RCIL Names Washington Resident 2023 Direct Support Worker of the Year

The Board of Directors of the Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc. (RCIL) has named Mary Lou Walter of Washington, Kansas as RCIL's 2023 Direct Support Worker (DSW) of the Year. Mary Lou was nominated for this recognition by Doris Kolman, also of Washington. Doris had this to say about the services she receives, "Because I have a direct support worker, I have been able to continue living at home with very few changes to my lifestyle". Doris went on to say, "She (Mary Lou) makes sure chores are done and that I have access to my phone, television and computer".

"The support that DSWs provide is incredibly valuable, not only is this work rewarding and challenging, it's life-changing", said Deone Wilson, Executive Director of RCIL. Wilson went on to say, "Direct Support Workers are the backbone of the Senior Care Act and Home and Community Based Services that RCIL provides throughout the State of Kansas. Unfortunately, many people are going without the services and support they need because they have been unable to find anyone to hire." RCIL helps connect DSWs with the individuals that need assistance with activities of daily living such as cooking, housekeeping, personal care, sleep support, etc. Anyone interested in working as a DSW should call RCIL toll free at 877-929-7655.

The DSW of the Year program has become an annual event at RCIL. Nominations for 2024 will be sought in December for 2024. RCIL's board of directors recognizes each of the nominees. Watch RCIL's newsletters and social media for more details in the future.
YOU ARE THE BOSS!
(BUT WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU!)

Most people that use Home and Community Based Services to help them remain independent in their own homes have not had the experience of "Being the Boss." It's a little intimidating! You suddenly are expected to find, interview, hire, set the wage, manage and, sometimes, terminate someone that is now your employee.

The good news is....RCIL is here to help you! One of the responsibilities of being your Financial Management Services provider is that we help you learn how to be the employer of your workers.

RCIL is again (post-COVID) offering group trainings on how to be the self-directed employer of your services. In addition, we also provide individual training, if that works better for you.

Some of the topics covered are:
- Locating potential Direct Support Workers (DSW)
- How to interview, select, hire, manage and terminate DSWs
- Problem solving for DSW issues
- AuthentiCare and AuthentiCare Mobile Applications
- Emergency Planning and Preparedness
- Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation
- Medicaid Fraud

Contact RCIL at 785-528-3105 or 1-800-580-7245 and ask for Becky Brewer or Lita Bloomquist to schedule a group training in your area or individual training for you.

RCIL El Dorado Office Ribbon Cutting

RCIL had their Ribbon Cutting at their El Dorado RCIL office on March 1, 2024. The event was hosted by their local Chamber of Commerce. Picture on right: People gathered for the event.
RCIL Receives Trusler Foundation Grant for Medical Equipment and Ramps

The Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc. (RCIL) recently received a $20,000.00 grant from the Trusler Foundation for the purchase of new durable medical equipment and accessible ramp construction for individuals with disabilities.

As a service to the community, RCIL has durable medical equipment available for loan, free of charge. The equipment is provided as a service to any member of the Lyon County community who is experiencing a short-term or long-term disability due to illness, injury or rehabilitation after surgery. Items they have available include, but are not limited to: wheelchairs, bath benches, commodes, transfer benches, walkers, and canes. Last year, RCIL loaned 966 pieces of medical equipment in the various communities it provides services in. Many of these items are already available at RCIL’s office at 215 W. 6th Ave., Suite 201 in the Emporia Humanitarian Center. The equipment loan inventory will be expanded once RCIL moves into its new location at 624 Commercial Street. RCIL hopes to be moved there by May 2024. Please call 620-342-1648 to see if desired equipment is available.

RCIL will also utilize the Trusler Foundation grant funds to repair or newly construct ramps on private residences that meet the criteria of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design via RCIL’s Build A Ramp Program. Applications for ramps will be considered using a process that ensures an equitable distribution of resources, however projects are considered on a first-come, first-served basis while funds remain available. Contact Suzanne at 620-342-1648 to request an application.

