



RESOURCE CENTER

for independent living

Consumer Newsletter • Summer 2013

Upcoming Events

**Come & Visit RCIL
ATK staff at:**

*Assistive Technology
for Kansans (ATK) and
Kansas-Speech-Language-
Hearing Association
(KSHA) Expo on*

September 12-13, 2013

in Topeka, KS at
Capitol Plaza Hotel, Maner
Conference Center, and
Kansas Expocentre

**RCIL Friends Groups
Schedule on page 4**

Coming Soon!

*Low Vision Support
Groups in:*

**Dickinson County
Osage County**

Contact Mandy Smith at
1.877.719.1717 for more
information.

Office Closures

**July 4 - Independence Day
September 2 - Labor Day**

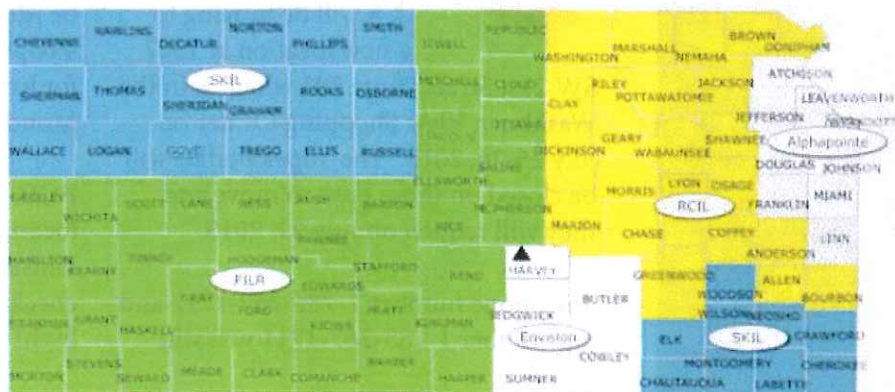
iKan-RCIL Older Blind Project

Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL) was awarded a grant from Kansas Rehabilitation and Services (KRS) to serve individuals who are 55 years and older and are blind or have low vision. RCIL has been serving this population since August of 2010 with the Prairie Independent Living Resource Center (PILR)/RCIL/Southwest Kansas for Independent Living (SKIL) consortium that was also funded by contract from KRS.

iKan-RCIL covers 23 counties from Northeast Kansas to Southeast Kansas including Allen, Anderson, Bourbon, Brown, Chase, Clay, Coffey, Dickinson, Doniphan, Geary, Greenwood, Jackson, Lyon, Marion, Marshall, Morris, Nemaha, Osage, Pottawatomie, Riley, Shawnee, Wabaunsee and Washington. There is a map below which iKan-RCIL's area is in yellow. iKan-RCIL county coverage has changed to no longer include Cowley, Butler, Elk, Linn or Sumner counties.

iKan-RCIL is available for free of charge to individuals who have low vision or blindness and are 55 years and older. Services include independent living skills training that supports independence and individuals to live in the environment they chose. Also, orientation and mobility services in which individuals are taught how to travel safely, independently and efficiently and can include learning to use a white cane, talking GPS and many other tools. Other services include advocacy, information and referral, peer counseling and deinstitutionalization.

Mandy Smith, Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS) is based in RCIL's office in Topeka and provides iKan-RCIL services. She will be starting low vision support groups soon in Osage and Dickinson counties. If you are interested in learning more or know someone who would benefit from these services please call Mandy at 1-877-719-1717. ☎



RCIL Directors

Deone Wilson
Executive Director

Becky Brewer
*Director of HCBS
Programs & Services*

Adam Burnett
Director of Core Services

Tania Harrington
*Director of Disability
Services*

Mike Pitts
*Director of Finance
& Technology*

Susan Warner
*Director of Payroll
& Benefits*

Alternate Formats

To receive a copy of this newsletter in an alternate format, please call 1.800.580.7245.



Welcome Dana!

RCIL is happy to introduce Dana Woods as the newest member of the Core Service team. Dana started working on April 19th as an Independent Living Specialist in the Iola office. Dana will be focusing on providing RCIL's five core services throughout Anderson, Miami, Linn, Bourbon, and Allen counties. Welcome Dana! 🐾

Volunteer Spotlight - Galen Greenwood

RCIL is pleased to have Galen Greenwood to volunteer his time to deliver and pick up durable medical equipment for the Kansas Equipment Exchange (KEE) program. Galen worked for the State of Kansas for 30 years for the Division of Purchasing. His job involved purchasing various products for all the divisions of the State of Kansas. Galen was interested in volunteering for RCIL due to a personal family relationship with his daughter Carrie who is an individual with disabilities. He understands the variety of needs and would like to continue to make a difference in people lives.

Galen also volunteers his time at St. Matthew Catholic Church and is still active with the Purchasing Organization and with Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy (KYEA) as needed. He said, "It allows a person that has retired, keep active and at the same time help others."

