



The Beacon

Choices and Empowerment for People with Disabilities

Advocacy | Information & Referral | Peer Support | Independent Living Skills

Personal Care | Accessibility | Assistive Technology

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Inside This Issue:

- Beacon Features - 1
- Executive Director - 2
- In Memory Greg Greven - 2
- Legislative LOOP - 3
- Healthcare Reform Act - 3
- Celebrating 25 Years - 4
- Branson Beat - 5
- Upcoming Events - 5
- Assistive Technology - 6
- Renters Rebate - 6
- In Memory Max Starkloff - 6
- Independence Again - 7
- Personal Care Services - 7
- Get Involved - 8

Main Office:

2864 S. Nettleton Ave.
Springfield, MO 65807
Fax 417.886.3619

Branson Branch:

610 S. 6th St., Suite. 201
Branson, MO 65616
Fax 417.239.2735

Voice/TTY: 417.886.1188

Toll Free: 800.676.7245

scil@swcil.org

www.swcil.org

Mission: 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.



Amber Audrain

Independence Again, Moving Out

By Amber Audrain

As a Disability Advocate (DA) with Southwest Center for Independent Living (SCIL), one of the most rewarding services we provide is helping individuals with disabilities transition out of nursing homes and back into the community. Recently, Barbara, a Springfield consumer of SCIL made that change with a Missouri program called Money Follows the Person (MFP).

"I love it. I have a sense of independence again and new joy," said Barbara. She didn't plan on living in the nursing home, especially for two years. At first she was told she would be there a few days for monitoring, receive rehabilitation and then be released to go back home. However, as time passed, her doctor found reasons to keep her in the facility. The reality became clear that Barbara had a lot of hard work ahead of her.

"It was dehumanizing. I found myself sinking into depression and no matter how much medication they prescribed, it couldn't fix it," said Barbara. She shared that "it crushes my soul to think about what I went through there. I didn't need antidepressants. ► **MORE Pg. 7**



Leslie Clary

Healthcare Reform Act (ACA)

By Leslie Clary

In March 2010, President Obama signed

into law the Affordable

Care Act (ACA), which put in place

comprehensive health insurance reforms that will hold insurance companies more accountable, lower health care costs, guarantee more health care choices, and enhance the quality of health care for all Americans.

Recently SCIL staff attended the Families USA conference in Washington DC.

Conference speakers included Senator Tom Harkin and Senator Max Baccus as well as

representatives from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, the Herndon Alliance, and even an appearance from President Barack Obama.

For 2011 the focus will be implementation and dissemination of information.

The ACA benefits discussed included the following:

- Ends discriminatory pricing in the non-group market and the denial of coverage for pre-existing conditions.
- Provides tax credits for lower and middle class families capping their insurance costs. Families below the median income will no longer have to spend ► **MORE Pg. 3**

Message from the Executive Director



Is There Still A Cause?

Recently, Springfield and the surrounding area were dumped on... and in more ways than one. Many of us saw 8 - 12 inches of snow, which made it difficult to travel, especially for persons with mobility impairments or those who use wheelchairs.

Then, just as the weather started to clear, we lost a strong advocate for persons with disabilities when Greg Greven passed away in a tragic fire.

Greg was generally recognized as a tireless advocate for the disability community and he was just that. He also had a visible presence in the community.

One of Greg's last advocacy initiatives was when he met with Springfield City Council to get a local election rescheduled because of the snow and how it



Snow cleared from parking lots block disabled parking.

impacted the ability of persons with disabilities to get to the polls.

Then, I was out in the community the day before his funeral and came across a huge pile of snow that was pushed into a handicapped parking space. More than a week after the snowstorm, persons with disabilities are still being negatively impacted. This is not the first time I have seen this happen.

So, the answer to the question, "Is there still a cause?" is a resounding "YES."

Twenty-one years after the passage of the ADA, it still snows, and knowingly or unknowingly, persons with disabilities are dumped on. And 21 years after the passage of the ADA, we are still relying on tireless advocates on the local, state and national level to ensure that people with disabilities have equal access to our communities.

