

The Independent

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RICV Participates In P4 Project



This is their life-Pic by Tamala Fields

Without Intervention they are likely to die on the streets— These are the medically fragile homeless, that were the target of the nationwide P4 survey in mid July.

RICV was one of the several agencies to actively participate in the Project P4 national campaign.

The campaign seeks to end homelessness for 100,000 medically fragile individuals across the country.

The immediate goal is to house at least 320 medically fragile homeless persons by 2013.

Among the other partners in this project locally are Fresno's 1st Steps Homes, Housing Authority

and others. RICV Director Special Projects Tamala Fields attended the Leadership Training in Glendale for the project.

Participants surveyed the homeless based on the vulnerability index developed by the Boston Mass General Hospital.

They assembled at the Poverello House for three mornings from July 18, and then spread out to survey the homeless in their project area.

The survey identified 285 individuals of which nearly 100 met the criteria of medically fragile.

"Of these, 19 are already RICV consumers and are on the streets for various reasons. We will continue our intervention with them," said Special Projects Director Tamala Fields.

and others.

RICV Director Special Projects Tamala Fields attended the

Leadership Training

RICV Executive Director Robert J. Hand, who also addressed the press conference on July 22, spoke about barriers to basic assistance owing to issues like transportation and telephone.

"It is difficult to provide services to persons who are homeless because of these barriers, but even more so when they have disabilities", he said describing the tough task that the organizations faced.

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Third Leadership Academy



Robert J Hand at the Leadership Academy

The five week course began on July 19 in Fresno. The first two were held in Fresno and Visalia respectively.

The CLA, started by RICV in June 2010, and the first of its kind in the country, is seen as role model for similar leadership development ideas.

Among those who signed up were the Executive Directors of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Center and Valley Center for the Blind. Among the speakers were consultants Jackie Ryle, Don Simmons and Jeff Snyder. To register for our next CLA in Merced, you can log on to www.nationalcla.org.

As many as 20 persons signed up for the third cohort of the Community Leadership Academy. The CLA trains persons with disabilities to become active contributing members of boards and committees.

Participation

RICV Executive Director Robert J. Hand, who is also the Chair of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), participated in an ad hoc committee to review the details of a new system to provide for informed choice among DOR consumers.

It will consist of a web site open to the public that will give information on job development vendors. The information provided is critical for us and all vendors as that may be potential consumers' first introduction to our services.

www.Nationalcla.org

Mental Emergency Training

Members of the Central Valley Coalition for Human Services can take part in the four day mental emergency training by Mental Health America of the Central Valley.

The three hour session will sensitize and educate CVCHS members on mental health emergency

response.

Started by RICV Executive Director Robert J. Hand in late 2009, the CVCHS currently has over 20 active member organizations.

In June, nationally known consultant Dr. Jackie Ryle presented on how to further improve services.



Opening New Vistas



Seniors with disabilities enjoy an outing at the Sequoias

When RICV organized a one day trip to the Sequoia National Forest, it opened up never dreamt of getaway ideas for the group of senior disabled adults.

Organized by RICV Center Coordinator Nachi Kinsel and Independent Living Specialist Nalor See, the outing on June 7th, proved to be an eye opener in many ways.

For many in the group, this was their first visit to see the majestic trees. Setting out in the Sequoia Shuttle through the Visalia Transit Center, the group had an enjoyable time taking in the

majestic General Sherman Tree, Lodge Pole and the Giant Forest Museum.

“It was gratifying for us because many of them did not know that they could have such an outing at such a low cost. Though we provided the transportation this time, we explained to them that it would cost only \$15 per person for the shuttle, if they wanted to come on their own,” says Nachi Kinsel.

For the group, it was another big surprise to see how accessible the whole area was. Many talked about returning again. So, it was not only an occasion

PEER SUPPORT GROUP

1st and 3rd
Wednesday of the Month

2:00 pm-3:30 pm

RICV Conference Room
2940 N. Fresno St.
Fresno, CA 93703

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come.