RCIL has many opportunities for volunteering from assisting with office duties to helping with the equipment loan and ramp building programs to becoming a member or board member. If you are interested, just call the RCIL office nearest you to learn more. Galen said, "For those retiree's thinking about volunteering and making a difference in other people lives, this is the perfect job, because when someone smiles, shakes your hand or gives you a hug it makes it all worthwhile." 🐾



New Location!

RCIL Topeka Office Is Moving!

RCIL Topeka office will be moving to a new location at 1507 SW 21st Street, Suite 203 which is in the Washburn View Shopping Center on July 25-26, 2013. The Topeka office will be closed on those days to move and they will reopen on July 29, 2013.

The phone number 1-785-267-1717 and fax number 1-785-267-1711 will still

be the same. The new office hours will be Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm. The office will still be closed for lunch from 12:00pm to 1:00pm Monday through Friday.

RCIL is excited to be at a central location and to be close to Washburn University. Feel free to stop by and check out our new office starting July 29th! 🐾

RCIL Hosting ADA Celebrations



The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity for people with disabilities in employment, State and local government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, and transportation. In celebration of the ADA's 23rd Anniversary, each RCIL Friends group will be hosting a BBQ during their July meeting. Please join us for free hot dogs and to learn more about the ADA and its importance to people with disabilities. Everyone is welcome! For more information, see the 2013 Friends Group Schedule on page 4 in this newsletter and/or contact your local RCIL office. 

Build A Ramp Program Success!

For several years, Teresa Holden felt homebound without a ramp to get in and out of her house by herself. She wasn't able to attend her doctor appointments because she couldn't walk and navigate steps down her deck and walk about 80 feet from her front door to her car. RCIL staff member Cathy Fagan assisted Teresa to achieve her goal to get a ramp built. Teresa said, "It was a long process of filling out applications for funding but it was well worth the outcome. I thank RCIL, Build A Ramp Program (BARP), and Friends of Man for helping me achieve my goal."

After the ramp was built, Teresa was tickled to be able to go outside to get her mail by herself. She said, "Having a ramp, I cannot tell you the access it has given me." Teresa was able to leave her house, get into her car independently, to attend her physical therapy and occupational therapy appointments twice a week and go to her doctor's appointments. By doing this, it has helped her to gain strength and keep her independence in doing household things that she once enjoyed. Teresa said, "This may sound silly, but I can actually put away a gallon of milk into my refrigerator which at one time I was not strong enough to

do."

Teresa is very thankful for all the help she got and would like to encourage others to donate to BARP. She said, "It opened doors that should have never been shut." Teresa enjoys going outside when she wants to anytime of the day. She often times goes outside to play ball with her 2 year old lab husky mix dog named "Baby" playing fetch until she is unable to throw the ball anymore. 



Kansas Fire Safety Solutions

Home fires are one of the main causes of home injury and death. Smoke alarms should be installed outside every sleeping area and on every level in homes. Kansas Fire Safety Solutions has made available, free of charge, for qualified Kansans specialized smoke alarms designed to meet the unique needs of persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. The RCIL Assistive Technology team has been trained to conduct in-home surveys, install equipment and assist with planning and practicing a fire escape plan through the program. Recipients also receive a Kansas Safety Solutions booklet and DVD on fire safety.



If you or someone you know is interested and deaf or hard of hearing, call Assistive Technology for Kansans at 1-800-526-3648 or email atkapps@ku.edu to request an application before September 30, 2013. 

2013 FRIENDS GROUP SCHEDULE

To save on costs we will no longer be sending out postcard invitations. Please save this page!



El Dorado	Time	Topic
July 24th	1pm	ADA BBQ
Aug 28th	1pm	BVI Services
Sept 25th	1pm	Fair Housing Act

****Location** RCIL Office in El Dorado

Emporia	Time	Topic
July 29th	1:30pm	ADA BBQ
Aug 20th	1:30pm	Advocacy Issues/Project
Sept 24th	1:30pm	Beth's Story

****Location** Broadview Towers Apartments in Emporia

Eureka	Time	Topic
July 23rd	1pm	ADA BBQ
Aug 27th	1pm	BVI Services
Sept 24th	1pm	Fair Housing Act

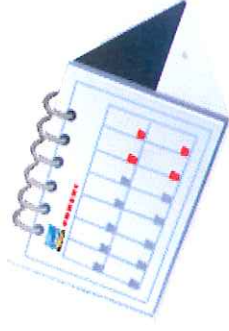
****Location** Magic Circle Apartments in Eureka

Ft Scott	Time	Topic
July 10th	1pm	ADA BBQ
Aug 14th	1pm	Community Advocacy Project
Sept 11th	1pm	Acupuncture & It's benefits

****Location** High Rise Apartments in Fort Scott

RCIL Offices are CLOSED on July 4th and September 2nd!

Friends are groups of individuals who have, or have experienced, a disability. We meet monthly to share & learn about disability related topics, to advocate for change in our communities, and to have fun!



Some groups play bingo, join the fun by bringing a small, wrapped gift along. Everyone is welcome, a gift is **NOT** required to play! Call your local office for more information.

In cases of inclement weather, please call ahead!