SCIL believes there is still a cause and we have many skilled and educated advocates here to carry on the work. While we have made some progress, I am confident we probably have job security for another 21 years.

Gary E. Maddox
Executive Director



Gregory Scott Greven
1968 - 2011

In Memory

Greg was involved with SCIL as a member of the disability community for many years advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities, creating awareness of disability issues and standing in the gap for individuals like him that came up against many architectural and attitudinal barriers.

He will be missed, our deepest and sincere sympathy goes to Greg's family and the many who love him.

Southwest Center for Independent Living

Board of Directors

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Legislative LOOP



Register to vote!

Individuals with disabilities can register to vote from home on the Permanently Disabled Absentee Voting List. For more information visit: www.movoteathome.org

By William Stork, Community Advisory Board Chair

As a sign of the times, money doesn't stretch as far as it used to. Social Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) have seen freezes and with the rising cost of living, individuals with disabilities survive on less and less.

Another trouble relates to legislative changes on the horizon.

State and federal representatives will soon vote on issues that will have a deeper impact to the necessary funds we rely on to live.

The disabled community must come together, let our voices be heard and show our leaders the right choices to make. The time is now for us to share the knowledge and experience we have and teach our political leaders what we need to survive. Remember, they represent us so we must be the voice they hear to ensure our equal rights continue. ☺

Healthcare Reform Act (ACA)

▶ CONTINUED Pg. 1

- ▶ more than 9.5% of income on insurance. And small businesses will receive tax credits to offset their insurance costs.
- ▶ Allows children to remain on their parent's insurance until the age of 26.
- ▶ Closes the "donut hole" in Medicare completely by 2020 with benefits starting in 2010.
- ▶ Holds insurance companies accountable by requiring them to spend 80 to 85 percent of premium dollars on medical care and health care quality improvement, rather than on administrative costs.
- ▶ Sets up a new competitive private health insurance market, through state exchanges, giving millions of Americans and small businesses access to affordable coverage, and the same choices as Congress.

A bill to repeal the ACA was recently passed within the House of Representatives and questions still remain within the public about the cost, effectiveness and constitutionality of the ACA.

As a point of comparison

Massachusetts passed health care reform within their state in 2006 and has been able to successfully run a program similar to the ACA including the personal responsibility mandate.

A study conducted by the Urban Institute and released in December 2010 by the Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy stated that as of June 2010, 98.1 percent of state residents had coverage. This compared to 97.3 percent having coverage in the state in 2009 and 83.3 percent having coverage nationwide. ☺

10th Annual Disability Rights Legislative Rally and Day at the Capitol

Come with SCIL & Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Limited transportation & accommodations available upon request.

Day: Wed., Mar. 9, 2011

Time: Depart 7am from SCIL

Agenda: At the Capitol

10-11:15 am

Registration

Legislator Visits

11:15 am - 12 pm

Rally, 1st Floor Rotunda

12-230 pm

Lunch & Legislator Visits

2:30-3 pm

Closing Rally

Location: Jefferson City

Register: Call 886-1188

Contact: Krista

Let Your Voice

Be Heard, Vote Local!

City of Springfield City Council Seat C and Zone 3

General Election:

Day: Tue., Apr. 5, 2011

<http://www.springfieldmo.gov/government/index.html>

Healthcare Reform Act Additional Resources:

Congressional Budget Office:
www.cbo.gov

Families USA:

www.familiesusa.org
www.healthcare.gov



Support Groups
Please RSVP

Women Inventing Tomorrow (WIT)
Bimonthly - 1st Thursday
1:30 - 3:30 pm at SCIL
March 3, May 5
Contact Jen

Circle of Friends Craft Group
Monthly - 3rd Thursday
1:30 - 3:30 pm at SCIL
March 17, April 21
Contact Stacie A.

Post-Polio
Bimonthly - 3rd Monday
1:30 - 3:30 pm at SCIL
April 18
Contact Marion

Branson Social Club
Monthly - 4th Thursday
3 - 5 pm at various locations
March 24, April 28
Contact Brooke

Legislative Organizing Opportunities Project (LOOP)
Monthly at SCIL
Contact Shelby

Social Club
Weekly - Wed. 1 - 3 pm
Contact Stacie A.

