

The Independent

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Accessible Voting

Voting is a civic duty that all Americans should be able to exercise and have our voices heard. Resources for Independence, Central Valley (RICV) has taken the lead within The Valley on making sure this civic duty is made accessible to people with disabilities. In keeping with the provisions of the Helping America Vote Act (HAVA), the RICV staff are surveying polling sites within the community, making sure they are readily accessible to people with various disabilities. The staff have also been involved in

creating a training video for the Fresno County Elections Office, for training their staff and local poll workers on how to make their sites accessible for people with disabilities.

This month, we are having a training on how to use the TSX Voting Machine, a machine that has been specifically designed to make voting accessible. This has a touchscreen that includes features that allow the text to be enlarged and has an outlet for headphones for a person to listen to
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TSX Voting Machine

It's Official!



Now, when you approach the entrance of our main office building, you will see the agency's new name, **Resources for Independence, Central Valley (RICV)**.

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the voting options. Though these machines are set up in each polling sites, surveyors have found that they are seldom used by voters. RICV is setting aside May 19th to encourage people to learn how to use the device as an option to vote.

If you have any questions about this upcoming training, or if you'd like to view our training video on accessible polling sites, call our office at 221-2330 for more information.



**TSX Voting Machine Training
May 19, 2010
2:00pm to 4:00pm
RICV Conference Room**

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

Resources for Independence Staff

Fresno Office

Executive Director - Bob Hand
Director of Program Services - Jimmie Soto
Office Manager - Tony Ko
Systems Change Advocate - Kellie Longo-Albarran
Comm. Work Incentive Coordinator - Anne Marie Rennells
IL Specialists - Barney Morris & Reyes Sandoval
IL Specialists - Vidal Medina & Jennifer Kungu
CAP Advocate - Suzanne Ames
AT Advocates - Camille Gaston & Maria Olivarez
Staff Interpreter - Robin Shaw
Job Development Coordinator - Susan Edington
Lead Job Developer - Carissa Miller
Assistant Job Developer - Carl Noone
ESA Evaluators - Liz Steele & Chandra Woods
BRIDGES Counselors - Suzanna Gamez & Martha Guzman
BRIDGES Counselor/SOAR Liaison - Ileana Perez
Community Resource Developer - Darcy Lien
Program Assistant/Receptionist - Nori Nadzri-Romero
Administrative Assistant - Anuradha Gajaraj
Bookkeeper - Patrick Atkins
Assistant Bookkeeper - Jennifer Coke
Head of Special Projects - Tamala Fields
Homelessness Prevention Specialist - Ellissa Anaya

Transportation Specialist - Florean Foster
CCT Coordinator - Vanessa Luna

Madera - North Valley Office

IL Specialist - Raymond Perry
BRIDGES Counselor - Monica Castillo

Merced - North Valley Office

IL Specialist - Lynornces Downum-Hanzal
IL Specialist/CAP Advocate - Loronda Norah
Job Developer - Marina Fisher
Comm. Work Incentive Coordinator - Anthony Bovis

Visalia - South Valley Office

Center Coordinator - Nachi Kinsel
IL Specialist - Nalor See
Comm. Work Incentive Coordinator - Talina Wallace
Rural Job Developer - Amado Martinez
Homelessness Prevention Specialist - Betty Johnson

Volunteers

Americorps Volunteer - Lisa Rivera

Executive Director's Report

One of the strengths of RICV is our extensive community involvement. Working alone we can accomplish a lot, but working with community partners multiplies our strengths a hundred times. One of our ways of accomplishing this is by active participation in numerous councils and commissions. Although this can be very time consuming, it is a prime way to get RICV involved in some of the top organizing efforts affecting services for people with disabilities. Listed here are some of the several groups I work with:

- A. State Independent Living Council (SILC) - I am newly appointed, thanks to extensive assistance from Assemblyman Mike Villines. The SILC develops the State Plan for Independent Living, and oversees some of the federal money that comes to California for IL services.
- B. State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) - I was recently elected as Vice-Chair. The SRC acts as a partner with the top administration of Department of Rehabilitation in overseeing the Department.
- C. Fresno City Disability Advisory Commission (DAC) - This group was formed about three years ago. I have been the Chair since its inception. It was formed to address city ADA and wider access issues.
- D. Central Valley Coalition for Human Services - I am the founder and facilitator of this organization. It works to promote cooperation among local service organizations and government entities to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our programs.
- E. Center for Disability Innovation (CDI) - I was honored to be asked by Dr. Charles Arokiasamy to be one of three people who originally formed this endeavor. It is an institute of CSU Fresno that will work to promote a unique combination of research, higher education and direct service in areas affecting people with disabilities.
- F. Metamorphous Group - This is a newly formed organization under the auspices of the Fresno Business Council. It will work to radically change/improve the way mental health services are delivered in our area.
- G. California Foundation for Independent Living (CFILC) - CFILC is the state association of most independent living centers in California. I serve on the Finance Committee.
- H. I am also on the Fresno/Madera Area Agency on Aging (FMAAA) Advisory Council, the CSU Fresno Rehabilitation Advisory Council, The Rehabilitation Council Foundation Board, the Council of Governments Social Services Advisory Council (SSTAC), and the State Center Community College Advisory Council for Services for Students with Disabilities.

Being members of all these organizations is a huge commitment of time and effort, but it does a great deal to integrate RICV into the top levels of planning and organizing to assist our consumers to get the best services possible.

Sincerely,

Bob Hand, Executive Director

Ribbon-Cutting in Visalia



On April 28, 2010, Resources for Independence, Central Valley's satellite office in Visalia opened its door to its new office. It is housed within the Visalia Chamber of Commerce. This event was attended by many service providers within the area that work closely with people with disabilities, developing networking relationships with RICV.

Being Cautious with H1N1



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

The month of April marks what has always been the high-mark in past flu seasons. This year, the southeastern states are seeing a resurgence of the H1N1 virus. Though that has not happened in California, we know that more than half of Californians are still at risk for H1N1.

Groups that are most susceptible to the virus are children and young adults (aged six months to 24 years) and their parents. Vaccination and flu prevention measures are the best ways to keep healthy. Call your local Public Health Department if you would like to get your H1N1 vaccination or for more information. Get vaccinated! It is the best way to prevent H1N1.

RECEIVING SSDI OR SSI AND HAVING A HARD TIME MAKING ENDS MEET?

Come to a Work Incentive Seminar Event (WISE) and learn how the Ticket to Work Program and Work Supports can help you get education, training, or job placement services, and maintain your benefits while you enter or return to the workforce. All services provided under the Ticket to Work Program are FREE.

At the WISE Event you will get to meet key players under the Ticket to Work Program (which includes the Social Security Administration, your local Community Work Incentive Coordinator, and various employment networks), and you will learn how these entities work together to provide you with free service.

Upcoming WISE Events

presented by Resources for Independence, Central Valley

May 25, 2010 @ 10:00am-1:00pm

or

June 15, 2010 @ 10:00am-1:00pm

Woodward Park Regional Library

Community Conference Room

944 East Perrin

Fresno, CA 93720

Please register by calling 1-877-743-8237 (Voice or TTY). Beneficiaries, relatives and community agencies are welcome to attend!



Pictured to the left: Anne Garza (Social Security Administration), Jackie Smith (Ticket to Success), Anne Marie Rennels (WIPA at RICV), and Lynette Quinto (Ticket to Work Program at Fresno State).

As of April 30, Anne Marie Rennels has succeeded in helping 31 of her 67 WIPA consumers in employment.