For more Information
Call 221-2330

Facilitated by
Barney Morris
[Independent Living Specialist]
bmorris@ricv.org

for them to enjoy the outdoors, but an opportunity to learn that they could do this anytime at a very low cost.

In all, there were 35 seniors with disabilities from Visalia. The registration was first opened to our consumers and later to the seniors with disabilities in the community, says Nachi.

The outing was funded with grants through the National Park Foundation, through the Visalia Transit Center. For information visit www.sequoiashuttle.com

Advocacy

Advocating Health Bill

RICV staff met with Senator Michael Rubio's staff to discuss the Assembly Bill 52 on June 22.

Newly appointed Director of Core Services Linda Hightower and Systems Change Advocate Anna Maria Havens were invited by Health Access to join a meeting with Senator Michael Rubio's staff to discuss the Bill that relates to health care rate increases.

Among others present were Health Access staff, union official, Planned Parenthood, Centro Binacional, Volunteers for Change, a healthcare consumer, and RICV.

RICV interest in this issue directly relates to our consumer base and rising health care costs that have no regulations directed at the review and approval process prior to an increase in cost taking effect.

AB 52, if passed, would include California on a list of 20 plus states that directly regulate health care rate increases. These increases cover premiums, base rates, underwriting, discounts, co-payments, coinsurers, de-

ductibles, and any other out of pocket money.

Under AB52, HMO's and insurers would be required to submit the proposed rate increases for review and approval to either the California Department of Managed Health Care or the Department of Insurance.

Passage of AB52 would act to protect our consumers from uncontrolled rate increases of health care costs that have an impact on their daily living expenses, which are, for the most part, not going to see an increase. It would help to protect our consumers from being priced out of the healthcare market. Updates will be forthcoming from Health Access.

Peer Support Group

RICV organized informative sessions on the new Medi-Cal rules for persons with disabilities.

Representatives of CAL Viva Health Medi-Cal Managed Care/Anthem Blue Cross were here to explain the changes and an-

**Celebrating
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RICV ANNUAL DINNER

\$35.00 per person

September 30, 2011

At

University Square Hotel

4961 North Cedar Avenue

Fresno, CA 93726



Registration: 5:30 pm

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ence Central Valley
3008 North Fresno Street,
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swer questions on how the changes would affect consumers.

The Peer Support Group facilitated by RICV Independent Living Specialist Barney Morris meets twice a month.

For details call 559 221 2330.

Housing workshop

Monthly workshops are now available for RICV consumers on Credit Repair and Money Management.

Organized by Housing Resource Advocate Carissa Miller, these monthly workshops address the dual issues of Finance and Housing.

Started in June, the workshops aim at informing and educating consumers on everything from finding appropriate housing to managing their budget every month.

Also addressed are how to identify want versus need, how to resolve disputes with neighbors, or the property managers.

