RCIL Expands Coverage Area for Older Blind Program

The iKan-RCIL program started in August of 2010 and its purpose is to teach people who are blind/have low vision and are 55 years or older how to live as independently as possible. iKan-RCIL has been possible with contracts awarded from Kansas Rehabilitation Services (KRS) that allows funding for orientation and mobility training, assistive technology aids and devices, and independent living training. RCIL recently received its third contract which will last through 2020.

Since inception, iKan-RCIL has more than doubled in size from 15 counties in 2010, to 32 counties beginning in July 2017. The coverage area includes the following counties: Allen, Anderson, Bourbon, Brown, Chase, Chautauqua, Cherokee, Clay, Coffey, Crawford, Dickinson, Doniphan, Elk, Geary, Greenwood, Jackson, Labette, Lyon, Marion, Marshall, Montgomery, Morris, Nemaha, Neosho, Osage, Pottawatomie, Riley, Shawnee, Wabaunsee, Washington, Wilson, and Woodson. This is including the nine counties RCIL began covering this month (Chautauqua, Cherokee, Crawford, Elk, Labette, Montgomery, Neosho, Wilson, and Woodson.)

To be eligible for this program you must live in one of the above mentioned counties, be 55 years or older and have a vision loss that affects your daily living. Mandy Smith, Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist, who is based out of the Osage City office provides the services for this program. She travels to individuals’ homes to teach the skills and/or give items that will allow individuals to be as independent as possible. This program is free to the individual and can be provided in any home setting. Mandy also does presentations to promote services and educate the public. Mandy will also be hosting independent living classes through the next three years throughout the 32 counties. Look for more information on these classes in the near future.
Disability Rights Movement: The ADA

Every year in July, seven RCIL Friends groups celebrate the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) during their July meeting. Why? The ADA is one of the disability rights movements that became a part of American History. If we didn't have the ADA, we wouldn't have curb cuts, ramps, automatic doors, elevators, accommodations in the workplace, and accessible transportation that allow people with disabilities to be involved and independent in their communities. These are just a few examples of things supported by the ADA that everyone with or without disabilities benefit from every day.

Who advocated for the ADA? Justin Dart had a disability and he was an advocate for people with disabilities. During his later years in life, he was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to be the Vice President of the National Council on Disability. During his term, he went on a nationwide tour and he learned he didn't have easy access to housing, transportation, businesses, and much more. He developed the ADA and helped get it passed and then signed into law on July 26, 1990. Justin became known as the "Godfather of the ADA".

The ADA was a positive change for people with disabilities. However, not all places follow the ADA guidelines. Many RCIL Friends groups are working on community advocacy projects. Some of the projects they are advocating for are changes in their communities such as: building an accessible playground, providing public transportation on weekends, and requesting accessible parking at various businesses. If you would like to get involved, look at the 2017 RCIL Friends group schedule in this newsletter for more information and/or contact your local RCIL office.

Do You Have An E-mail Address?

Do you or your Direct Service Worker (DSW) have an e-mail address? If so, please share it with the Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc. (RCIL). E-mail communication is a great way for you to contact RCIL and for RCIL to contact you. Using e-mail gives RCIL the capability to reach out to you when you are not available by telephone, provides the capability to send documents to you and receive documents from you (if you have the capability of scanning a document) without relying on "snail mail.”

Using e-mail to contact the consumer/employer or DSWs makes providing information, or soliciting feedback, very efficient.

RCIL has a general e-mail address that RCIL staff members monitor during the work week. That address is Payrollhelpdesk@rcilinc.org.