Youth - Your Life
Weekly - Mon. 4-6 pm
Contact Nathan

**** In case of inclement weather, call ahead for cancellations.**



Marion Trimble

Celebrating 25 Years

By Marion Trimble

My first memory of Southwest Center for Independent

Living (SCIL) takes me to the first location on Cinderella Street in the spring of 1992 while I waited to turn in my resume.

It wasn't someone that I met first, but a funny little dog with big eyebrows and a scruffy mustache that came bounding around the corner. He looked at me, then ran back down the hallway and a few seconds later he brought his master to greet me.

The dog was "Whiskers," a hearing dog who belonged to Betty Claypool an Independent Living Specialist (ILS). I was hired



Betty Claypool & Whiskers - 1990's

a month later and Whiskers and I became long-time friends and coworkers.

My first job as an ILS focused my time on creating the new transition program for high school students with disabilities called Creating Amazing Transitions (CAT).

There were ample students wanting to participate, however the challenge lay in building bridges of communication and partnerships with public schools and parents. After years of educating the community and providing our

program, CAT became a great success.

As an ILS, I provided the core services of the Independent Living Movement through information and referral and larger cases with consumers. Our staff was small and we each wore many hats from



Creating Amazing Transitions (CAT) youth with disabilities - 1990's

assistive technology to advocacy and outreach to marketing.

Advocacy for the rights of individuals with disabilities in the community was needed everywhere you looked: city buses needed accessibility, curb cuts were in bad shape or too steep, the American's With Disabilities Act (ADA) had just been passed and the road to compliance was just beginning.

Often, the public did not understand who we were, what we wanted or why we wanted it. Fighting for equal access was a never ending battle and most consumer goals required the constant persistence of our staff members.

Those early years were not for wimps, but we persevered and the consumers we taught have paved the way for others with disabilities today.

SCIL continues this legacy broadening consumer's world of inclusion each and every day and I am so much honored to have been part of that growth. ☺

Upcoming Events



Movie Night

Limited transportation & accommodations available upon request.

Day: Fri. Mar. 18, 2011

Time: 7-9 pm

Location: SCIL

2864 S Nettleton Ave
Springfield, MO

Cost: 50¢

or a snack to share

Register: Call 886-1188

Contact: Amber

8th Annual Day at the Range & Outdoor Adventure Fair

Mark Your Calendars!

Our mission for the event is to introduce people with disabilities to the many outdoor activities through education, hands-on opportunities, and assistive technology so that they may choose to participate at their own ability level.

Limited transportation & accommodations available upon request.

Day: Sat. June 18, 2011

Time: 8 am - 2pm

Location: Andy Dalton Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Center,
Bois D'Arc, MO

Cost: Free

Register: Call 886-1188

Contact: Patty

Website: www.swcil.org
www.southwestmissouridayattherange.com

Branson Beat

By Brooke Lewis

Branson has been hit hard with the recent snows and we apologize to anyone who was inconvenienced - hope we didn't miss you.

Branson staff will collaborate with Taney County Ozarks Area Community Action Cooperation (OACAC) in presenting classes on money management and budgeting Wednesday's February 23 - March 16 1-3 pm.

Watch for information on the Faith Community Health Block Party in April.

Branson Social Club met in January at Clocker's Café to plan future activities, socialize, and "gamble" for M&Ms. Judy Story intuitively won the container of peanut M&Ms with a perfect guess of 500.

Mark your calendars for March 24 and April 28. Branson Social Club will be digging their forks into international theme cuisines such as "Viva Mexico" and "Io amo l'Italia." Yum! ☺

Money Management & Budgeting - Branson

Collaboration with Taney County OACAC

Limited transportation & accommodations available upon request.