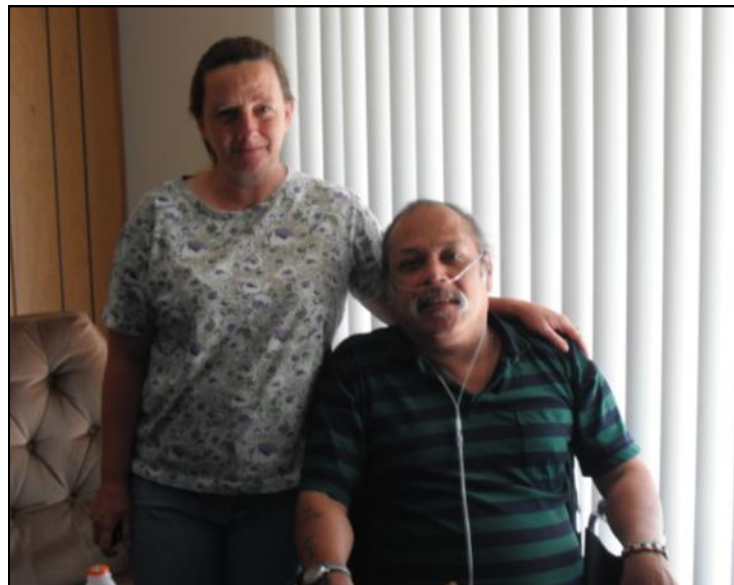
Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program: A Success Story

The Fresno Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) through Resources for Independence Central Valley (RICV) began in October 2009, and since then we have had several consumers who have been receiving financial assistance. The HPRP Program helps people with disabilities who are homeless or about to become homeless, retain and/or obtain housing.

One consumer who has benefited from this program is Ysidro Delgado. He and his wife Melinda were homeless when he began working with RICV/HPRP. Ysidro has chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which requires the use of 24/7 oxygen. This past winter, he and Melinda were living in an unheated mobile home in Auberry. He came to Fresno so that he could be closer to his doctors, and was staying with a relative temporarily. The relative that he and his wife were staying with however, had a full house, so

he slept in the living room. Consequently, Ysidro was admitted into the hospital multiple times in the months prior to being housed and was suffering from "severe clinical depression due to his loss of health and housing." Through the HPRP Program, he and his wife were able to find safe and stable housing and it is a privilege to say that he is doing great. His wife was able to become his In-Home Supportive Service worker, and his children and grandchildren have a nice comfortable **home** to visit him in. Not only was Ysidro helped through our HPRP Program, but he also re-

ceived a Power Scooter through RICV's Assistive Technology Program, *Repair and Share*. During the first 6 months of the HPRP Program, 147 individuals looked to RICV for assistance and 31 received financial assistance. Five families were able to retain their housing after receiving assistance with back rent. The HPRP Program is continuing to thrive. We look forward to providing our consumers with the assistance they need to live a full, happy, independent life.



Melinda and Ysidro Delgado, in their new apartment provided through help from Ellissa Anaya and the HPRP Program.

Recycle AT



The Assistive Technology (AT) Program has two programs geared toward loaning and recycling durable medical equipment used for independent mobility.

AT Loan & Recycling Program

If you, a family member, or loved one are in need of a durable medical equipment, the AT Program has a number of walkers, walker commodes, and bath chairs that can be donated to you. If you have any questions, please contact one of our AT Advocates (Camille Gaston or Maria Olivarez) by calling 559-221-2330.

Repair & Share Program

AT Advocates are still accepting donations for power wheelchairs for our *Repair & Share Program*. 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.

CCT Program

Are you currently living in a nursing home or assisted living facility? Do you want to live in the community in your own place of residence? The *California Community Transitions (CCT) Program* can help you with this.

Call the office to speak with our CCT Coordinator, Vanessa Luna, or an IL Specialist to see if you meet the eligibility requirements and receive help with finding affordable and accessible housing.



FAX Programs

Travel Training is available for people using FAX's paratransit, Handy Ride, and would like to use FAX's fixed route. This program provides an opportunity for you to become more independent in using public transportation.

We are also promoting safety on FAX's fixed route with our *Mobility Device Marking & Tethering Strap Program*. This is a free, voluntary program designed by FAX to ensure that best efforts are made to properly secure mobility devices used by passengers traveling on FAX buses.

If you're interested in these two programs, please call our Transportation Specialist, Florean Foster at 559-221-2330.

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.

Missed our last newsletter issue?

Check out our newsletter archives at our new website:

www.ricv.org

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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.

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

We are 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