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OCTOBER 2014

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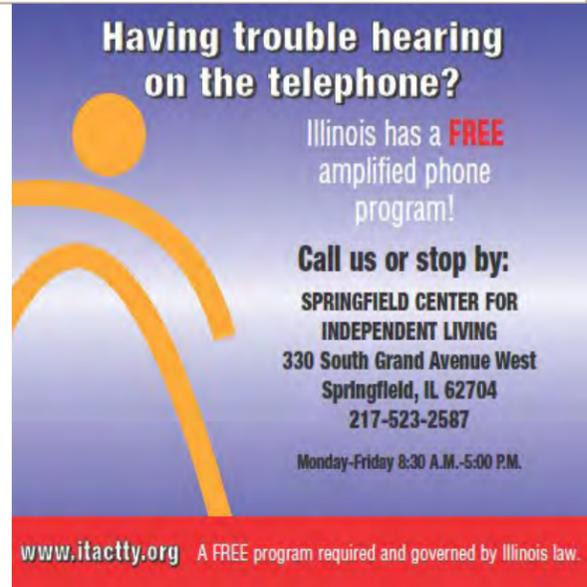
## Monthly Support Groups

<p><b>Heads Up Group</b> Contact Dave Munroe at SCIL: (217) 523-2587 v/tty</p> <p><b>Stroke/Brain Injury Support Group</b> Contact Lisa Cline at: (217)788-3461 or email: cline.lisa@mhsil.com</p>	<p><b>Personal Assistant Employers Group</b> Contact Bradley Kinney at SCIL: (217)523-2587 v/tty</p> <p><b>Post-Polio Group</b> Contact Bradley Kinney at SCIL:</p>	<p>(217)523-2587 v/tty</p> <p><b>BEST (Becoming Empowered and Successful Teens) and Parent Transition Support Group</b> Contact Carolyn Thorpe at SCIL: (217)523-2587 v/tty</p>
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### The United Methodist Women's Group

Back Row: Erica, Piper, Adrienna/ 2nd Row: Dayse, Sabrina/1st Row: Jackie  
Adults not pictured: Reverend Karen Blank-Ewell, Brenda Learned, Debbie Miller



**Having trouble hearing on the telephone?**

Illinois has a **FREE** amplified phone program!

**Call us or stop by:**  
SPRINGFIELD CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING  
330 South Grand Avenue West  
Springfield, IL 62704  
217-523-2587  
Monday-Friday 8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

[www.itactty.org](http://www.itactty.org) A FREE program required and governed by Illinois law.



October 2014

# THE SCIL ADVOCATE

"Increasing opportunities for persons with disabilities through advocacy, services, and public education."

## SCIL explores establishing Employment Advisory Committee

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October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). NDEAM was created to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. NDEAM is led by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP).

In 2013, 17.6 percent of persons with a disability were employed, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported in June, 2014. In contrast, the employment-population ratio for those without a disability was 64.0 percent.

In an effort to make a positive impact on employment statistics for people with disabilities, SCIL is currently considering forming an Employment Advisory Committee. The creation of this committee would provide a forum to share information, provide disability awareness, explore the barriers to employment in our communities and provide support to employers in hiring and retaining qualified individuals. This committee would consist of SCIL staff, community employers and other interested

parties (ex. College Career Center staff). We would like to learn more about the needs of employers in the community as well as the concerns of job seekers.

We believe that educating and supporting potential employers and businesses can strengthen our ties to the community and provide potential employment avenues for our consumers. Very often, employers have concerns about hiring individuals with disabilities because they have heard a negative story, or they believe there would be a high financial cost to provide reasonable accommodations. When knowledge is gained about inclusion in the workforce and employers find resources for support and technical assistance, hiring a person with a disability becomes a very real possibility.

If you are interested in learning more about this advisory committee, or how SCIL employment staff can assist you, please contact Melissa Norman or Dave Munroe at SCIL (217)523-2587 v/tty.

## How the Employment Resources Program Can Help You

The Employment Resources Program supports individuals interested in obtaining and/or maintaining gainful employment or employment training. The program is designed to assist consumers with many employment-related services which are customized depending upon individual needs and requests. Staff are available to assist consumers with employment-related activities, such as: identifying potential career options; researching employment opportunities; establishing contact with potential employers; completing employment applications, including on-line applications; resume development; interview preparation; and job retention. Staff will also assist consumers in writing requests for reasonable accommodations, following up on reasonable accommodation requests and obtaining additional assistance/advocacy if request is denied. Consumers can receive assistance in making the transition from Social Security/Supplemental Security Income programs to work.

If an individual needs pharmaceutical assistance in order to obtain and/or maintain employment, services can be provided to help individuals find this assistance.

In addition, the Employment Resources Program provides research for assistive technology, including information on assistive technology as it relates to education, training or work sites; provides research pertaining to all disability-related subjects; and can conduct on-line research for state-of-the-art equipment upon request.