Day: Wednesdays

Feb. 23 - Mar. 16, 2011

Time: 1-3 pm

Location: Branson

Cost: Free

Register: Taney County OACAC
417-239-1882

Contact: Brooke @ SCIL

Staff Directory

► Administrative

Gary Maddox, Executive Director
Jessica Heeren, Exec Administrative Asst.
Patty Hayne, Full-Charge Bookkeeper
Stephanie Clark, Mkt & Develop. Dir.
Amanda McElwain, Secretary/Recept.
Bonnie Wopp, Secretary/Receptionist

► Consumer Directed Services

Paula Green, CDS Coordinator
Tony Miller, Assistant CDS Coordinator
Stacey Parkhurst, CDS Intake Specialist
Sarina Lane, CDS Payroll Data Entry
Paula Knight, CDS Payroll Data Entry
Leslie Clary, CDS Specialist
Kristi Dieleman, CDS Specialist
Phil Gerhardt, CDS Specialist
Shelley Glenn, CDS Specialist
Curtis Jones, CDS Specialist
Debra Wiebe, CDS Specialist

► In-Home Services

Regina Bohannon, In-Home RN

► Independent Living

Cari Wright, Program Manager
Jen Reese, Assistive Tech. Coordinator
Shannon Powell, Assist. Tech. Spec.
Stacy Hill, Access Specialist
Stacie Amschler, Disability Advocate
Amber Audrain, Disability Advocate
Brooke Lewis, Disability Advocate
Krista Talken, Disability Advocate
Marion Trimble, Ed. & Out. Coord.
Shelby Butler, Public Policy Adv.
Nathan Zoromski, Youth Adv.
Garlin Lansdale, Van Driver
John Wyatt, Van Driver

"Nobody grasped the idea that somebody with a significant disability could live independently." Max Starkloff

Assisting Consumers Through Technology (ACTT)



The ACTT Demonstration Center houses a wide variety of Assistive Technology (AT).

Some AT devices available to view and try out include grooming aids, kitchen devices, adaptive fishing equipment and magnifying devices.

ACTT also administers the Missouri TAP for Telephone program which provides free adaptive telephones and signaling devices for individuals with all types of disabilities.

ACTT relies on donations from the community and businesses. For more information, please contact SCIL for an appointment. ☎



"SCIL helped me get the devices I need to live more independently. A phone I can hear better on and a magnifier so I can read easier." Ruth

MO Property Tax Credit or Renters Rebate

A free service SCIL offers - assists individuals living in rental or personally owned property in completing property tax credit forms.

Qualifications:

- ▶ Age 65 or older or 100% disabled
- ▶ Proof of income from 2010
- ▶ Rent paid verification

For more information, contact SCIL for an appointment or visit: <http://dor.mo.gov/personal/ptc/>



**Congrats
Nathan Zoromski, Youth Advocate
on Your
417 Magazine
20 Under 30 Honor
& Thank You
for leading the
Teens with Disabilities Youth
Group at SCIL!**

In Memory : Max Starkloff 1937-2010

Longtime activist for disability rights died recently at 73.

Starkloff broke his neck in a car accident in 1959 and the accident left him a quadriplegic. Initially, his mother took care of him at home, but after four years, he went into a nursing home for 12 years. While there he made a plan for an independent living center.

Starkloff became a pioneer of the "independent living movement" – a grassroots movement by young people with severe disabilities to take control of their own care. At its core was a desire to lead life "not as a patient," Starkloff explained, but like anyone else: to get a job, find love, marry, raise a family – all things that Starkloff achieved.

He founded Paraquad Center for Independent Living in St. Louis in 1970, cofounded the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL), lobbied for the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 and founded the Starkloff Disability Institute in 2003.

The Beacon is published six times a year by the Southwest Center for Independent Living (SCIL), a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization which provides services, resources and advocacy for people with disabilities without regard to race, color, creed, age, sex, national origin, sexual orientation or disability. Copies of newsletter may be requested on cassette tape for those with print disabilities. Articles and other written contributions concerning disability issues are welcome. The opinions expressed in The Beacon are not necessarily those of SCIL. The editors reserve the right to edit for clarity and print according to space allowances. Information may be used with permission and citation.

Independence Again

► CONTINUED Pg. 1

I needed my own home and my own life.”

As Barbara learned, living in a nursing home becomes a new mode of life which includes controlled and sometimes volatile living conditions. Imagine what it must be like to live day after day seeing no hope of freedom. Many of us take for granted that we can control our own lives.