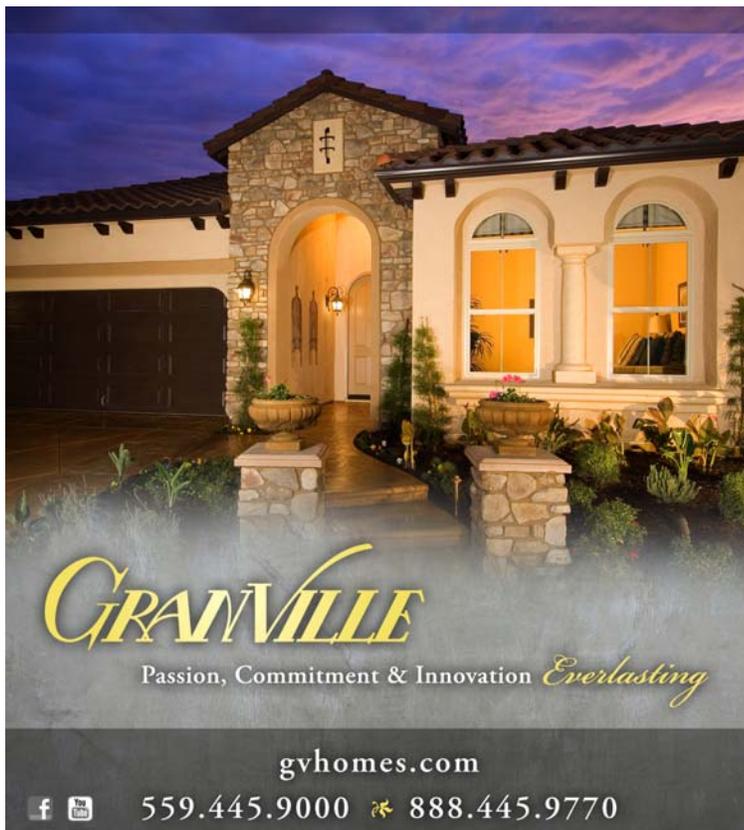
Experts in these areas will also address the consumers. One such is the Stewards Inc, that informed the consumers about the pay-ee system.

Homeless Count

The Fresno-Madera Continuum of Care (FMCoC) officially unveiled the results of the 2011 Point-in-Time (PIT) Homeless Count during the regularly scheduled FMCoC General Board of Directors Meeting on June 9.

A brief overview of the data collected, methodology used, and an analysis of 2011 results vs. prior year PIT results were presented.

RICV Director Special Projects Tamala Fields, who is also the FMCoC co chair was present at the meeting.



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KGPE Television)

Action in the Capitol



RICV consumers enjoy a visit with Senator Michael J. Rubio

It was pouring on May 25th in Sacramento. Groups from all over the state that had come to participate in the Capitol Action Day were huddled, taking shelter from the rain. Still others were getting into their buses, to go back to their own cities.

It looked like rain would dampen the spirits of the 55 persons with disabilities, including youth, who were part of the RICV group. It was

not so.

When RICV Counselor Ileana Perez gave the option for the youth to decide on whether they wanted to return or brave the rain, the enthusiastic youth were all for Capitol Action!

Their enthusiasm had not waned since the moment they had started preparing for the event, with posters and speeches.

After the speeches and rallies, the group had the opportunity to visit Senator Michael J. Rubio in his office.

They also toured the capitol and met with the Chief of State, Dillion Gibbons.

Meeting with Dillion gave the consumers a chance to voice their opinions on the laws that affect youth, like the AB9.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to protect pupils from acts of bullying by requiring school personnel to report known or suspected instances of bullying to law enforcement entities.

2nd Annual Youth Transition Conference

Thursday November 3, 2011

At

The Clovis Veterans Memorial District

808 4th Street

Clovis, CA 93612-1396



Registration: 8 am

For more information

Ileana Perez at iperez@ricv.org and/or

Visit our website at: www.ricv.org

Comm. Task Force

RICV is part of the Community Task Force for the national program Strong Cities, Strong Communities.

The program brings together city and federal government staff and non profit agencies to tap into available federal funds.

Incidentally Fresno is one of the six cities nationwide chosen for this program. Others are Detroit, Cleveland, Memphis, New Orleans and Chester.

www.centralvalleychs.org

Client Speak

On May 25, RICV staff took 55 consumers to the 8th annual Disability Capitol Action Day. They were professional and put the consumers need before their own and did a great job! I really appreciate their time and effort.

System Change Advocate Diann Perez and IL Specialist Nalor See took good care of the consumers.

They did a great job in coordinating the trip. They gave us a chance to participate in the rally and have our voices heard in the capitol.

They got us our legislative appointment and assisted with the information to the legislator.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the Disability Capitol Action Day at Sacramento.

Signed/-

Glen Stewart

Stand. Fight.. Resist...

