

The Independent

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The Center has a New Name and Logo



Bob Brown and Bob Hand, Executive Director, reveal the center's new name and logo at the 33rd Annual Center for Independent Living Dinner held at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Fresno. The logo was created by Scott Kupferman, the agency's consultant and web designer.

Our independent living center, formerly known as Center for Independent Living—Fresno, is changing its name to Resources for Independence, Central Valley (RICV). The name change was made to solidify our reputation within the community as a “resource center”, and to include our satellite offices that spread among the Central Valley—Madera, Merced, and Visalia. The center will continue delivering services in the same manner as before the name change.

2009 Western Region Disability Conference

The 2nd Annual Western Region Disability Conference (WRDC) was held in downtown Fresno at the Radisson Hotel on September 25, 2009. This event was a great collaboration among Resources for Independence, the Center on Disability Innovation (CDI), and the Central Valley Mayors' Committee (CVMC). Natalie Hardy, RICV's Systems Change Advocate and current graduate stu-

dent of the Rehabilitation Counseling Program at Fresno State, acted as chair of this year's conference and was in charge of planning and coordinating all that took place throughout the day. WRDC's theme was “Creating Our Futures in Challenging Times”, and its purpose was “to bring in external expertise, highlight local innovative services and
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Western Region Disability Conference (Continued from page 1)

feature research by local faculty and students,” says Charles Arokiasamy. This was also an opportunity for Arokiasamy, Director of the Center on Disability Innovation (CDI), to present to the Central Valley this center that was established by Fresno State’s Rehab Counseling Program, which RICV will be a part of in the future.

The one-day conference was immediately followed by the 33rd Annual Center for Independent Living Dinner, where our new name was revealed to the attendees.

There were many consumers and supporters of the Center recognized during both events for their hard work and tenacity toward living independently through finding employment and becoming more involved in the community. One highlight of the conference was the keynote

speaker during the CVMC luncheon—MaryAnn Riojas of the Extreme Home Makeover Show on ABC. Her inspiring story touched the hearts of many participants of the conference.



Scott Kupferman, RICV consultant and web designer, presented at the 2009 conference with the topic “Steering the Future of Assistive Technology.”

Resources for Independence Staff

Fresno Office

Executive Director - Bob Hand
Director of Program Services - Jimmie Soto
Office Manager - Tony Ko
Benefits Specialist - Anne Marie Rennells
IL Specialists - Barney Morris, Vidal Medina, Reyes Sandoval
BRIDGES Counselor - Suzanna Gamez & Martha Guzman
BRIDGES Counselor/SOAR Liaison - Ileana Perez
Systems Change Advocate - Natalie Hardy
Bookkeeper - Patrick Atkins
Assistant Bookkeeper - Jennifer Coke
Program Assistant/Receptionist - Ellissa Anaya
Staff Interpreter - Robin Shaw
CAP Advocate - Suzanne Ames
AT Advocate - Camille Gaston & Maria Olivarez
Lead Job Developer - Susan Edington
Job Developer - Carl Noone & Carissa Harvey
Head of Special Projects - Tamala Fields
Homelessness Prevention Specialist - Cynthia Benavides

Madera - North Valley Office

BRIDGES Counselor - Kellie Longo-Albarran

Merced - North Valley Office

IL Specialist/CAP Advocate - Loronda Norah
Job Developer - Marina Fisher

Visalia - South Valley Office

Center Coordinator - Lillian Fillpot
Benefits Specialist - Talina Veliz

Volunteers

Americorps Volunteer - Chris Valdivia
Intern/Volunteer - Edgar Guerrero
Intern/Volunteer - David Martinez

Community Renewal Summit



Pictured above from left to right are Assemblyman Mike Villines, Bob Hand, and Senator Dave Cogdill, presenters of this year's Community Renewal Summit in October, which was a one-day conference themed "Making the Most of Your Resources". Hand conducted a breakout session on the topic of funding.

Changes in Medicare

The Social Security Administration is now expanding their program that assists those beneficiaries pay their prescription drugs. Beginning January 1, 2010, there will be three (3) key changes to the Medicare Part D Extra Help program.

It will no longer consider the following:

- In-kind support and maintenance, and
- The cash surrender value of life insurance policies.

Also, the application for Extra Help will now initiate an application for the Medicare Savings Programs that the states will pursue.

More information is available at:

www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareoutreach2
www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp/

Visalia Office

Our satellite office in Visalia has moved to a new location within Visalia's Chamber of Commerce building. The Visalia office also has a new Center Coordinator, Lillian Fillpot, and a full-time Community Work Incentive Coordinator (CWIC), Talina Veliz.



Visalia Chamber of Commerce
Resources for Independence, Visalia
220 N Santa Fe Avenue
Visalia, CA 93292
(559) 622-9276

PEER SUPPORT GROUP

1st and 3rd
Wednesday of the
Month

from
2:00 pm-3:30 pm

Everyone is welcome
and encouraged to
come.