**Services specifically for youth with disabilities are available upon request.**

To learn more about SCIL's Employment Resources Program, contact Melissa Norman or Dave Munroe at: 217-523-2587 v/tty



Types of assistance available to Employment Resources Program participants:

- Professional and interpersonal skills assessment
- Resume and cover letter development
- Job seeking skills training
- Assistance with job application process
- Interview skills development
- Assistance in identifying opportunities for job skills development
- Assistance with job maintenance and professional development
- Individual or group assistance available for any employment related topic/issue
- Assistance with requesting/obtaining reasonable accommodations

Other related services available to Employment Resources Program participants (in addition to the above):

- Searches and application for low and no-cost pharmaceuticals
- Searches for low cost dental services
- Assistance with applications, scholarships and certificates
- Reasonable accommodations request trainings
- Individual support and/or assistance finding/referral to other support options.

**Please Join Us for our Annual Meeting**

**Thursday, November 20, 2014**

The Inn at 835  
835 S. Second Street, Springfield, Illinois

Featuring:

**The Honorable James A. Lewis**  
United States Attorney for the  
Central District of Illinois

**Registration at 5:30**  
Program begins at 6:00  
Hors d'oeuvre Buffet and Cash Bar

**Reservations are required. Tickets: \$20.00**

Sign language interpreter and CART available

**Springfield Center for Independent Living  
29th Annual Meeting**

**Please RSVP by November 12, 2014**

Mail payment to: 330 S. Grand Ave. West, Springfield, IL 62704

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ spaces. I am enclosing \$20 per person.

Contact name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve spaces for the following individuals:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Students from the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired (ISVI) summer visit at SCIL

Students from The Illinois School for the Visually Impaired (ISVI) Summer visit at SCIL

Vicky Mullis, a teacher at the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired (ISVI) contacted SCIL to arrange for students in the summer program to visit SCIL and learn more about our agency. Twelve students from the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired (ISVI) visited SCIL on Wednesday, June 18, 2014 along with their teachers Barb Strang and Cindy Kemp, and care workers Bridgette Beckman and Michelle Smith. The students and teachers were given a tour of the SCIL office and were introduced to staff members and learned a little about each position. Several staff members met with the students in the SCIL conference room where Susanne Cooper, Program Director and Karen DeLay, Community Resource Coordinator,

provided an overview of the history of the independent living movement and explained why the IL philosophy is so important to individuals who have disabilities. Other SCIL staff members present were: Dave Munroe, Independent Living Specialist, Melissa Norman, Employment Resources Specialist, Carolyn Thorpe, Youth Transition Specialist, Bradley Kinney, Personal Assistant Specialist, and Starla Norris, Access Coordinator. Staff members presented information about the programs/services they provide to consumers, and ISVI students were given an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about centers for independent living. The students were encouraged to describe themselves and what they would like to do after High School. SCIL staff and the ISVI students enjoyed a relaxed meeting and gained a great deal of information about each other!

## United Methodist Women's Group Visits SCIL

Debbie Miller, a Youth Leader with the Illinois Great River Conference of Methodist Women contacted SCIL in the spring to set up a tour of SCIL and identify opportunities for her youth group to engage in disability awareness activities.

Every year Debbie's group from Southern Illinois makes a trip to Springfield to attend a conference. High School aged young women are also invited to make the trip and focus on an area of study while being mentored by the adult women of the group. While in Springfield, they planned to focus on a bible study with subject matter of their choosing. This year they engaged in the bible study, "The Church and People with Disabilities – Awareness, Accessibility and Advocacy."

Three adults, Reverend Karen Blank-Ewell, Brenda Learned, and Debbie Miller brought 6 young women to SCIL to participate in a tour of the facilities, to meet SCIL staff, learn about the programs and services offered, and to participate in an informal disability awareness presen-

tation. SCIL staff provided the group an understanding of the role of a center for independent living, consumer control (personal choice), the independent living philosophy and personal experiences in relation to the broader picture of the disability community.

Later in the day the group attended a planned visit to Illinois Assistive Technology Program (IATP) in Springfield. At IATP they were given a tour, provided demonstrations, and gained a better understanding of the availability of technology and other supports for people with disabilities.

Debbie Miller recently reported to SCIL staff that their group has shared the information from their trip with individuals in their churches and communities and plan to continue to spread the resources to others in the future. Debbie will work with a Junior High group of youth at her own church and explore the same bible study topic focusing on people with disabilities.

