



SCIL SPRINGFIELD CENTER FOR Independent Living

December 2014

THE SCIL ADVOCATE

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

SCIL Holds 29th Annual Meeting

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The Springfield Center for Independent Living’s 29th Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, November 20, 2014. The event took place at The Inn at 835 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. The evening included a program with a presentation by The Honorable James A. Lewis, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, an award presentation, and an hors d’oeuvre buffet and social hour.

Each year, SCIL honors individuals who have made valuable contributions to SCIL and people with disabilities in the community. Bradley Kinney, Personal Assistant Specialist presented the Jack Genskow Personal Assistant of the Year Award to Jalesha Horton for exemplary service as a personal assistant. Jalesha was nominated for this special honor because she consistently demonstrates a positive and selfless attitude in her position as a personal assistant.

President Debbie Gerstenberger introduced the current members of the Board of Directors: Emily

Ferdina, Julie Hubbard, Frank Kircher, Johnny Lott, Linda Roberts, Deborah Johnson-Small, and Chuck Watson. President Gerstenberger also introduced the three newly-elected board members: Kathie Corrigan, Mike Reese, and Bee Tyler.

Denise Groesch, Reintegration Coordinator, and Christina Bormida, Reintegration Specialist read the names of 5 individuals reintegrated during The Carl Suter “There’s No Place Like Home” Recognition. The five individuals were reintegrated between October 1, 2013 and September 30, 2014.

The guest speaker for the evening was James A. Lewis. Mr. Lewis spoke about his own introduction to the civil rights movement in Mississippi in the late 1960’s and early 1970’s. His story serves as a reminder of the many years of work and advocacy that have brought us to where we are today. Mr. Lewis’s presentation was inspirational and offered a moving and personal insight into issues of equality and human rights.



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

The next SCIL Legislative Training Program is being scheduled for early 2015.

The SCIL Legislative Training Program is a legislative advocacy program for people with disabilities. The program will prepare individuals with disabilities to become advocates by providing an understanding of the legislative process, the knowledge needed to identify issues and key individuals with the potential to impact the lives of people with disabilities, and establish the basic skills necessary to appropriately and effectively advocate for change. Topics to be addressed during the training will include, but not be limited to: the various branches of federal, state, county and city governments; the importance of advocacy; effectively communicating with legislators and other elected officials (including communicating in person, via written correspondence, and by telephone); the process of making laws; the importance of voting; the federal government and disability laws; preparing to meet legislators and other elected officials; how to stay involved and pursue a commitment to participate in community life; and a graduation ceremony. Program activities will include guest speakers and field trips, including a minimum of one trip to the State Capitol.

We are currently identifying participants for this program.

If you are a person with a disability and are interested in learning more about this training opportunity, please contact Melissa Norman at SCIL: (217)523-2587 v/tty

In Memory



Ron Hopwood passed away on August 16, 2014. Ron had a long history with SCIL. He served on the SCIL Board of Directors from 1999—2004. He served as the SCIL Board President in 2001. Ron was a dedicated member of the board and served on many committees. He provided countless hours of his time and energy to support the mission of SCIL. Ron also served on the SMTD Disabled Persons Advisory Committee, the Springfield Disabilities Committee, and The Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities in Illinois. He was a strong and dedicated advocate in his community. Ron is pictured with his wife Doris at the SCIL 2012 Annual Meeting. Rest in peace, dear friend.

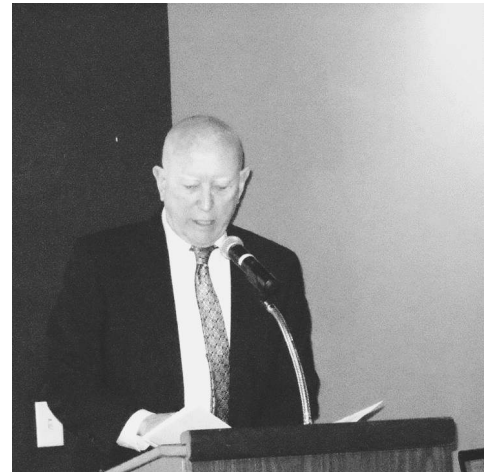
SCIL Welcomes New Independent Living Advocate

We are happy to announce the addition of a new SCIL staff member. Welcome MaryJane Logan, the new Independent Living Advocate at SCIL. MaryJane joined the SCIL staff in November and will provide services to individuals in Christian, Menard, Logan, Montgomery and rural Sangamon County.

MaryJane is excited to learn and contribute to the mission of this organization. She has volunteered/ worked for various political campaigns and nonprofit organizations for over 10 years in the Springfield and Jacksonville area. In addition, she has worked in the educational field in a variety of roles for more than seven years. Welcome to SCIL, MaryJane!



Left: to right: Dr. Clarice Ford, Vice Chancellor Student Affairs at UIS, Dr. Sarah Colby Weaver, Director of Disability Services UIS, Pete Roberts and Paulette Roberts.



Guest Speaker: The Honorable James A. Lewis



Jalesha Horton, Jack Genskow Personal Assistant of the Year pictured with Melissa Norman



Left: to right: Malieka Davis, Jill Steiner, SCIL President Debbie Gerstenberger, and former SCIL Board Member, Bruce Steiner.



**SPRINGFIELD CENTER FOR
Independent Living**

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DECEMBER 2014

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NEWSLETTER ARE
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PRINT AND ON
COMPUTER CD**

Monthly Support Groups

Heads Up Group

Contact Dave Munroe at SCIL: (217)523-2587 v/tty

Stroke/Brain Injury Support Group

Contact Lisa Cline at: (217)788-3461 or email: cline.lisa@mhsil.com

Personal Assistant Employers Group

Contact Bradley Kinney at SCIL: (217)523-2587 v/tty

Post-Polio Group

Contact Bradley Kinney at SCIL: (217)523-2587 v/tty

BEST (Becoming Empowered and Successful Teens) and Parent Transition Support Group

Contact Carolyn Thorpe at SCIL: (217)523-2587 v/tty

Having trouble hearing on the telephone?

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**SPRINGFIELD CENTER FOR
INDEPENDENT LIVING**
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Monday-Friday 8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

www.itactty.org A FREE program required and governed by Illinois law.

**Thank you to ITAC for sponsoring
SCIL's 29th Annual Meeting!**