Splashes of red stand against the stark black background. Eyes are naturally drawn to the comic book style human forms that are the central figures of Elias's poster.

"Stand, fight, resist" are the three words that portray the message he put together for the Capitol Action Day in May this year.

Nineteen year old Elias Claude, who has autism, is passionate about his two main interests, art-work and music.

To Elias, the world of heavy metal is not a garbled medium of loud music, but of words that speak of hope and faith.

"There is a strength in numbers, we must unite mankind, there is a strength in numbers, our faith lives deep inside," he quotes the heavy metal band "Times of Grace" on his poster.

Perhaps the most poignant of the three figures is the one portraying his idea of "resist" – a man carrying a tattered flag.



*Elias Claude with this poster
Picture by Hideki Yatabe*

The meaning is clear – despite all the obstacles, and life's hard knocks, Elias is talking about hope and faith that finally triumph against all odds.

It was his high school art teacher John Gravely who encouraged Elias to develop his interest in art. He did so well under his tutelage, that Gravely had Elias as a teacher's assistant during his last year in school.

"Another person who has been a great source of strength to me is my Sensei James Olson, says Elias. He

always told me, "never give up".

Elias came to RICV two years ago and the BRIDGES counselors Suzanna Gamez and Martha Guzman have been closely involved in helping him ever since. The posters are his gift to RICV as a token of his appreciation.

As a parting shot, Elias tells youth, "Do not let anybody tell you what you are, or judge how you look. Be yourself, be confident and proud to be YOU- if you want-stay art, stay metal!"

Writing Grants

Two BRIDGES youth are exploring ideas for a Building Healthy Communities mini grant.

Nick Rosas and Elias Claude are doing hands on work on preparing the grant application, under the guidance of BRIDGES counselors Suzanna Gamez and Martha Guzman.

Education

Opportunities In Higher Education

That there are limitless opportunities after high-school, was the message that the RICV BRIDGES team had for students in May this year.

The team facilitated a field trip for students at Mt. Vista adult School on May 11, to learn about higher education and opportunities available for them.

It was a new experi-

ence for the students to walk through the campus of the California State University Fresno. Disability Management Specialist, Carlos Diaz informed them about the services for students with disabilities and accom-

modations they can ask for when they apply at CSUF.

The students were taken back to CSUF on May 20th to see the opportunities available in terms of housing.

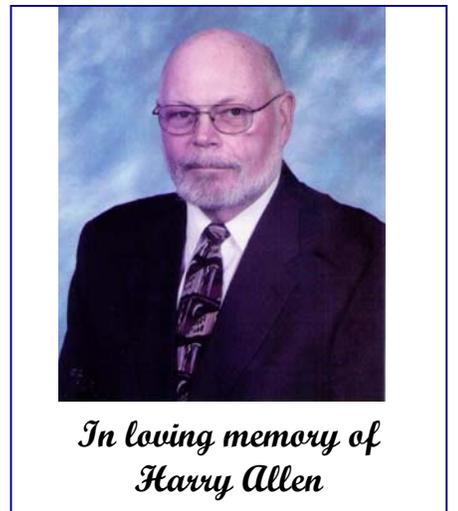
Robert Hyatt, Residential Living Coordinator gave the students a tour of the Palazzo apartment. He also gave them a presentation on the Wayfinders - an inclusive, individualized, comprehensive educational and residential program for young adults, ages 18 to 28 with intellectual/developmental disabili-



Youth at the California State University Fresno

ities.

Amazed students shared their enthusiasm about going to college after the visit with the BRIDGES counselor Martha Guzman.



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Do you have disability related news that you would like to share? Send your articles and photographs to Anuradha Gajaraj, Resources for Independence Central Valley, 3008 North Fresno Street, Fresno, CA 93703.

RICV Reaches Out For Diversity



RICV staff learn about Hmong culture at Stone Soup

In continuation of our outreach to diverse communities, RICV Executive Director Robert J Hand, made a presentation at the Islamic Cultural Center on July 1.

