

California
Foundation
for Independent
Living Centers

2010 Annual Report

INDEPENDENCE | CHOICE | FREEDOM

CFILC Members

Access to Independence

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(619) 293-3500 / (619) 293-7757 TTY • accessstoIndependence.org

Center for Independent Living

3075 Adaline Street, Suite 100 • Berkeley, CA 94703
(510) 841-4776 / (510) 848-3101 TTY • cilberkeley.org

Center for Independence of Individuals with Disabilities

1515 South El Camino, Suite 400 • San Mateo, CA 94402
(650) 645-1780 / (650) 522-9313 TTY • cidsanmateo.org

Central Coast Center for Independent Living

318 Cayuga Street, Suite 208 • Salinas, CA 93901
(831) 757-2968 / (831) 757-3949 TTY • cccil.org

Communities Actively Living Independent & Free

634 South Spring Street, 2nd Floor • Los Angeles, CA 90014
(213) 627-0477 / (213) 623-9502 TTY • calif-ilc.org

Community Access Center

848 Magnolia Avenue, Suite 150 • Riverside, CA 92506
(951) 274-0358 / (951) 274-0832 TTY • ilcac.org

Community Resources for Independent Living

439 A Street • Hayward, CA 94541
(510) 881-5743 / (510) 881-0218 TTY • cril-online.org

Dayle McIntosh Center

13272 Garden Grove Blvd • Garden Grove, CA 92843
(714) 621-3300 / (800) 735-2929 TTY • daylemc.org

Disability Resource Agency for Independent Living

920 12th Street • Modesto, CA 95354
(209) 521-7260 / (209) 576-2409 TTY • drail.org

Disabled Resource Center, Inc.

2750 East Spring Street, Suite 100 • Long Beach, CA 90806
(562) 427-1000 / (562) 427-1366 TTY • drcinc.org

Disability Services & Legal Center

521 Medocino Ave • Santa Rosa, CA 95401
(707) 528-2745 / (707) 528-2151 TTY • cri-dove.org

FREED Center for Independent Living

117 New Mohawk Road, Suite A • Nevada City, CA 95959
(530) 265-4444 / (530) 256-4944 TTY • freed.org

Independent Living Center of Kern County

1631 30th Street • Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 325-1063 / (661) 329-8966 TTY • ilcofkerncounty.org

Independent Living Resource

1850 Gateway Blvd, Suite 120 • Concord, CA 94520
(925) 363-7293 / (925) 363-7293 TTY • ilrsc.org

Independent Living Resource Center

423 West Victoria Street • Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 963-0595 / (805) 693-0595 TTY • ilrc-trico.org

Independent Living Resource Center of San Francisco

649 Mission Street, 3rd Floor • San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 543-6222 / (415) 543-6698 TTY • ilrcsf.org

Marin Center for Independent Living

710 Fourth Street • San Rafael, CA 94901
(415) 459-6245 / (415) 459-7027 TTY • marincil.org

Placer Independent Resource Services

11768 Atwood Road, Suite 29 • Auburn, CA 95603
(530) 885-6100 / (530) 885-0326 TTY • pirs.org

Resources for Independence, Central Valley

3008 North Fresno Street • Fresno, CA 93703
(559) 221-2330 / (559) 408-5185 TTY • ricv.org

Rolling Start, Inc.

570 West 4th Street, Suite 107 • San Bernardino, CA 92401
(909) 884-2129 / (909) 884-7396 TTY • rollingstart.com

Services Center for Independent Living

107 South Spring Street • Claremont, CA 91711
(909) 621-6722 / (909) 962-7035 TTY • scil-ilc.org

Silicon Valley Independent Living Center

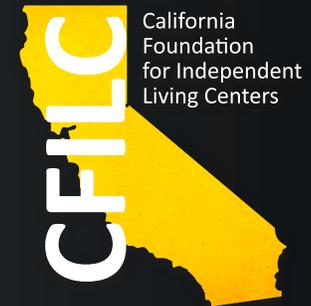
2202 N. First Street • San Jose, CA 95131
(408) 894-9041 / (866) 327-8877 TTY • svilc.org

Southern California Rehabilitation Services

7830 Quill Drive, Suite D • Downey, CA 90242
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20 years after the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 2010 was a year to celebrate the power of the disability rights movement and the social change we have achieved. While the “shameful wall of exclusion” has not completely tumbled, bus lifts have freed us to get to school, work, and community. Curb cuts make it possible for us to walk beyond the block we live on. Interpreters at medical offices enable us to make informed decisions...And accommodations in the workplace have freed us from poverty.

