



2010 Annual Report

October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2010



Southwest Center For
Independent Living
Choices and Empowerment
for People with Disabilities

Advocacy | **Information & Referral** | **Peer Support**
Independent Living Skills | **Personal Care**

The mission of Southwest Center for Independent Living is to promote a barrier-free environment for all individuals with disabilities through public education and advocacy for social change, and to provide a full range of independent living services, which will assist each in meeting his or her goals for independence.

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From the Executive Director

This year has turned into a roller coaster ride – a lot of ups and downs, peaks and valleys that have dictated our services provided in the last year. Centers for Independent Living across the state and country are feeling the burden of our current economic downturn; however, the need for our services continues to rise. Despite these hard times, I am proud to present an Annual Report filled with yet another year's worth of great accomplishments and services provided to persons with disabilities in Southwest Missouri.

This past year SCIL continued to respond to the needs of our community by fulfilling our mission to break down attitudinal and architectural barriers, build bridges of understanding, and create options and choices in a continuing process of empowering individuals with disabilities. We provided support services to 985 individuals of all ages with all types of disabilities.

The building project, both the new section and the remodeling of the old building, is now complete. Immediately, staff and consumers recognized the benefit and usefulness of the added space. One unexpected surge of use was Penny's Place, our community room. This new space has allowed us to grow our services and the types of events we offer. In addition, the room can be used free-of-charge by anyone, and the community has really taken advantage of the space.

We relocated the Branson office to the Faith Community Health building in historic downtown Branson. This building is a hub for community services in Stone and Taney Counties, which really gives us even more visibility in the Branson area. Requests for services continue to grow in Stone and Taney Counties, which will require us to reallocate additional resources to add staff in the next 12 to 18 months.

After months of planning, our new In-Home Services program is up and running. We added our first consumer in late September and the program is slowly taking off. The addition of this program gives persons with disabilities two choices to receive attendant care services in the home from SCIL. Choices and options are a basic tenet of Independent Living and we are proud to offer this additional choice.

Our CDS program continues to remain stable with about 350 persons receiving the services they need to keep them independent and living in their own homes and communities. We added 73 new

consumers this past year.

One of our passions is to transition people out of residential or nursing homes to living independently in the community. It takes around two months of preparation to transition someone out of an institution and into his or her own home. This past year we freed a number of individuals and are working with many others. We consider each one of these transitions an immense victory, as it speaks right to the heart of the Independent Living Philosophy.

As I said last year, the tougher times ahead are now a reality as the economy continues to struggle, which directly affects our funding. Despite cuts in our Federal and State appropriations and a 28¢ per hour cut in our Medicaid funding, we have been able to maintain our staffing and provide even more services than in the 2008-2009 reporting year.

I believe this economic downturn will continue in 2010 – 2011, and to increase our presence and our income, we are looking at new venues for growth and increasing our marketing and fundraising efforts. Our Board of Directors, staff and I are all equally committed to providing quality services to individuals with disabilities in our service area. Being fiscally conservative in our spending and liberal in our pursuits of better ways to serve and empower our consumers and diversify our funding has allowed us to, and will continue to allow us to provide exemplary services and support to our community.

There are challenges ahead, but I believe we are up to meeting these challenges. We've proven that despite low valleys, we were still able to reach high heights and still maintain full speed ahead. We will continue to anticipate the valleys as much as possible and prepare for them by holding the line, diversifying our funding, and finding new and creative ways to serve our consumers; and most importantly, we'll make sure we have a little fun along the way.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Maddox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "M".