More than 40 persons attended the presentation and showed keen interest in the services provided by RICV. Many also expressed their wish to volunteer their services for the organization.

Bob met with the spiritual leader Imam Seyed Ali Ghazvini at the Center. Darius Assemi, Granville Homes, introduced Bob.

Also present was Helen Siporin, President, Mental Health America of the Central Valley. Helen will be working with Bob to provide emergency training on coping with consumers who are mentally

challenged.

The 14 hour training will be held in three sessions for the members of the Central Valley Coalition for Human Services, an organization started by Bob in late 2009.

In turn, Negin Tahvil-dary from the Islamic Center presented to the RICV staff on July 18. She spoke about the various issues that were important while communicating with Muslim consumers. Topics ranged from eye contact with consumers to health issues linked to religious beliefs.

RICV staff also underwent a cultural training session at the Stone Soup on April 22, facilitated by Executive Director Maika Yang.



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 Coordinators, an IL Specialist to see if you meet the eligibility requirements and receive help with finding affordable and accessible housing.

Towards A Changed Life..

David Karr had a normal childhood, until he developed juvenile diabetes when he was 14. That started a downhill road for David, who turned to drugs and alcohol in his teens to cope with his health issues.

It was only when he lost sight and his kidneys failed last year, did David get his wake up call. "I went down a very bad road when I was a teenage and young adult," David admits.

Admitted to the Community Medical Center Hospital, David received treatment and subsequently transferred to the Community Sub Acute and Transitional Care Center.

Reflecting back on his life at this juncture, David decided to make the changes required to turn his life around. During his stay at the Center, he learned how to cope with his visual disability, and received assistance from Valley Center for the Blind.

"I have had to learn how to walk again and to use a walking stick; I feel like I'm learning how to do



David Karr: Learning to cope

everything I did before but now with my disability it's a lot harder", David shares. Through this hard period of his life, David had the constant support of his friend Kami Vining. "I couldn't have gone through rehabilitation without him, he is like my angel," David says.

When David learned of the CCT project of RICV from his social worker at the center, he immediately contacted RICV CCT Coordina-

tor Vanessa Pulido. After initial screening and intake, Vanessa, worked with David to help find housing and develop a safe discharge from the Center.

She coordinated with several agencies to meet his needs for independent living. This included getting approval for In Home Supportive Services for David. He is now living independently in his apartment.

As reported by Transitions Coordinator Vanessa Pulido.

Home Modification Assistance

The City of Parlier is offering assistance to low income families for home repairs, including handicap modifications.

This assistance is through the Housing Rehabilitation program.

Brochures on the City's housing programs are available at the Parlier City Hall at 1100 E Pariler Avenue, Parlier, CA 93648.

THE INDEPENDENT

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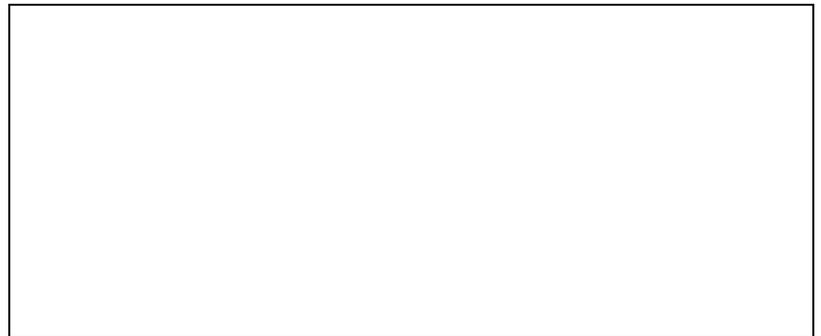
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Missed our last issue?

Check out our newsletter archives at
our website:

www.ricv.org



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.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Donate to RESOURCES FOR INDEPENDENCE CENTRAL VALLEY

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