Please e-mail the Payrollhelpdesk@rcilinc.org with your e-mail address to ensure that we have it in our records. Don't forget to notify the Payrollhelpdesk@rcilinc.org if your e-mail changes.
Throughout the year, the Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc. (RCIL) accomplished several great things, including teaching independent living skills to youth, celebrating retirement for a RCIL Board member who served as a member for over 20 years, educating elementary students and businesses in Emporia about disability history and awareness, giving a presentation at the Community Living Summit, hosting a Trunk or Treat event for the first time, participating in the SPIEL workgroups, receiving donations from businesses and individuals, receiving additional funds for the ATK program, and attending conferences to increase skills and knowledge. While the accomplishments described below highlight some of the great things that happened at RCIL, there is great pride in the many accomplishments for 2016 and we are excited to find out the opportunities and challenges RCIL will face in 2017!

**Transition Age Independent Living Skills (TAILS)**

During April and May of 2016, RCIL staff worked with students at the Next Step Academy as a part of the TAILS project. TAILS was a three session program in which we helped students with disabilities identify the following: 1) Their strengths, interests, and life goals, 2) Disability history and awareness, 3) Online Safety, and 4) Their rights, responsibilities, and resources to help them achieve their goals.

Eight students participated in the program to completion and the final survey indicated that all eight students believed that their knowledge, skills, and resources had increased. They all believed they are better equipped to reach their career and educational goals as a result of attending.

**Board Member Phyllis Satterfield Retirement**

On May 23, 2016 RCIL had their Annual Member Meeting and they recognized Phyllis Satterfield. After over twenty years of service to RCIL as a board member, Phyllis has retired from the Board. All those that attended the meeting had an opportunity to share their favorite memories of their times with Phyllis. There were a few tears about her departure but more laughs as we remembered the good times. Phyllis is an outstanding advocate for people with disabilities. Her courageous spirit and no nonsense approach will be greatly missed. Phyllis is a talented painter and brought along a few examples of her work to show the group. Phyllis loves to travel, as well. Her retirement from the board will give her more time to enjoy her passions.

**Disability History and Awareness Days**

In 2016, RCIL went to 2 elementary schools in the Eastern part of Kansas to educate students and faculty members about disability history and awareness. The first awareness event for the year was held on March 31st at the Santa Fe Trail Elementary School in Overbrook, KS. They educated approximately 250 kindergarteners through 2nd graders and school staff participated with the students in six stations.
designed to give them information or experience of what it is like to have a disability. RCIL partnered with Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy (KYEA) by bringing their accessible van to demonstrate on how their van operates for people with disabilities. The five other stations were a hearing loss activity, a beep-ball game simulation, a wheelchair maneuvering course, a video featuring children with disabilities, and to meet a Ms. Wheelchair Kansas who is also a RCIL Board Member.

On October 18th, RCIL held their second for the year disability history and awareness event at the Osage City Elementary School. This was RCIL's second round educating on disability history and awareness at this school since 2011. They educated approximately 310 1st through 5th graders and school staff participated with the students at every station. RCIL partnered with KYEA by bringing and demonstrating on how their van operates for people with disabilities. The five other stations were a hearing loss activity, a beep-ball game simulation, a wheelchair maneuvering course, a video featuring children with disabilities, and a Braille exercise.

By the end of the day at each school, students and faculty members were inspired and had a better understanding about people with disabilities. The overwhelming positive feedback from teachers and students has prompted plans to continue to educate on disability history and awareness in elementary schools in 2017!

**KU RTCIL - Community Living Summit**

RCIL was one of the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) in the nation that participated in the KU Research and Training Center on Independent Living (RTCIL) project called “CILs Build Capacity to Promote Community Participation for Consumers with Disabilities”. Our Director of Core Services Adam Burnett represented RCIL on this project. The purpose of this project was to increase the CILs’ ability to make changes that increase their consumers’ community participation in their local communities. The CILs’ provided data during the 4 year project on how the CILs responded to their consumers’ needs in the community, how they reduced barriers to participation, and the impact of the changes they made.

