary.org) was created. This website explains that the ADA is pushing for a national level of recommitment to the vision of the ADA. Recombitment consists of public entities signing a proclamation. The proclamation asks that the public entity “celebrate and recognize the progress that has been made by reaffirming the

principals of equality and inclusion and recommitting their effort to reach full ADA compliance.”

So far the campaign has 1,389 proclamations make the recommit. In the state of Kansas, 117 proclamations were made with approximately 25 of those entities being contacted by RCIL staff to participate.

Visit [www.adacelebration.com](http://www.adacelebration.com) for pictures of ADA celebrations in Kansas.

---

### **You have the right to remain UNSilent**

By Mandy Smith

As an American, you are privileged with the right to vote. But unfortunately, not all people take full advantage of this right.

The people who do vote are choosing who they believe will run their city, county, state, or country the best. The people they vote for then in turn make decisions and laws that affect us all. People do not vote for numerous reasons. Some reasons could be eliminated if people knew how easy it is to vote.

First everyone has the right to vote in an accessible voting place. Also, a person has the right to use assistance in casting his/her ballot if he/her chooses. People are allowed to receive up to two replacement ballots if mistakes are made on the original. If you are going to be out of town on Election Day, you are able to submit an absentee ballot beforehand.

Since legislators make decisions that affect you, shouldn't you decide who your legislators are? Election Day is November 2<sup>nd</sup>; let your voice be heard at the polls.

Sign up to receive RCIL's consumer newsletter via email and you will be entered into a drawing for a gift card! Contact RCIL at (800) 580-7245 or by email at [newsletter@rcilinc.org](mailto:newsletter@rcilinc.org).



### **You Asked for It**



Contact the Information and Referral Specialist at (800) 580-7245 if you have any questions or need any resources.

#### **Does RCIL provide representative payee services?**

As a general rule RCIL does not provide payee services. A payee is when an individual needs assistance to handle their finances. You can get a list of agencies that provide representative payee services at your local Social Security office.

#### **How many offices does RCIL have?**

RCIL has ten offices in the Eastern part of Kansas. The home office is located in Osage City which is thirty miles southwest from Topeka. Satellite offices are located in Arkansas City, Burlington, El Dorado, Emporia, Fort Scott, Iola, Ottawa, Overland Park, and Topeka.

#### **Where can I get utilities assistance?**

If you are a Westar Energy customer you can request assistance through Project Deserve. Salvation Army, American Red Cross, Mid-Kansas Community Action Program (Mid-CAP), and local organizations in your area are other

## The Empty Bed

Submitted by Bette for her son Mikey

No longer do we have to fight  
The legislature doesn't care  
For people like you dear son  
It's almost more than I can bear

Your grandfather has to be  
Shaking his head above  
For he was one of them  
But he believed in love

Yes, love for the vulnerable  
The disabled, the elderly, the sick  
The ones who needed our help  
These politicians will not take the risk

You wanted to work, not need assistance  
It wasn't your choice that you made  
But honey, your pain is now over  
For eternal rest you were laid

They have to balance the budget  
No new taxes they say  
For if we do we might not  
Get elected and we live for that day

You had Home health and did so well  
Surrounded by caring family and aides  
But while you were sick and dying a 10%  
Of your assistance was the decision they made

You voted every election; you loved your state  
You couldn't talk; you were on a ventilator  
You weren't productive or so they thought  
What possibly could you do for a legislator?

Please help me citizens of Kansas  
Fight with me for persons like my son  
Because but for the grace of God  
YOU or your loved one could be one

No longer do our leaders seem to care  
About the truly ill, balance the budget instead  
I still pray to God they will never experience  
The broken heart I have of your Empty Bed!

## Disability Mentoring Day

Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) is a national program coordinated by the American Association of People with Disabilities. They promote career development for students and job seekers with disabilities through job shadowing and hands-on career exploration.

DMD is recognized nationally on the third Wednesday of every October in conjunction with National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Contact your local RCIL office to find out what day DMD will be in your area.

## Taking Control of YOUR Services

On August 26, 2010 RCIL held a Self Directed Toolkit training for consumers to learn how to hire a Personal Care Attendant (PCA), fill out timesheets, manage PCA's, and how to be assertive.

The event was held in Topeka at Lowman United Methodist Church. Consumers learned how to take control of their personal care services and to make sure they are getting their needs met.

If you were not able to attend and want to receive more information, contact Pepper Daniel at (877) 719-1717.

## Fishing Has No Boundaries

The Wheatland Chapter of Fishing Has No Boundaries (FHNB) will be holding the 8<sup>th</sup> annual fishing festivities at El Dorado State Lake, Bluestem Point and Goose Cove on September 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>.

FHNB is an educational non-profit organization dedicated to opening the great outdoors to disabled individuals through the world of fishing. Anglers of any age and range of disability have the ability to go fishing, by using accessible equipment and boats. Experienced guides and special fishing equipment is available if needed also.

The cost of the event is \$20 per person and breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday and breakfast and lunch on Sunday are provided.

Check out their website at [www.fhnbinc.org](http://www.fhnbinc.org). For more information, please call our El Dorado office at (800) 960-7853.



PO Box 257  
Osage City, KS 66523

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Osage City, KS  
66523  
Permit #93

**Resource Center for  
Independent Living**

1137 Laing  
Osage City, KS 66523

**Phone:**

(785) 528-3105

(800) 580-7245

TDD (785) 528-3106

**Fax:**

(785) 528-3665

**Satellite Office Locations:**

Arkansas City  
115 S. Summit  
620-442-0775

El Dorado  
615 ½ N. Main  
316-322-7853

Fort Scott  
710 W. 8<sup>th</sup>  
620-223-5670

Ottawa  
233 W. 23<sup>rd</sup> St  
785-242-1805

Topeka  
519 SW 37<sup>th</sup> Street  
785-267-1717

Burlington  
410 Cumberland  
620-364-2263

Emporia  
625 Merchant, Suite 238  
620-342-1648

Iola  
726 W. Patterson  
620-365-8144

Overland Park  
10200 W. 75<sup>th</sup>, Suite 100  
913-362-6618

---

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.rcilinc.org](http://www.rcilinc.org)

---