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Lopez

**RICV Goes Overseas!**



*Bob Hand with Dongick Choi of the National Assembly, Health & Welfare Committee in Korea*

Fellows EMPOWER Program, administered by Mobility International USA (MIUSA).

This two-way international exchange program aims to expand the capacity of organizations in the

Resources for Independence Central Valley has been selected to participate in a U.S. Department of State sponsored Professional

U.S. and abroad to promote inclusive communities and advance the rights of persons with disabilities around the world.

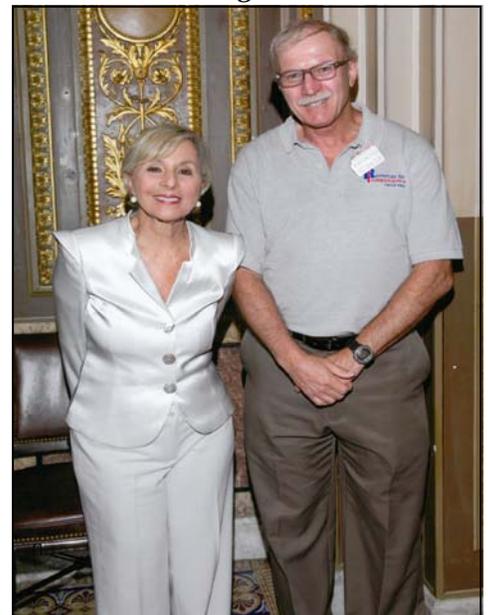
The grant written by

**National Webinar**

RICV Executive Director, Robert Hand will be presenting at the National Webinar on "Leadership-Shifting your CIL to high gear" organized by National Council for Independent Living.

The webinar on September 30 is targeted at Executive Directors, Program Managers, board members and staff of CILs who serve in leadership roles in CILs all over the country.

*Continued on Page 3*



*Bob met with Senator Barbara Boxer in Washington D C for the NCIL conference.*

# 37th Anniversary!

## RICV Celebrates 37 Years Of Service



*Councilman Blong Xiong, Assemblyman Jim Patterson honoring RICV awardees*

Patterson and Councilman Blong Xiong addressed the gathering.

CalViva CEO Greg Hund, Lori Clanton of Fresno Regional Foundation, Cynthia Matson, administrator of Fresno state were among the many

from Henry Perea's office.

Community partners and consumers were recognized at the event. Arthur M Lopez, retired deputy director of Department of Rehabilitation was recognized for his yeoman service to the community with the Albert R Thompson award.

Lowes Home Improvement was recognized for best business supporting employment of persons with disabilities.

Among the other awardees were Edward LaComb, Tracy Moua , Elvira Figueroa , Kathryn Muzio , Ronald Allan, and Warren Cornelio.

Senators Barbara Boxer, Dianne Feinstein sent certificates for our awardees as well.

Mardi Gras was the theme and people were in high spirits at the 37th annual recognition dinner of RICV.

Held on August 16, the dinner attracted over 150 people, including community supporters, political representatives and consumers.



*RICV Executive Director honors Retd Deputy Director of DOR Arthur M Lopez*

Assemblyman Jim supporters at the event.



*Fun times at the Mardi Gras themed dinner*

Political representatives included Sharon Major from Senator Tom Berryhill's office, Jose Avila from Devin Nunes office, Nia Sibley



*Heather Flores from CVRC and RICV staff Illeana Perez*

## RICV Goes Overseas Contd...

*Continued from Page 1*

Executive Assistant Anuradha Gajaraj-Lopez under the guidance of RICV Executive Director Robert Hand.

RICV is one of 20 U.S.-based organizations and institutions competitively selected to host approximately 40 disability rights advocates and leaders from 40 international organizations in 20 different countries.

RICV is partnering



**Bob with Korean partners**

with two South Korea based organizations under the grant.

Korea Differently Abled Federation and Human Rights Law Foundation of Gonggam, and RICV will work to

implement a long-term project on developing a manual based on exchange of best practices in the two countries to promote services.