After the project was completed, Adam was selected on the research team to present their project at the KU Research and Training Center's Community Living Summit in Alexandria, Virginia from September 19-21, 2016. Adam gave a presentation about the project by sharing his perspective of the project and its results and placing the results in context based on the Independent Living environment in Kansas. He educated approximately 50 researchers and staff from the Administration for Community Living from around the United States. Adam had the opportunity to meet and learn from other research teams on their projects and findings on several topics from around the United States throughout the Community Living Summit.
### 2017 Friends Group Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iola</td>
<td>Celebrating Your Rights!</td>
<td>July 25th, 1pm</td>
<td>Location: 217 N. Washington Ave., Iola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osage City</td>
<td>ADA Celebration</td>
<td>July 12th, 1pm</td>
<td>Location: 207 S. 6th St., Osage City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paola</td>
<td>Changing Your Community</td>
<td>July 28th, 1pm</td>
<td>Location: Paola Housing Authority, 310 S. Iron Ave., Paola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eureka</td>
<td>Disability Cookbook</td>
<td>Aug 22nd, 1pm</td>
<td>Location: Magic Circle Apartments, 310 Magic Circle Rd., Eureka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ft Scott</td>
<td>Mental Health Awareness event</td>
<td>Aug 25th, 1pm</td>
<td>Location: Ft Scott Housing Authority, 315 Scott St., Ft Scott</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Accommodations
- Please contact us 2 weeks prior to a meeting to request accommodations.

### Contact Information
- For more information and locations, please call or email us at 1-800-380-7245 or info@rcilinc.org.
City of Emporia - Disability Awareness

RCIL partnered with the City of Emporia to give a training session called "Talent Has No Boundaries" to representatives of businesses in Emporia. The training was held on October 27, 2017 in the Little Theatre at the Civic Building in Emporia. Adam Burnett, Director of Core Services, gave a presentation on disability awareness and etiquette topics to approximately 45 attendees. He included a video on how to communicate with people with disabilities and he had attendees participate in 4 interactive stations to experience what it is like to have a disability including as hearing, vision, mobility, and mental illness disabilities.

At the end of the session, the attendees had a better understanding on how to interact with people with disabilities. It has enhanced some attendees interest and requested Adam to give a presentation at their organization to educate their staff on disability awareness.

RCIL First Trunk or Treat

On October 27, 2017 RCIL had their first Trunk or Treat in the Osage City office parking lot. This event was open to the public to participate by bringing treats to hand out from their trunk or bringing children dressed in costume to enjoy the event. Several RCIL staff participated in this event by decorating their trunk, dressing up in their Halloween costume, and/or passing out candies. RCIL served over 100 hot dogs to children and adults during the event. This event was successful and it has increased awareness about RCIL!

Tammi Thornburgh showed off her witch costume and her decorated trunk.

SPIL Workgroups Efforts

RCIL is actively involved in the Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). The SPIL has four workgroups to work on increasing access and independent living for Kansans with disabilities. Each workgroup is a group of individuals from CILs in Kansas and community partners to collaborate on their projects to meet the SPIL. RCIL is proud to have staff volunteered to facilitate in each of the workgroups. Below is a list of the SPIL workgroups along with the facilitator's name and title.

- Employment – Adam Burnett, Director of Core Services
- Housing – Macy Collins, Independent Living Specialist (ILS)
- Outreach – Beth Burnett, Information and Outreach Coordinator/ILS
- Transportation – Dana Todd, Independent Living Specialist

The SPIL is a 3 year plan and it ended on September 30, 2016. The new SPIL was developed and started on October 1, 2016 and it will last through September 30, 2019. The new SPIL continued to have their same
workgroups and facilitators. It also allowed each workgroup to develop and work on their own goals that will help increase access and independent living for Kansans with disabilities.

Donors

While RCIL received funding from state and federal grants and waiver programs, many of our programs and services would not have been successful without the continued support of local businesses, organizations and individuals. We cannot thank our donors enough, but we would like to recognize businesses, organizations, and individuals who helped make 2016 a successful year for RCIL: Lois and Sue Adamson, Associated Homecare, CBIZ MHM LLC, Cheri Karns, Kuykendall Siblings LLC, Cheryl Lewis, Gene Maggard, Network for Good, Overbrook Community Chest, Dena Paul, Gary and Frances Summers, Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital, and Sharmaine Warren.