Gary Maddox
Executive Director



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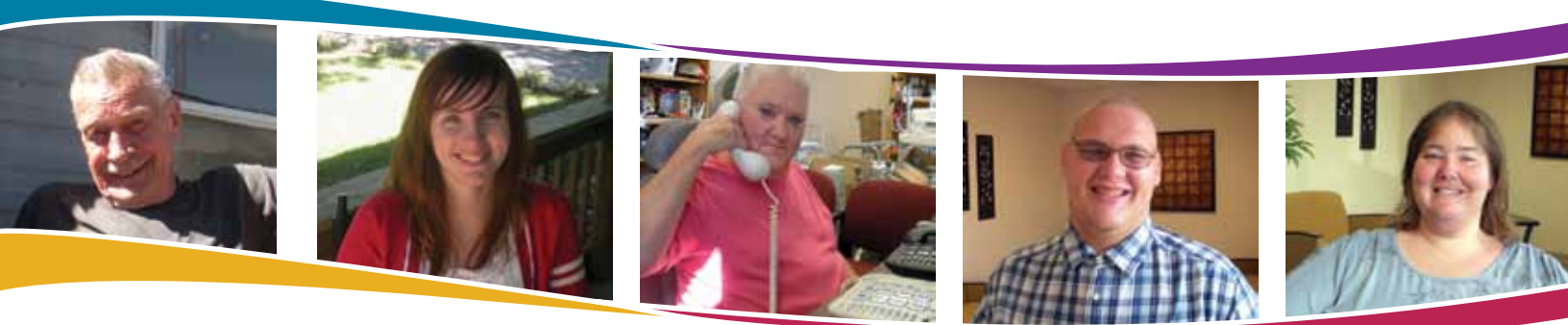
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History

The Southwest Center for Independent Living (SCIL) is a private, non-profit agency founded in 1985 by a grassroots group of concerned citizens. Our doors opened on February 2, 1986. SCIL serves all persons, regardless of age or disability type. We are one of over 400 Centers for Independent Living with 38 satellites nationwide. All Centers are consumer-controlled, which means that the majority of the governing board and staff are persons with disabilities. Those using our services have a wide range from which to choose, although all Centers offer four core services:

- ▶ Individual and Systems Advocacy
- ▶ Information and Referral
- ▶ Independent Living Skills Training
- ▶ Peer Support

SCIL serves all individuals in our eight county area with any disability. Those disabilities are defined as a physical, mental, cognitive or sensory impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity, including the ability to function independently in the family or community or to obtain, maintain or advance in employment in these Missouri counties: Christian, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney and Webster.



2009 - 2010 Board of Directors

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Programs & Services: Core Services

All Centers for Independent Living provide the following four core services as mandated by the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the United States government:

- ▶ Individual and Systems Advocacy
- ▶ Information and Referral Services
- ▶ Peer Support
- ▶ Independent Living Skills Training

These four services represent the heart of the independent living philosophy with the concept of “consumer or client control” which guides the programs and services we offer consumers. Individual control means that people with disabilities know their own needs best and have the right to make decisions regarding their daily lives.

In addition, a majority of the Southwest Center for Independent Living (SCIL) staff and board of directors are individuals living with disabilities. This element of our organization gives a unique perspective of understanding for the needs for individuals with disabilities.

The succeeding pages outline SCIL’s successes in the four core services and the additional

services we provide to our consumers and the community.

Individual and Systems Advocacy

Advocacy efforts woven into the fabric of daily activities at SCIL to achieve a positive change in the larger community, state or nation, make a difference for persons with disabilities living today and tomorrow.

Whether Disability Advocates help a student receive an appropriate, accessible education in a school, or in getting a law changed, everyone in the community can benefit. Highlights from this year’s advocacy activities follow:

- ▶ SCIL staff and consumers attended two Legislative Education Programs (LEP) in Jefferson City in February and April.
- ▶ 35 consumers attended the Disability Legislative Rights rally this year.
- ▶ SCIL staff and consumers attended the Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) conference in Kansas City, including four youth with disabilities from the Branson area along with their teacher, three youth from the Springfield area along



Programs & Services: Core Services

with their parents and family, and an adult consumer.

- ▶ The Legislative Organizing Opportunities Project (LOOP) group made up of self-advocates focused on how they can make a positive impact on Missourians with disabilities. LOOP organized monthly lunch meetings with local or state representative and discussed ideas and concerns with legislators. Self-advocates also made several visits to local Congressional offices. The funding for this group was made possible through the Missouri Foundation for Health grant we received the past two years. SCIL looks forward to the continuation of this motivated group of consumer advocates.
- ▶ SCIL staff attended 30 Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings, which doubled the strategic plan goal, acting as advocates on behalf of students with disabilities in area school systems. Also, Youth Advocates attended nine Family Support Team (FST) meetings.
- ▶ SCIL remained a member of the Disability Coalition on Healthcare Reform and the Missouri Health Advocacy Alliance.
- ▶ SCIL continued involvement with the Statewide Independent Living Council's Housing Committee and efforts to educate our local and state community about the benefits of Universal Design in planning and development.
- ▶ Staff members traveled to Washington, D.C. for the National Council on Independent Living and Families USA conferences, where they were able to visit with Congressional delegates on Capitol Hill with other Missouri advocates.
- ▶ SCIL sponsored a political forum on

the topics of housing, healthcare and transportation for people with disabilities in Stone and Taney counties. Local and state candidates were invited and 26 individuals attended the event held in Branson for our rural consumers.