Iola	Time	Topic
July 23rd	1pm	ADA BBQ
Aug 27th	1pm	Community Advocacy Project
Sept 24th	1pm	Acupuncture & It's benefits
**Location	Townhouse Apartments in Iola	

Osage City	Time	Topic
July 12th	12:30pm	ADA BBQ
Aug 14th	1pm	Bird Watching
Sept 11th	1pm	Emergency Preparedness
**Location	Park Place Apartments in Osage City	

Paola	Time	Topic
July 26th	1pm	ADA BBQ
Aug 23rd	1pm	Community Advocacy & Change
Sept 27th	1pm	MCOs & Transportation Options
**Location	Paola Senior Center in Paola	

Special Accommodations: Please contact us 2 weeks prior to a meeting to request accommodations.

For more information and locations please call or email us:
1-800-580-7245
info@rcilinc.org

I'm Smiling from Ear to Ear

Submitted by: Icy Collins

My name is Icy Collins and I have 80% hearing loss in both ears. When people speak to me they have to get down close to my ear and yell at me. That's the only way I could hear them.

I have always enjoyed going for walks in my neighborhood and visiting with friends in the apartment complex where I live, but I always had to have someone go with me on the walks because it was unsafe for me to go alone. I wasn't able to hear car horns or emergency vehicle sirens, etc.

My family contacted various organizations only to be told they couldn't help. Finally someone suggested we call RCIL. We didn't have anything to lose so we made the call. They took my information and said someone would be getting back with me. A gentleman by the name of John came out to see me and then my file was placed with Genell. She came out and we did the initial paperwork and Genell told me that she had some funding applications we would need to fill out. Genell offered to help me fill them out but we had to gather all the documentation for the applications.

I was getting excited because I began to feel that the hearing aids I needed was within reach. We finally got them filled out and took them back to Genell. Genell mailed the United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) application and she was ready to mail the Friends of Man application but then she got an e-mail saying they both were no longer helping for hearing aids. I felt so sad and frustrated.

I don't have access to a computer so Genell offered to do some research at her office to help with funding. After many

e-mails, faxes, letters mailed and phone calls she came up with no funding. However, she

did come up with an organization called The Starkey Foundation. They have what is called The Hear Now Program. They refurbish hearing aids and re-distribute them to people who can't afford to buy new hearing aids. However, there is a \$125.00 processing fee for each ear. Once again we are on the trail to get \$250.00. With no luck Genell came to me and asked if my church might possibly help with the fees. I told her that my church had already started a collection for hearing aids, but I didn't know how much they had collected. So Genell contacted pastor Blevins on a Friday. Then on the following Monday Pastor Blevins took a check from the church for \$250 into Genell's office. This was just before Christmas and about the middle of January they called and said I was approved for the hearing aids. I went in a couple of weeks later and the devices were adjusted to fit my ears. My son said the look of my face was priceless.

I am so happy to have hearing aids because now I can go for walks in my neighborhood by myself and it is safe, and now when people talk to me they won't have to yell. I can't begin to tell you how wonderful it is to hear people talking, birds singing, etc. and that is why I am smiling from Ear to Ear.

I want to give many thanks to my God, my church and all the other people who had a hand in helping me hear again. 🙏



You Asked for It

What is RC@Home?

RC@Home is an individualized, private-pay program for people with disabilities that offers the flexibility and control of self-directed care without the hassle of managing payroll, workers compensation and unemployment insurance.

How does RC@Home work?

RCIL will provide you with information to assist you in developing and coordinating your own plan for services including hiring a Personal Care Attendant (PCA).

How would a PCA assist you?

A PCA might assist with personal care, companion services or homemaker activities such as dressing, bathing, meal assistance, shopping, transportation, cleaning and more.

This program is an excellent option for people with disabilities who don't qualify or are waiting to receive state funded community based in-home services.

Contact the Information & Referral Specialist at 1.800.580.7245 to apply or have questions.



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Osage City, KS 66523

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Moved?

If you've moved or changed your phone number, name, or email address, call 1.800.580.7245 so we can keep in contact with you!

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
www.rcilinc.org

Find us on:



RCIL Home Office

Address

P.O. Box 257
1137 Laing
Osage City, KS 66523

Phone

1.785.528.3105 Voice
1.800.580.7245 Toll Free
1.785.528.3106 TDD

Fax

1.785.528.3665

Satellite Offices

El Dorado

615 1/2 N. Main
El Dorado, KS 67042
1.316.322.7853 Voice
1.800.960.7853 Toll Free
1.316.322.7888 Fax

Emporia

215 W. 6th Ave., Suite 208
Emporia, KS 66801
1.620.342.1648 Voice
1.888.261.4024 Toll Free
1.620.342.1821 Fax

Iola

335 N. Cottonwood St., Suite C
Iola, KS 66749
1.620.365.8144 Voice
1.877.944.8144 Toll Free
1.620.365.7726 Fax

Topeka

1507 SW 21st St., Suite 203
Topeka, KS 66604
1.785.267.1717 Voice
1.877.719.1717 Toll Free
1.785.267.1711 Fax