ATK - Additional Funds

RCIL was excited to secure additional funds for the Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) program for two years starting May 1, 2016. This gave RCIL the opportunity to expand staff capacity to serve more consumers in the ATK department. RCIL hired Galen Greenwood as a part-time AT Operations Specialist and Mike Goupil as a part-time AT Specialist.

You. Lead. Now. and NCIL

RCIL had the privilege to send several staff to a couple of conferences during 2016. The first conference called “You. Lead. Now.” was held on May 17th – 19th at the Kansas Leadership Center (KLC) in Wichita. Director of Core Services Adam Burnett and Information and Outreach Coordinator/ILS Beth Burnett attended this conference. They learned a new style of leadership facilitated by the KLC staff by participating and applying leadership skills in large and small group sessions.

The second conference was the National Council Independent Living (NCIL) and it was held from July 25th – 28th at the Grand Hyatt in Washington D.C. RCIL was able to send two Independent Living Specialists, Dana Todd and Macy Collins, to attend this conference. They attended workshop sessions to learn various topics relating to people with disabilities. They also participated in the March to the U.S. Capitol and educated legislators at the Capitol about Independent Living services.
Talking Books

By: Maggie Witte, State Library of Kansas, Talking Books Service

The State Library of Kansas, Talking Books Service provides personalized library support and materials in a specialized format to eligible Kansas residents to ensure that all may read. Any Kansas resident who is unable to read or use normal print materials as a result of temporary or permanent visual or physical limitations may receive service through Kansas Talking Books. This includes those who are blind, have a visual disability that prevents them from reading normal print, or have a physical disability that keeps them from being able to hold a book, or institutions who serve qualifying individuals.

This no-cost library service features:
- Audiobooks, audio magazines, audio equipment, braille books, and braille magazines mailed directly to your house and returned postage free.

- A collection that includes romance, mysteries, bestsellers, science fiction, westerns, biographies, fiction, children's books, young adult books and more.

- Download books from the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) website or by using the BARD app.

- Descriptive video (movies and television programs enhanced with narration that describes the actions, settings, gestures, and other key visual elements) mailed directly to your house.

- Access to the world's largest collection of music scores in braille and large print.

Please call 1-800-362-0699 (Kansas or surrounding states) or 1-620-341-6280 (outside of Kansas or surrounding states) for information on applying for service and ordering books.

For current patrons – find your next good read and get library help by calling 1-800-362-0699, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Kansas Talking Books – books the way you want them: in braille or audio formats, mailed to your door for free, or instantly downloadable.

RCIL Resource Library

RCIL has a resource library in its Osage City, Emporia, El Dorado, and Iola offices. It is available for anyone who is looking for resources during RCIL office hours. In each resource library there is a computer with internet access, a printer, a telephone, and printed materials full of disability-related topics. All of the computers are equipped with specialized assistive technology for people with disabilities.

RCIL staff teaches individuals with disabilities on how to use the computer, locate resources, and/or use an assistive technology when requested. Contact your local RCIL office to ensure availability and/or request assistance to learn how to use the resource library.

What does the ADA stand for?
The ADA stands for the Americans with Disabilities Act. Each RCIL Friends group is celebrating the ADA in July. Go to the 2017 RCIL Friends group schedule between pages 4 and 5 in this newsletter to find out when your local Friends group plan to celebrate the ADA. Everyone is welcome to attend and learn more about the ADA!

When was the ADA signed into law?
July 26, 1990

Who was "the father of the ADA" and "the Godfather of the disability rights movement"?
Justin Dart

The ADA is divided into five titles. What are they?
They are Employment, State and Local Government, Public Accommodations, Telecommunications, and Miscellaneous Provisions.

If you have any questions or need any resources call Independent Living Specialist at 1-800-580-7245.
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!
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1.620.365.7726 Fax

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1.620.342.1821 Fax

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