For more Information
Call 221-2330

RESULTS FROM ILC STATEWIDE CONSUMER SATISFACTION SURVEY QUESTIONS

Resources for Independence, Central Valley Fiscal Year 2008-2009

	Total	Percentage
1. The concerns that brought me to the center were adequately addressed by the center staff.		
Strongly agree	34	58%
Tend to agree	17	29%
Tend to disagree	3	5%
Strongly disagree	5	8%
2. What type of services did you receive from the center?		
Information/referral	36	-
Assistive devices/equipment	7	-
Housing services	17	-
Mobility training	0	-
Personal assistance services	13	-
Transportation services	0	-
Vocational services	0	-
ADA technical assistance	2	-
Advocacy	6	-
Independent living skills/life skills training	7	-
Benefits counseling	22	-
Peer counseling or support	9	-
Recreation	0	-
Youth transition services	4	-
Other—Please specify		
List here:		
Work Incentive Planning & Assistance	2	-
Form Assistance	2	-
3. After making your first request for services, to what degree were you included in the development of your Independent Living Plan setting goals and outcomes or objectives?		
Very included	32	57%
Moderately included	11	20%
Moderately excluded	3	5%
Very excluded	6	11%
Not needed/applicable	4	7%

RESULTS FROM ILC STATEWIDE CONSUMER SATISFACTION SURVEY QUESTIONS

Resources for Independence, Central Valley Fiscal Year 2008-2009

	Total	Percentage
4. Were the services and informational material you received presented to you in an accessible, understandable and respectful manner?		
Yes	52	90%
No	6	10%
5. Have you benefited from the services you received?		
Yes	38	66%
No	20	34%
6. Overall, how would you describe the quality of services that you received from the center staff?		
Excellent	32	55%
Good	13	23%
Moderate/Fair	7	12%
Poor	6	10%
7. Are there any services that would improve your independence that are not available in your community? List here:		

Community Redevelopment Funds—Information on reflex sympathetic dystrophy—Section 8/low income housing—Assistance in developing an independent living plan—Making home more wheelchair friendly—More information on SSI/SSDI requirements—Budget assistance for fixed income—Needing help with roads, off ramps for wheelchairs—Needing help with getting speed zones—More help with employment options—Knowing the latest information for services requested—Dealing with mental health issues—More services in Selma.

Resources for Independence, Central Valley would like to thank all the consumers who participated in this survey.

RICV is dedicated to providing and improving services to its consumers.

Repair & Share Program

The *Repair & Share Program* is a loan and recycle program that will enable people with disabilities who are in need of power wheelchairs to live independently. Resources for Independence is collaborating with G7 Medical Services, a local supplier of medical equipment, to repair power wheelchairs donated to our agency. These chairs will be used to aid people with disabilities, maximizing their independence by loaning the chairs on a temporary basis while they find the means of getting a power wheelchair of their own.



If you have a power wheelchair that is no longer being used that you would like to donate, call us for more information.



The blue tethering strap and the yellow marking will make it easier for the bus driver to secure this wheelchair on the bus.

Mobility Device Marking & Tethering Strap Program

Resources for Independence is working together with Fresno Area Express (FAX) on the *Mobility Device Marking & Tethering Strap Program*. FAX has developed this free voluntary program designed to ensure that best efforts are made to properly secure mobility devices used by passengers traveling on FAX buses. Mobility devices include manual wheelchairs, power wheelchairs, and three or four wheeled scooters designed and sold to people with disabilities.

If you're interested in having your mobility device marked and tethered for a safer ride on the bus, please feel free to contact Vidal Medina or Camille Gaston at 559-221-2330.

Fixed Route Bus Training

If you're interested in learning the FAX fixed route to travel independently, please call Vidal Medina at 559-221-2330.



New Programs

Expansion in BRIDGES

The BRIDGES Program, our high school transition program, has been very busy. We participated in the CAST (“Catch A Special Thrill”) for Kids 2009 Miller-ton Lake Fishing Event. Many students apart of the BRIDGES program partici-pated in on-shore activities, enjoyed learning how to fish, and went home with a

lot of free goodies, includ-ing a fishing pole, tackle box and a plaque. BRIDGES has started back in the schools with fresh new curriculum all about independence. Kellie Longo-Albarran has ex-panded the BRIDGES Pro-gram to Madera, in 2 new schools—Madera High School and Madera South

High School. This means we are now available in 10 schools within the Central Valley.

We are also working closely with Fresno City College, Cesar Chávez Adult Education Center, and Central Unified School District in accessing their students with disabilities and providing BRIDGES services.

Our volunteer from the Americorps Volunteer Infra-structure Project (VIP), Chris Valdivia, is continuing to work on establishing a volunteer system for RICV which will also serve as a tool to create opportunity for BRIDGES students and others to gain job skills and experience.



CAST for Kids 2009 Miller-ton Lake Fishing Event

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program



Cynthia Benavides
Homelessness Prevention Specialist

Resources for Independence, Central Valley Is proud to announce its newest program avail-able at our Fresno and Tulare County sites. We are currently receiving referrals from 211 for the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP). Through this pro-gram, we will provide financial housing/utility assistance to persons with disabilities. For more information, contact your local 211.

THE INDEPENDENT

California Association of the Physically Handicapped
3008 North Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93703

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

(559) 221-2330 VOICE
(800) 244-2274 TOLL FREE
(559) 221-2340 FAX
(559) 221-2342 TTY

If you would like to be placed on the mailing list, please call Resources for Independence at 1-800-244-2274.

Check out our website at the new web address:

www.ricv.org

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO 931
FRESNO, CA 93706

Client Assistance Program (CAP)

This program informs persons with disabilities about procedures and services, and assists them in resolving difficulties that may arise while receiving Rehabilitation Act funded services.

If you need assistance from the Client Assistance Program (CAP), call 1-800-244-2274.

Suzanne Ames
CAP Advocate (Fresno, Visalia, Madera)

Loronda Norah
CAP Advocate (Merced)

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Make a difference by donating to Resources for Independence, Central Valley

This agency is dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with disabilities. We partner with individuals and the community to encourage people with disabilities to be in control of their lives and to live more independently through a diverse range of choices and opportunities.

Send your donation to:
Resources for Independence, Central Valley
3008 North Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93703
1-800-244-2274