Once Barbara contacted SCIL, she worked with a DA who prepared her to achieve her goal of moving back into the community.

The DA advocated on her behalf with the nursing home staff, doctors and state agencies and Barbara learned how to advocate for herself by researching household furnishings, apartments and to get her beloved pet back.

Despite six months of hard work with SCIL, Barbara had no real hope of leaving the nursing home because so much time had passed.

Finally, the good news arrived; Barbara received approval for the MFP program and got her chance to reclaim her life. SCIL assisted Barbara with the remaining steps in finding adequate housing, putting personal care into place, and making the move.

The day she moved to her new home her overall outlook on life really changed. No longer seeing a life of imprisonment, Barbara now has her life to live again. ☺



Paula Green

“Without the Consumer Directed Services

(CDS) program at Southwest Center for Independent Living (SCIL), I could have ended up in a residential facility instead of having the option to stay in my own home,” said Susie Summers, CDS consumer during a recent visit with SCIL staff.

“CDS is the best option out there. Staying at home allows freedom of choice, so I can determine what and how things are done for my care and I have the ability to come and go as I please in the community.”

Paula Green, SCIL CDS Coordinator said, “Transportation services for essential errands and medical appointments help get consumers, like Susie, out into

Consumer Choice

25 Years Strong

the community and makes CDS unique compared to other home and community based services. Flexibility is the key because consumers get to choose their own attendant, and schedule their own hours. CDS allows them more control over their lives.”

CDS provides a vital service to those with physical disabilities needing attendant care in their homes and serves hundreds of consumers across the state of Missouri through Medicaid.

Originally, Personal Care Attendant (PCA) program that began in 1986. Now 25 years later, the program remains a popular choice for many people wishing to continue their independence and comfort provided by living in their own homes. ☺

In-Home Services Program

For 25 years, SCIL has followed the Independent Living philosophy of empowering clients or consumers to make their own decisions.

Today, SCIL’s In-Home Services program offers individuals with disabilities a choice for their care at home with our attendants.

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.

Call Regina for an evaluation or more information at 417-886-1188 or 800-676-7245.

Individuals living in Greene,



“With the In-Home & Consumer Directed Services Programs, SCIL gives me choices that improve my quality of life.” Virginia

Christian and Polk counties can qualify.

Medicaid, private pay and veteran’s benefits accepted. ☺



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**2864 S. Nettleton Ave.
Springfield, MO 65807
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**610 S. 6th St., Suite. 201
Branson, MO 65616
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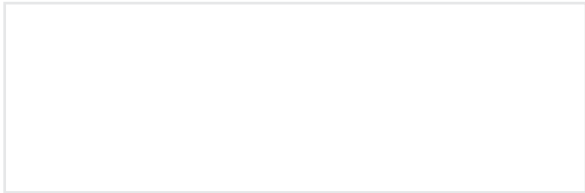
Toll Free: 800.676.7245

scil@swcil.org

www.swcil.org

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 am - 5 pm

Closed for the lunch hour



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

**To keep up with
recent news and events,
be sure to follow us:**



Help Make Change Possible - Become a member today, donate to the center or volunteer through day-to-day activities, events or fund raising. Your support can better the quality of life for yourself or someone you love with a disability. Thank you for making a difference!

Please provide your contact information:

Name _____ Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I prefer to receive the newsletter: Mail Email

I would like more information about:

- Assistive Technology
- Home Modifications
- Support Groups
- Personal Care Services
- Board Member Position
- Consumer Advisory Board
- Volunteering
- Estate Planning & Sponsorships

Yes, I would like the opportunity to be a member, enclosed is my check:
Please use my contribution for the _____ program.

- \$10 Membership
- \$50 Friend
- \$100 Supporter
- \$250 Access
- \$500 Opportunity
- Other \$ _____

Yearly membership includes a subscription to the SCIL newsletter and voting privileges for the SCIL board of directors, October - September.

**Please make checks payable to: Southwest Center for Independent Living
Mail to: SCIL, 2864 S. Nettleton Ave., Springfield, MO 65807**