- ▶ The second annual Freedom Fest held at SCIL celebrated disability rights and educated attendees about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Information and Referral Services (I & R)

I & R services answer questions relating to any disability issue for the disability community, the general public, businesses, media and other organizations. SCIL maintains a wealth of resources and our staff researchs many topics on behalf of consumers.

SCIL furnishes information on financial assistance, health care, housing, medicaid, social security, transportation, other resources to mention a few. If necessary, we make a referral to other appropriate agencies for services we do not provide.

SCIL responded to over 6,335 requests for information and/or referral this year. In addition, the SCIL Website, www.swcil.org, had over 5,100 hits for the year, an increase of 19% over last year.

Peer Support

Talking with others who have a similar disability or who have experienced circumstances like your own can be a powerful step toward lifting self esteem, finding new ways of succeeding in performing daily activities, and has led to long friendships. SCIL provides training for volunteers with various disabilities to provide peer support. Of course, since many staff members also have a disability, a lot of peer support takes place visiting with consumers on a daily basis. SCIL offers many individual and group opportunities to meet with



Programs & Services: Core Services

others.

At SCIL, the Post-Polio Support Group and Women Inventing Tomorrow Group met throughout the year.

A Peer Support Training held at SCIL over multiple sessions shared our philosophy of how people with disabilities know their own needs best and the training focused on how to be an effective peer supporter in the community.

Independent Living Skills Training and Recreational Opportunities

Based on consumer choice, independent living skills are taught as requested toward goals of living with increased self-sufficiency. Persons may choose to meet individually or in groups with staff to learn these skills or participate in one of our many educational series held throughout the year.

SCIL also offers recreational activities and

social events on a regular basis to promote positive relationships and to provide new recreational experiences.

The following workshops and educational programs were among the many offered this year:

- ▶ Hosted two MPACT (Missouri Parents Act) Trainings and co-hosted two with the Springfield Regional Office
- ▶ Elder Law and Estate Planning
- ▶ Sewing Class
- ▶ Craft Group
- ▶ Cooking Class Series
- ▶ Drivers Education
- ▶ Four dances, two picnics and two movie nights were also held this year. In addition,
- ▶ Springfield Social Club met on a weekly basis with 30-40 consumers in attendance
- ▶ Branson Social Club met monthly with 10-15 in attendance

Programs & Services: Additional Services

SCIL offers additional services to assist people with disabilities in meeting their goals for greater independence beyond the four core services. Overall, SCIL provided in-depth assistance to 985 individuals who set their own goals for self-achievement between the four core services and additional services listed below.

Personal Care Services

SCIL offers two state approved care choices: Consumer Directed Services (CDS) and In-Home Services (IHS). Both programs allow individuals with physical disabilities to obtain assistance with personal care and daily living while maintaining independence in their own homes and communities rather than in residential facilities such as nursing homes. SCIL offers both programs through the Missouri Division of Senior and

Disability Services and accepts Medicaid.

▶ Consumer Directed Services (CDS)

CDS gives individuals the freedom of consumer control to hire and direct their own care attendants, including family members. The program services include personal care, toileting, housekeeping, meals and transportation. SCIL provides training to consumers on how to hire, train and supervise their attendants and assigns a case worker to maintain services. This year 73 new recipients were added to the program.

▶ In-Home Services (IHS)

Approved in late August, SCIL began taking new clients for our new attendant care program in September available to individuals with disabilities in Christian, Greene and Polk counties. IHS offers an additional choice of care with SCIL care attendants, in which SCIL staff trains, insures and



Programs & Services: Additional Services

supervises. IHS services can include bathing/ personal care, housekeeping, meal preparation, shopping/errands, respite care and nurse visits for medication setup or foot care to name a few. In addition to being Medicaid funded, IHS also accepts private pay. IHS has contracted with American Veterans Care Coordination for referral and case management of veteran's benefits for in-home care for veterans and their spouses.