“Making communities accessible to all is a critical component of our work,” said Deone Wilson, RCIL Executive Director. “Providing medical equipment and ramps are just a few of the ways we do that. RCIL is incredibly grateful for the support from the Trusler Foundation.” RCIL performs other accessibility work such as medical office surveys, voter registration site access studies, ADA compliance checks for public buildings and areas as well as for private businesses plus individual and systems advocacy services.
SPIL Transportation Workgroup

The Kansas State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) has four areas of concentration to help remove barriers for people with disabilities in Kansas. Those four areas turned into SPIL workgroups and they are employment, housing, outreach, and transportation. Today we are going to give you updates on the SPIL transportation workgroup.

The SPIL transportation workgroup developed a website and it is www.spiltrans.org. The workgroup explains that the website is so much more than telling you where to find a ride and getting from point “A” to point “B”. They hope to use the website to engage people with disabilities who are in need of transportation. They want to hear directly from them with their contact resources. They also use the website to post educational resources and systems advocacy resources to help people with disabilities to know their transportation rights.

Besides updating the SPIL transportation website, the workgroup also has two objectives that they are working on this year. The first objective is CIL representatives from the workgroup will locate local or regional transportation councils or Coordinated Transit District (CTD) in Kansas. They plan to attend their meetings. They also plan to invite CTD or transportation providers to attend their workgroup meetings. RCIL Independent Living Specialist Suzanne is a representative for the workgroup. She has contacted the local CTD Chair who covers most of the RCIL’s Core Counties. She plans to attend their meetings and to share the current transportation needs that were identified in her area.

The second objective is to make recommendations to local, regional and/or statewide transportation councils with customer driven input. The workgroup will be collecting consumer stories about their struggles and their successes with transportation. They plan to share these stories with their local transportation councils and their local CTD across the state. They also plan to post these stories on the SPIL

Continued on page 5
| Location: 707 S. Gil St., Oxnard City, KS 66523 |
| Time: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm |
| Date: May 18th |
| Topic: Smart Embrace 101 |

| Location: Port Street Housing Authority |
| Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm |
| Date: June 3rd |
| Topic: Fort Street, Port Union |

| Location: Broadview Towers Apartment |
| Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm |
| Date: June 24th |
| Topic: Emerita, Oxnard City, KS 66801 |

| Location: RCL, El Dorado Office |
| Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm |
| Date: June 9th, 16th, 23rd |
| Topic: 2024 RCL Friends Group Schedule |

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To check the status of your meeting:
Due to COVID-19, all friends group meetings are subject to change. Please call ahead.

For more information about RCL Friends Group or call ahead.

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In case of inclement weather, please call ahead:
For RCL at 1-800-880-7245 or info@rcil.org.
SPIL Transportation Workgroup Continued

Continued from page 4

transportation workgroup website. They hope these stories will empower communities across the state to access needed transportation services.

If you are interested to share your story about your experiences with transportation services, contact Suzanne at the RCIL Emporia office at 620-342-1648.

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Consumer Obtained Durable Medical Equipment To Increase Independence

RCIL assisted a consumer in obtaining a ramp, power chair, commode, transfer bench, manual wheelchair, grab bars, a bed pan, and hoyer lift. The consumer is a recent amputee due to an infection that he could not get treated due to lack of reliable Medicaid medical transportation. The consumer also was recently placed on Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) services. His ILS explained that there is $7,500 he can use in a lifetime for assistive technology via HCBS. She also explained Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK),

Continued on page 6

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RCIL Friends Group in Paola

We are pleased to announce the restarting of the RCIL Friends group in Paola, KS! Our first meeting will be on April 22, 2024 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Vintage Park Assisted Living in their community room. It is located at 601 N. East Street.

Please join us for camaraderie, door prizes, sharing of information, and learning more about RCIL and things that matter to you. Also be thinking of items you would like to discuss for future meetings.

Our ILS Tami Comstock is the facilitator for the Paola Friends Group. For more information, contact Tami at the Iola RCIL office at 620-365-8144.

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Emergency Preparedness

Severe weather season is approaching and below are three things to prepare for emergencies.

1. Get a Kit
Put together basic supplies, medications, and medical supplies.

2. Make a Plan
Write a plan on paper and put it in your supply kit, make a list of emergency contacts, find locations to go inside and outside of your home, make transportation arrangements, and decide how to handle situations when accommodations are not available.