**Please see their youth group picture on the back page!**

## Employment Success!

Shane Pastrovich, a former Employment Resources consumer recently sat down with Melissa Norman, Employment Resource Specialist to discuss his job and the services he received at SCIL during his employment search. Shane currently works at Schnucks as a Courtesy Clerk, and has been working there since April 2014. He enjoys his job at Schnucks and especially enjoys interacting with and assisting the public. Shane believes that the instruction he received from SCIL staff on how to make a good impression at an interview was quite helpful. He is certain that the support and assistance he received at SCIL helped him become more confident in his job search and prepared him to present himself and his job skills more effectively. Shane learned that there is much more to the job seeking process than meets the eye. He believes that if individuals are truly interested in finding a job, SCIL is a great resource and can help you find job opportunities that you may not have thought of before.

If you are interested in SCIL's employment services, please contact Melissa Norman or Dave Munroe at 523-2587 or [mnorman@scil.org](mailto:mnorman@scil.org).



*Melissa Norman and Shane Pastrovich*

## Employment Discussion Group

**Are You a Person with a Disability who is looking for work?**

**Are you currently working and would like to talk to your peers about work related topics?**

**SCIL is exploring the idea of starting a discussion group for individuals with disabilities to talk about employment.**

**INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING?**

**For more information contact Melissa Norman [mnorman@scil.org](mailto:mnorman@scil.org)**

**or Dave Munroe [dmunroe@scil.org](mailto:dmunroe@scil.org)**

**or call (217) 523-2587 v/tty**



## VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES HELPLINE

On Tuesday, November 4, 2014, the General Election, Equip for Equality will have advocates available by telephone to answer questions about any voting problem you may experience.

Call: 1.800.537.2632

TTY: 1.800.610.2779

Email: [Voting@equipforequality.org](mailto:Voting@equipforequality.org)

7 am to 7 pm

Equip for Equality is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the human and civil rights of children and adults with disabilities in Illinois.



The great disability community civil rights leader, Justin Dart, Jr. once said, **“Vote as if your life depends on it, because it does.”**



### Are You A Person With A Disability? Do You Want Your Voice To Be Heard?

Springfield Center for Independent Living will be holding an informational meeting about our Legislative Training Program

**Friday, November 7, 2014 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at SCIL**

Please join us to learn more about this exciting program.

For more information or to reserve a spot, please contact  
Melissa Norman (217) 523-2587 v/tty

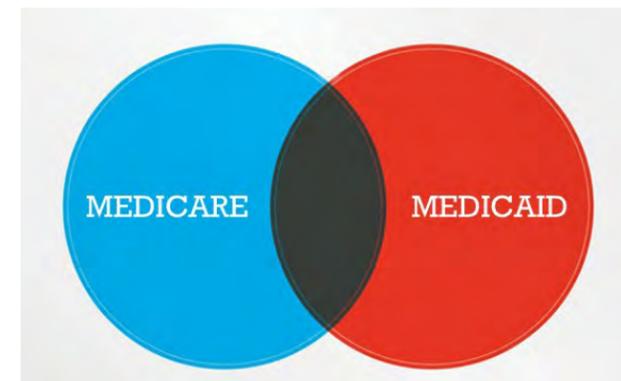
Please contact us a minimum of two weeks prior to the meeting  
if you need accommodations.

## Medicare and Medicaid Update

**IMPORTANT!** Remember that Medicare open enrollment runs from October 15 to December 7, 2014. If you have a red, white, and blue Medicare card, you hopefully already have a Part D prescription drug plan. If you have drug coverage and are satisfied, it is still recommended that you review your current plan's coverage for 2015 because some of your medications may or may not be covered. If you are new to Medicare and have not selected a prescription drug plan, doing so now will help reduce the chances of your being charged a penalty later on.

If you are covered by both Medicare and Medicaid, you are not subject to the enrollment period of October 15 through December 7. However, you have likely received notices regarding two plans in central Illinois—Health Alliance Connect and Molina Healthcare. These are two plans under the Medicare Medicaid Alignment Initiative (MMAI). At this time, participation in either of these two plans is optional for those covered by Medicare and Medicaid. Your medical care would be coordinated by one of the plans, rather than

Medicare and Medicaid. The letter explaining these plans under the MMAI includes a toll-free number for the Enrollment Broker who can help with enrollment but can also help if you wish to



opt out of the MMAI coverage and continue your original Medicare coverage. You will then have to select a prescription drug plan.

Confused? Feeling overwhelmed by all of the talk about changes in your healthcare options? If you need assistance navigating the waters of Medicare and Medicaid, please call Dave Munroe at SCIL at 217-523-2587 V/TTY to schedule an appointment.

### SCIL Welcomes New Reintegration Coordinator

We are happy to announce the addition of a new SCIL staff member. Welcome Denise Groesch, the new Reintegration Coordinator at SCIL. Denise recently relocated back to her hometown of Springfield after living in Litchfield for five years. She has worked in the social service field in a variety of capacities for approximately 20 years. Denise joined the SCIL staff in September, and is looking forward to learning and contributing new things within this position.