Assisting Consumers Through Technology (ACTT)

The ACTT program assists individuals in finding adaptive equipment and devices that allow them more independence in performing everyday activities. The Assistive Technology Demonstration Center located at SCIL houses a wide variety of Assistive Technology (AT) where people can examine and experiment with devices before they purchase them elsewhere. Some of the AT devices available to view in the demo room include grooming aids, kitchen devices, adaptive fishing equipment and magnifying devices. Also, SCIL purchases and donates some devices for those with low incomes.

ACTT administers the Missouri Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) which provides free adaptive telephones and signaling devices for individuals with all types of disabilities. This program has eligibility requirements such as, the inability to use a regular phone due to disability and income less than \$60,000 a year. The demo room has many phones to test and choose from that are adapted for all types of disabilities. SCIL also houses the Low Vision Center from Rehabilitation Services for the Blind.

This year the ACTT department:

- ▶ Assisted 1,130 individuals who requested information or services related to assistive technology

- ▶ Assisted 281 consumers with applications for a free telephone through TAP
- ▶ Received \$53,784 worth of in-kind donations of assistive devices and equipment
- ▶ Donated 373 assistive devices and equipment to consumers who had no other means of obtaining what they needed

Renovation and Modification Projects (RAMPS)

SCIL began the RAMPS program in 1991 and offers assistance with home modifications for low-income individuals with disabilities to increase access and usability of their homes. Making these modifications creates more independence for consumers and often helps them avoid living in a nursing home or residential facility.

Modifications may include construction of a ramp, widening of bathroom doors, or installation of grab bars, wheelchair lifts or hand-held shower heads.

Individuals may be homeowners or tenants and need to meet income and other guidelines. SCIL funds the program through donations of cash, in-kind materials or time from volunteers to build ramps.

91 home modifications were made this year, including:

- ▶ 53 total ramps built, 25 built by volunteers
- ▶ Installed a wheelchair lift, 18 hand-held shower heads, eight grab bars, three handrails, three tub bars, two steps, two wedge ramps and widened a door.

The RAMPS department owes much of its success to the volunteers who have pulled together to build ramps this year allowing for projects to be completed on a minimal budget. 97 volunteers assisted with ramps this year, logging 1,003 volunteer hours.



Programs & Services: Additional Services

► Lift Up Benefit Concert

In August, SCIL held the second annual Lift-Up Benefit Concert at the Jim Stafford Theatre in Branson. Area performers donated their time and talent to raise money to purchase and install wheelchair lifts in the Branson area. Due to the hilly terrain in Stone and Taney Counties, typical wooden ramps cannot be built to gain access into some homes. Lifts typically cost \$7-10,000 to purchase and install.

Consumer Lori Locke and volunteer Clint Dinkins served on the committee to make the concert a success. The event proceeds will allow SCIL to install two wheelchair lifts at consumer homes and offer them more independence.

Youth Services

SCIL youth programs continue to serve teens and young adults as they transition into adulthood. Now in its fourth year with a dedicated Youth Advocate, we added a second part-time Youth Advocate to meet the increasing needs of youth with disabilities.

In total youth services works with more than 100 youth. The youth life skills group Your Life continued to grow and now includes more than 50 youth weekly. The program's independent living skills curriculum teaches students at SCIL, in public schools and in residential settings social interaction, character building, healthy relationships and leadership.

In addition to the weekly on-site group, monthly recreational events provided have high attendance. A few of the events this year included the Evening of Enchantment Prom, movie parties, Springfield Little Theatre, Incredible Pizza and bowling. Over thirty youth received financial assistance for summer camp scholarships or donation of essential living items.

SCIL's Youth Advocates promote inclusion for

youth with disabilities through active involvement in an array of organizations including MPACT's Regional Transition Network, Regional Advisory Council to the Springfield Regional Office, Southwest Chapter of the Missouri Rehabilitation Association, Springfield Special Education Parent Teacher Association, Violence Free Families, Operation Us and 6 special education public school classrooms.

► Price Cutter Charity Championship

For the second year, Youth Services participated as one of the over 40 charities of the August golf tournament. Many Your Life youth and volunteers worked at the event in the VIP tent. SCIL raised both awareness and needed funds for the program.