Bob Hand visited Seoul, South Korea for a preliminary exchange visit in August.

The Korean partners will be hosted by RICV, from October 19th for ten days. Part of this exchange will include meetings with community partners, political representatives and participation in service oriented events.

## 7th CLA Cohort Held At Fresno

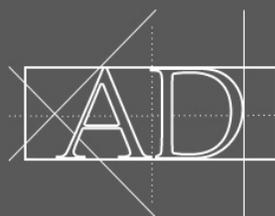
Five persons graduated from the seventh Community Leadership Academy cohort organized by Resources for Independence Central Valley.

The cohort held at the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Center in July and August this year, had several speakers.

Kizzy Lopez, Director of Renaissance Schol-

ars program of Fresno State, Yvonne Spence, Fresno City Clerk, Consultants Jackie Ryle and Don Simmons handled sessions at cohort.

Senator Tom Berryhill, Assemblyman Henry Perea and Jim Patterson provided certificates to the graduates.



**ASHBROOKE**  
DEVELOPMENT

## DOR Director Tony Sauer: An Inspiration To All



His arms move in slow motion, as he slows down

his breathing and focuses on the flowing form of Tai Chi.

After a hectic day at the helm of the California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), Tai Chi is Anthony 'Tony' Sauer's way of going into a meditative state and finding his center. It does not matter that he is immobilized from the chest down. For, Tony is a paraplegic, due to a spinal cord injury.

Tony Sauer is the Director of the Department of Rehabilitation in the State of California. He is responsible for a budget of over \$400 million, and a staff of 1800 employees statewide.

While others would have dismissed the idea of practicing any form of martial art with this type

of disability, Tony's attitude of saying yes to life's challenges and opportunities is perhaps the secret to his fulfilling life.

What makes Tony's story different is he was not born with a disability. He had the typical American childhood with a supportive family and had dreams like every American teenager. Motorcycle racing was his passion.

On that fateful day that changed his life, Tony was in top form, zooming on his motorcycle, the lead position in a race at the Los Angeles Coliseum. Just turned 18, Tony had been racing for nearly five years. He had pretty much decided on what he wanted to do with his life - He would own a motorcycle shop and race.

His life changed in an instant due to a freak accident at that race in Los Angeles. He was thrown from his motorcycle and was then hit by another racer coming behind him. The injuries he sustained rendered him permanently paralyzed from the chest down.

A few weeks into his recovery, a DOR counselor visited him at the hospital in Los Angeles and asked him the all-important question, "What did he want to do with his life?"

Accepting the reality that his motorcycling dream would never be realized, Tony thought about what his new goals in life might be. Well, he had enjoyed some woodworking classes at school, so he decided to change his focus to - making cabinets. And with the help of the California Department of Rehabilitation, Tony enrolled in cabinet making courses.

His disability did not stop him from having a successful career as a professional cabinetmaker and later a woodworking instructor. He enjoyed that career and could have continued comfortably in that line of work for the rest of his life.

But Tony wanted to do much more. He wanted to bring his personal

## *Inspiration To All...*

experience in facing the challenges of a disability to the community; to advocate and promote a better life for persons with disabilities; and to bring the "I can" attitude into their lives. In 1990, Tony made a major career change and decided to focus his passion around advocacy and began working full-time in the disability field.

A decade later, he earned a Master's Degree in Management and Disability Services from the University of San Francisco and was a fellow in the Health Leadership Program at the Sierra Health Foundation and the University of Southern California's School of Policy, Planning, and Development.

Twice after his racing accident, he was a consumer of the Department of Rehabilitation. Tony had no inkling that one day he would become the Director of this department!

Since 1990 Tony has held executive level positions in four community-based and government

agencies serving persons with disabilities.

Tony's rise from being a consumer of the DOR to becoming the Director of DOR is impressive. His sheer determi-



*Tony practices seated Tai Chi taught by Retd Dy Dir of DOR Arthur M Lopez*

nation, dedication and ability reached the attention of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, who appointed him the Director of DOR in 2007. His hard work and strong initiative is evident in his accomplishments throughout his career.