3. Be Informed
Understand what might happen and know what types of emergencies are likely to affect your region.

Visit Ready website at www.ready.gov for more information.
Consumer Obtained DME Continued

Continued from page 5

RCIL’s Durable Medical Equipment (DME) loan program, and the three funding sources that can possibly help if his Managed Care Organization (MCO) cannot. The ILS provided all DME she could out of the RCIL’s DME loan program while he worked on his goal. The consumer started contacting his Care Coordinator and asking for said medical equipment. In the process he received a new Care Coordinator and had to start advocating for his needs with a new person. He did not give up and called weekly. The consumer and his new Care Coordinator worked with his doctor for scripts, worked with National Seating and Mobility for power chair, and worked with a medical equipment vendor to obtain everything else. When asked what he has learned from this experience he stated that he now knows the MCO and RCIL can help get equipment. When asked about increased independence he stated that he can now move around more in his home on his own, and when he needs assistance it is much easier on his caregivers with the lift. He also expressed being able to actually leave the home now without being carried.

Morris County Resource Guide

Information and Referral (I&R) is a Core Service that RCIL offers to anyone with or without a disability. RCIL staff receive calls from consumers with questions about available community resources in their county. Below are a few resources available in Morris County.

Contact RCIL at 785-528-3105 if you have questions or need assistance to locate resources in your area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency Name</th>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CrossWinds</td>
<td>Counseling Services, Medication Services</td>
<td>620-343-2211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling &amp; Wellness</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECKAN</td>
<td>Housing &amp; Food Assistance</td>
<td>785-418-0351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Public Transportation</td>
<td>Provides rides for residents who live in Morris County</td>
<td>620-767-5426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morris County Health Department</td>
<td>Immunizations, Health Screenings, WIC</td>
<td>620-767-5175</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Enter For Your Chance To Win A Free Prize!
To be entered into a drawing for a FREE prize, complete the quiz below and turn it in to RCIL by April 22, 2024 in the following ways:
• By mail: RCIL P.O. Box 257 Osage City, KS 66523
• OR e-mailing your answers to info@rcilinc.org
The winning ticket will be drawn on April 24, 2024 and the prize will be mailed to the winner.

Fill in the Blanks
1. RCIL had their Ribbon Cutting on March 1, 2024 at their ________________ office.

2. The date for the Primary Election is ____________________.

3. RCIL Friends Group in Paola will have their first meeting on ____________________.

Name: ________________________________

Address: ________________________________

Phone Number: _______________________

RCIL’s New Full Time Staff
RCIL is excited to introduce their newest staff members to their Financial Management Services Department.

Katie Carlson, Payroll Clerk, started at RCIL on January 2, 2024 in the Osage City office. She will be providing a variety of payroll functions for consumers who are self-directing their personal care services through the Home and Community Based Services Waivers.

Shirley Buchmeier, Payroll Clerk, started at RCIL on February 26, 2024 in the Osage City office. She will be providing a variety of payroll functions for consumers who are self-directing their personal care services through the Home and Community Based Services Waivers.

You Asked For It

When is the deadline to register to vote for the Primary Election?
   July 16, 2024

When is the first day of advance voting for the Primary Election?
   July 17, 2024

When is the Primary Election?
   August 6, 2024

When is the deadline to register to vote for the General Election?
   October 15, 2024

When is the first day of advance voting for the General Election?
   October 16, 2024

When is the General Election?
   November 5, 2024

If you have questions or need any resources call RCIL at 1-800-580-7245.
OFFICE CLOSURES
MARCH 29, 2024
MAY 27, 2024

RCIL Home Office

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

Phone
785-528-3105 Voice
800-580-7245 Toll Free
877-929-7655 Payroll Help Desk

Fax
785-528-3665

Payroll Fax
785-528-2938

Satellite Offices

El Dorado
120 S. Gordy St., Suite 3
El Dorado, KS 67042
316-322-7853 Voice
800-960-7853 Toll Free
316-322-7888 Fax

Emporia
215 W. 6th Ave., Suite 201
Emporia, KS 66801
620-342-1648 Voice
888-261-4024 Toll Free
620-342-1821 Fax

Iola
104 S. Washington Ave.
Iola, KS 66749
620-365-8144 Voice
877-944-8144 Toll Free
620-365-7726 Fax

Topeka
1507 SW 21st St., 203
Topeka, KS 66604
785-267-1717 Voice
877-719-1717 Toll Free
785-267-1711 Fax