Day at the Range and Outdoor Adventure Fair

This year marked the seventh Annual Day at the Range and Outdoor Adventure Fair held in June at the Andy Dalton Shooting Range in Bois D'Arc, Missouri. Nearly 600, participated in the free event full of accessible outdoor activities including 227 disabled participants, 195 family members and guests, and over 175 volunteers. SCIL hosts this event each year through a collaboration with the Missouri Conservation Department and the Show-me Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation—Wheelin' Sportsman.

The volunteer group provides two managed hunting opportunities for persons with disabilities each year with the Fall deer and Spring turkey hunts. Several individuals with disabilities attended first time and bagged their first game.



Other Accomplishments

SCIL's efforts to empower individuals with disabilities to live independently extend into the community and with collaborative organizations. Highlights from the year include:

Building Expansion Completed

Thank you to SCIL staff, Board of Directors and the Consumer Advisory Council, for their hard work assisting in the completion of the building expansion project. The addition of 6,700 square feet in January has allowed staff to better meet the needs of our organization and consumers.

► Penny's Place

Nancy "Penny" Schwartz, a long-time friend of SCIL, donated funds to incorporate a community room in the Center that allows SCIL to offer multiple trainings, meetings and additional group space to further the education on disabilities and the Independent Living Philosophy.



Branson Office

In June, the Branson office moved to the Faith Community Health building in downtown Branson to better serve people with disabilities in Stone and Taney counties. The building shares offices with other non-profit service providers and the move has shown an increase in consumer requests.

Collaboration and Networking

Staff dedicated 739 hours building coalitions and collaborative partnerships designed to expand the participation in community services and programs by individuals with disabilities.

Community Action Partnerships

SCIL staff maintained membership in organizations that promote positive change for the disabled and non-disabled populations in

Southwest Missouri. Some of these memberships include: Missouri Rehabilitation Association, Springfield Special Education Parent Teacher Association, Violence Free Families, Community Connections, Healthy Family Task Force, Project Homeless Connect, Regional Housing Collaborative, Senior Link, Community Partnership of the Ozarks and more. Staff represented SCIL in over 35 organizations throughout the state and nation. Also, SCIL partnered with the 2010 Census.

Community Education and Public Information

Staff dedicated 401 hours to activities, information and training programs to enhance community awareness of disabilities and disability issues. Many presentations raised disability awareness including speaking with PT and OT students from Missouri State University, Ozarks Technical Community College and Southwest Baptist College about assistive technology. SCIL provided educational opportunities for practicum students in both social work and graphic design areas.

Deinstitutionalization

Taking to heart the "Free Our People" slogan, SCIL emancipated six individuals from nursing homes and transitioned them to living independently in the community. SCIL Advocates always actively work toward the deinstitutionalization of individuals with disabilities, but face large barriers in doing so, such as a lack of accessible and affordable housing.

As part of the Statewide Money Follows the Person Collaboration, SCIL utilizes the federal grant that allows state funds to be used to transition persons with disabilities out of nursing homes and institutions and into less restrictive environments through the use of community-based services.



Other Accomplishments

Emergency Preparedness and Community Response

Actively involved since 911, SCIL staff participated along with our consumers in a number of organized response drills this past year. We recognize the importance of emergency preparedness for individuals with disabilities and as a leader in this area; SCIL has become the “disability connection” for Region D and throughout the state. In the event of activation or emergency, our Center will respond along with emergency authorities to help those with disabilities.

SCIL worked with other advocates across the state and nation and saw segregated sheltering come to an end this year. After over five years of work, this is a major victory for persons with disabilities. We will continue to work diligently in this arena.

Housing

To bring accessibility issues to the table, SCIL maintained representation on the Housing Collaborative and Universal Design sub-committee with the Missouri Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC). SCIL staff continues to collaborate with Boards of Realtors and Habitat for Humanity in an effort to promote accessible, affordable housing. In addition, we worked with area advocates to help change local and state codes to embrace Universal Design initiatives and other accessibility issues. Our Disability Advocates work with individuals with disabilities on a daily basis with housing-related issues.

Media & Marketing

SCIL has had many opportunities to educate our service area and state through interviews with local and state media outlets.

SCIL also now has five television commercials and public service announcements on air in the

Ozarks area.