As Director, Tony is able to identify and improve areas of operation to provide better services to persons with disabilities. He introduced new

Vocational Rehabilitation models drawing on his personal experience, which brought important elements to the fore in assisting persons with disabilities.

In 2011, his position as Director of California State DOR was reaffirmed by Governor Brown's Administration standing testimony to the respect that Tony's work has gained in the state!

Notwithstanding his unrelenting schedule at work and his many commitments to boards and committees, Tony manages to spend quality time with his lovely wife Katherine Thompson and their four daughters in Northern California.

This then is the story of Anthony 'Tony' Sauer, a person who overcame the challenges of his disability and continues to annually reach out to over 100,000 persons with disabilities in the state! A true inspiration to the field of independent living!

**-By Anuradha Gajaraj-Lopez**

## Making Waves At The Capitol



*RICV Intern Isaac Haney-Owens introduces Senator Beall*

However, when the senator’s staff heard it, they suggested that the group wait a little longer and see if they could catch him as he came out the meeting.

And he did. As he chatted easily with them, Senator noticed the Bull Dog cap on one of the



***Youth with Senator Beall***

them to wait and came back with one of his staff, who also was from Fresno State and introduced her, lending a very local and personal touch to their meeting.

During the rally, RICV’s intern, Isaac Haney-Owens introduced Senator Jim Beall, but only after rallying the crowd with his enthusiasm and encouragement to advocate.

RICV’s Community Organizer, Joanna Zamora presented one of the Jack Campbell awards to DAT member, Ronald Allan. Ronald was one of three advocates from throughout the state awarded for outstanding advocacy in 2012.

They also participated in legislator visits. In all, 35 consumers accompanied RICV staff.

“I really wanted to meet the Senator,” said Marla (name changed), a youth consumer. The group of consumers from RICV had just been told that Senator Beall was busy. They were on the legislator visits as part of the Disability Action Day activities at the Capitol on May 22nd.



One RICV group meets with aide to Assembly Member Patterson

consumers. He asked



***Taking action at Disability Capitol Action Day***

## Highlights Of Visit To Korea : The First Few Days

### **Excerpts from Bob's email from Korea**

- ◆ Short visit with Korean Differently Abled Federation (KODAF) Secretary General Kim Dongbum.
- ◆ Full tour of the Jongno Community Welfare Center with their Secretary General Sung-Tae Kim. They are a huge NGO serving adults and children in a wide variety of areas including education, vocational, therapies and medical services.
- ◆ Meeting with one of 3 Standing Commissioners from the National Human Rights Commission of Korea, Jang Myung Sook. Discussions on her work, RICV and services in the U.S. and RICV's Community Leadership Academy. She is the only Commissioner with a disability.
- ◆ Meeting at the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Director of the Division of Policy for Persons with Disabilities, Jeong Chung-Hyeon; and the Deputy Director of e Division of Rights Promotion for Persons with Disabilities, Sohn, Joo Young. Long discussion on successes and areas needing improvement. Compared some of their systems with those in the U.S.
- ◆ Met with the Secretary General and Dr. Ahn. Decided that our project will be to start a **Community Leadership Academy in Korea!**

*Join us at our  
4th Annual*

*Youth Transition Conference*

*On Friday November 15, 2013*

*Registrations open at 8 am*

*Opening and workshops: 9 am to 3  
pm*

*At Clovis Veterans Memorial District,  
808 4th Street*

*Clovis, CA 93612-1396*

*\$10 per student*

*\$20 per parent*

*\$45 Professionals*

*Contact Ileana Perez at  
iperez@ricv.org for more details.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual**  
**Swing with the Legends Celebrity**  
GOLF TOURNAMENT

Presented by  
**University of Phoenix**

Hosted at:  
**Eagle Springs**  
GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB.