Outreach

SCIL’s Education & Outreach Coordinator and other SCIL staff dedicated 857 hours to promote services that increase independence. Outreach efforts involve contact with individuals and agencies to encourage the use of the services the Center provides to unserved or underserved populations of individuals with disabilities.

Publications

Staff dedicated 96 hours to the creation and distribution of publications by the Center. This includes our bimonthly newsletter, the Beacon, which has a circulation of over 2,500.

Training

SCIL staff participated in 316 hours of training in the last year on various subjects that affect persons with disabilities including two national, multiple statewide and local conferences and Mental Health First Aide by NAMI.

Transportation

Over the past year, we helped 455 people achieve their goal of transportation by providing this service to them.

A member of SCIL staff serves as a board member for the Ozarks Transportation Organization and as an active member of the Paratransit Committee to collaborate and provide accessible transportation in the Ozarks region.

Volunteer Banquet

The second annual Volunteer Banquet honored 41 volunteers who help SCIL throughout the year including building ramps, assisting with Social Club and more. Keynote speaker, Brian Fogle, Executive Vice President of the Community Foundation of the Ozarks spoke to more than 50 in attendance.



Financial Statement of Activities

Year ending June 30, 2010

REVENUE

Title VII Federal Grant	\$54,736
State Independent Living Grant	\$201,453
State CDS Program	\$5,153,940
ARRA Grant	\$14,849
Missouri Highway and Transportation Grant	\$2,016
Southwest Missouri Office on Aging Grant	\$1,411
Membership and Donations	\$2,118
Interest	\$14,469
In-Kind Donations	\$92,137
Loan Proceeds	\$767,880
Other	\$103,825
Total Revenue.....	\$6,408,834

EXPENSES

Salaries/Benefits	\$1,304,925
Operational	\$257,371
Contractual Services	\$3,307,253
General / Administrative Expenses	\$1,136,713
Total Expenses.....	\$6,006,262
Change in Net Assets	(\$393,591)
Net Assets, Beginning of the Year (Adj)	\$1,007,926
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR.....	\$1,410,498

Annual audit prepared by Davis, Lynn, & Moots, P.C.



Donations Year ending June 30, 2010

Thank you to our 2010 sponsors and donors. Your support helps many individuals with disabilities attain their independent living goals.

Assisting Consumers Through Technology (ACTT)

Up to \$99

- Joanne L. Angell
- Wanda Payne
- Jeremy Wallin
- Lois L. Woods

Building Expansion

\$20,000 - \$24,999

- Nancy "Penny" L. Schwartz

\$1,000 - \$1,499

- Anonymous

Day at the Range & Outdoor Adventure Fair

\$1,000 - \$1,499

- Kenny Ross

\$500 - \$999

- Aztec Computer Outfitters
- Great Southern Bank
- Thomas B. Rankin

General Funds

\$100 - \$249

- William Stork

Up to \$99

- Dona Baucom
- James P. Franke
- In Memory of Juanita Lane - Dorsay Vorse for Dottie, Paulin
- In Memory of Nelson Parnell - Kathleen Clancy
- Ronald Rackovan
- Gerald Smith
- Ralph Thaemlitz
- John W. Van Bibber
- Ruth Marie Young
- Terry Wheeler

Keith V. Collier Memorial - Post Polio Group

\$100 - \$249

- In Memory of Richard Biscof - Phyllis L. Bischof

Up to \$99

- Janice Artherholt
- Lisa Artherholt
- In Memory of Richard Biscof - Melodi K. Rayl
- Eloise Christie
- Leroy Spargur & Ann Collier
- Julie Curtis

- Richard Green
- Charlotte Miller
- Donald Nelson

Renovation and Modification Projects (RAMPS)

\$200 - \$499

- Pi Kappa Phi
- Push America

Up to \$99

- Anonymous

Social Club

\$500 - \$999

- Anonymous

Your Life - Youth with Disabilities Group

\$500 - \$999

- Price Cutter Charity Championship

\$200 - \$499

- G. Dowdy
- Springfield Public Schools

How You Can Help

By volunteering with the center through day-to-day activities, fundraisers or groups, your support can ensure the quality of life for yourself or someone you love with a disability. SCIL also gratefully accepts financial contributions in cash, in-kind items or through estate planning.

However you choose to support SCIL, we appreciate your commitment to our organization. Please contact SCIL to make a donation or for more information.



SCIL is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. All proceeds benefit persons with disabilities.