Best Ball  
8:30 am - 9:30am Registration  
10 am Shotgun

**Friday, October 25, 2013**  
**Eagle Springs Golf & Country Club**  
21722 Fairway Oaks Lane  
Friant, California  
559.325.8900

Resource for Independence  
501c3-Tax I.D. #942328156

For more information contact Jim Santos @ 559.299.1223 or Navyrjt@aol.com



## Recognition



Bob is honored by DOR Director

The State Rehabilitation Council recognized Bob Hand as outgoing chair of the council. Bob served two consecutive terms as chair of SRC from 2010.

He is now the chair of CFILC.

## Bob On CSUF Transition Board

Resources for Independence Central Valley is the only Independent Living Organization which is part of the 42 member Presidential Transition Team of Fresno State.

Fresno State President-Designate Joseph I. Castro picked the 42-member Presidential Transition Team to provide counsel on assuming office in August and

during his first six months.

"I value input from all constituents as I begin this momentous journey," he said, according to a release.

RICV Executive Director Bob Hand is part of this team which includes campus and community members like the Mayor, judge from the superior court, chamber of commerce, professor from Harvard among others.



CALIFORNIA BANK  
TRUST

## Letter of Appreciation

*Neana and others*

*Hello ladies, I can't thank you enough for the wonderful evening last night. I really appreciate how thorough, thoughtful, loving, kind, and encouraging you all are to both Ben and me. I think it gave Ben a boost for the Discovery House and gave added support to me for sure. The relationships that we all have created over the years is really a treasure to me. I am grateful to have you all as such quality peers, helpful mentors and dear friends. I am blessed. Very fondly,*

*Carin Jackson,*

*Family Resource Center,*

*Century Elementary School*

## Life Goes On: Art Olvera

Art Olvera is the CEO of Life Goes On-Home Improvement organization.

He helps persons with disabilities in all aspects of accessibility issues. He is also successfully employed in a full time job and serves on the board of directors of RICV.

Art is an inspiration to all with his ready smile and positive spirit.

Active in sports, Art led a normal life until as a passenger in a drunken driving accident, Art was left a quadriplegic.

That was in 1988, when Art was just 19. His then classmate at Heald College Mary and Art started dating after his accident. This happy relationship culminated in a successful marriage.

For Art, the idea of helping persons with Disabilities, germinated with his own experience.

When he was released from the hospital after the accident, he and his family had little or no help on how to adapt to the new situation.

After years of



personal experience in his own pursuit for independence, as well as observing the struggles of other disabled individuals, Art and his wife Mary formed Life Goes On-Home Improvement, a non profit 501(c)(3) corporation in order to help people with various disabilities improve their home environments to maximize accessibility, independence, safety, and social interaction.

Fully supported by a board, Life Goes On-Home Improvement is committed to coordinating accessibility projects from start to finish.

“If you are looking to do something different in your life, listen to your Inner voice, “Art says pointing out, if you knew you wouldn't fail, what would you do?”

### *Board of Directors*

#### *President*

*Janice Brown*

*(Director, Services for Students with Disabilities CSUF)*

#### *Vice president*

*Selina Escobar*

*(Sr. Public Programs Administrator, HealthNet)*

#### *Treasurer*

*Gayle Black*

*(Vice President, California Bank and Trust)*

#### *Members*

*Russell Ryan*

*(Attorney, Motschiedler, Michaelides, Wishon, Brewer & Ryan LLP)*

*Anthony Gracian*

*(Graduate, Fresno Pacific University)*

*Susan Thompson (Graduate, CSUF)*

*Frances Reyes Acosta*

*(Consultant)*

*Art Olvera*

*(CEO, Life Goes On-Home Improvement)*

*Jennifer Wynveen (Graduate, CSUF)*

*Shail Lopez-Ortiz (Director, Wayfinders, Fresno State)*

*Andra Christenson (Artist and Educator)*

# Appreciation

## **Fresno Advocacy Team**

3rd Friday [2pm-4pm]  
Joanna Zamora  
[jzamora@ricv.org]

## **Job Club**

Job Development Coordinator  
Michael Borunda  
[mborunda@ricv.org]

## **Peer Support Group**

1st & 3rd Wednesday [2:00 pm-3:30 pm]  
Barney Morris  
[bmorris@ricv.org]  
All above events held at  
RICV Conference Room  
2940 N. Fresno St.  
Fresno, CA 93703

## **Merced Advocacy Team**

United Way, 658 West Main St.  
Merced, CA.  
2nd Friday [2pm-4pm]

## **Visalia Advocacy Team**

RICV, 220 Santa Fe Avenue,  
Visalia, CA.  
2nd Tuesday [2pm-4pm]

## **Central Valley Coalition for Human Services**

3rd Thursday [3 pm]  
At Central Valley Business Incubator, 1630 East Shaw Avenue #163, Fresno, CA 93710  
www.centralvalleychs.org

## **Bowling for youth with disabilities**

California State University Fresno.  
Contact BRIDGES Counselor Ileana Perez [iperez@ricv.org]

## **Community Leadership Academy**

How to be an effective board member-  
15 hour, five week module.  
www.nationalcla.org  
Coreen Campos  
[ccampos@ricv.org]

## *Client Speak*

*Hello,*

*I am Janice Cooper, and I wanted to thank you for providing such excellent disability resources on your site <http://www.ricv.org/resource.html>. My husband went on disability last year after a work accident left him blind, and your site really helped us through our tough time. I was particularly appreciative of the financial resources!*

*In my research I also came across this great page: <http://turbotax.intuit.com/tax-tools/tax-tips/General-tax-Tips/tax-tips-for-the-legally-disabled/INF22825.html>.*

*We spent so much money last year at the hospital and then making adjustments at home, that we have been really strapped for cash. I had no idea that all those expenses were tax deductible! These tips were really a lifesaver.*

*And once again, thank you so much for all the help!*

*Cheers,*

*Janice Cooper*

*Note: Director Technology and Resources Joseph Cody is our webmaster and is the one who has posted all the resources on our website. Thank you Joseph!*

*RICV Board and Staff.*

[www.centralvalleychs.org](http://www.centralvalleychs.org)

[www.nationalcla.org](http://www.nationalcla.org)

- The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has issued four revised documents on protection against disability discrimination. The documents address how the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) applies to applicants and employees with cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, and intellectual disabilities. These documents are available on the agency's website at "Disability Discrimination, The Question and Answer Series," <http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/types/disability.cfm>. U.S.
- In the first redesign of the ADA website since 2002, the U.S. Department of Justice launched ADA.gov, an information and technical assistance website on the Americans with Disabilities Act. The new design incorporates improved navigation and usability features. In addition to the website, technical assistance is available through the ADA Information Line at 800-514-0301 (voice) or 800-514-0383 (TTY). Visit the ADA.gov website.
- New mentalhealth.gov website provides one-stop access to comprehensive information and resources from several federal agencies in one place. Find information and signs of common mental disorders, treatment options and other things. You will also find information about where to get help right away. For more information log on to <http://www.mentalhealth.gov/index.html>

## Building Inspiration Park Brick by Brick

*A heartfelt THANKS to our Donors featured below.*

*Choose a brick or tile for your name or message at the **Inspiration Park***

*To reserve a brick or tile, log on to [www.ricv.org](http://www.ricv.org)*

*Or call (559)221-2330*



## THE INDEPENDENT

Resources for Independence Central Valley  
3008 North Fresno Street  
Fresno, CA 93703

(559) 221-2330 VOICE  
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(559) 221-2340 FAX  
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### Missed our last issue?

Check out our newsletter archives at  
our website:

[www.ricv.org](http://www.ricv.org)

*Current Resident or*

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

### Donate to

**RESOURCES FOR INDEPENDENCE CENTRAL VALLEY**  
**IRS CERTIFIED 501C(3) NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION**

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**  
**Donate online [www.ricv.org](http://www.ricv.org)**