The ADA has transformed our communities and transformed our lives. It has brought us INDEPENDENCE, CHOICE, and FREEDOM.

This year we successfully advocated for national and statewide recognition of Disability Rights leader Ed Roberts, supported youth with disabilities as they campaigned across the state to have California be the 24th state to teach Disability History Week in schools, and we successfully defended ILC funding allocations nationwide through the passage of the Independent Living Technical Adjustment Act.

While we had many successes, California’s disability community faced a slow economy, budget cuts and reductions in municipal services that disproportionately affected our lives and made it more difficult to live independently. As you will see in the pages of this report, we responded to those challenges with hard work, compassion and collaborative efforts to engage individuals with disabilities to solve their own problems and to advocate for public policy that promotes community living rather than institutional care.

Perhaps the most difficult part of putting this report together was selecting just a few of the many powerful personal stories submitted by our members to illustrate the impact Independent Living Centers have had on the lives of people with disabilities. Each is evidence of the powerful potential unleashed by our collective action to educate, motivate and activate individuals to take action.

Over the last 28 years CFILC and its members have endeavoured to bring independence, choice, and freedom to the lives of Californians with disabilities. I welcome you to join me in exploring how we achieved our missions through the pages of this annual report.



Teresa Favuzzi, MSW
Executive Director – CFILC

Letter from the Executive Director

TERESA FAVUZZI, MSW



Real Lives, Real Needs, Real Choices

CORE SERVICES

Peer counseling promotes independence and fosters self esteem and confidence. So often treated as “special”, people with disabilities are more receptive to learning and more open about their problems when they work with others who have shared their experiences. That’s why at least 51% of each ILCs staff are people with disabilities. Staffs that reflect the faces and experiences of the people we serve provide independent living skills training that they can be confident in.

In 2010 California ILCs provided six core services to more than 350,000 individuals across the state. These included:

- Housing referrals
- Information and Referral
- Peer counseling
- Personal Assistant Services
- Independent living skills training
- Individual and Systems Change advocacy

In 2010, California ILCs helped people with disabilities find solutions that enabled them to return to or remain in their community. Such as the Ventura County woman who came to the Independent Living Resource Center seeking a safe place to stay. She’d been evicted from the trailer she was renting because of complaints about its unsafe conditions. With her belongings in storage, she lived in her car, suffering from monoxide poisoning as a result. The staff at ILRC helped her find a temporary safe haven at a local hotel. And then taught her how to use a computer to search for permanent housing. She first found a room to share and, finally, a studio apartment she could afford.



ILC staff provides training in real life skills for people like Azaleah, a deaf student at Ohlone College, who lives in San Jose. After enrolling in the mobility training program at the Silicon Valley Independent Living Center she learned how to read bus and light rail schedules, understand fares and where to transfer to get from her San Jose home to her college campus in Fremont. Azeleah was the first person to complete mobility training in one session.

Employment is the key to independence for many. The Westside Center for Independent Living's VIVA Employment program provides training and individualized job placement opportunities to people with disabilities who speak Spanish or limited English. In early March, a young woman joined the program because she was having difficulties keeping a job due to her mental illness. In the VIVA program she learned extensive job seeking skills including job interviewing and employer networking.

Independent Living by the Numbers:

- 5,923,361:** Number of disabled Californians based on 2000 census data.
- 350,000:** Californians with Disabilities served by independent living centers in 2010.
- 62,916:** National median cost of nursing home care per person per year.
- 11,136:** National median cost of services and supports for a person to live at home per year.
- 2,731:** Number of people who achieved vocational goals with assistance from ILCs in 2010.
- 276:** Number of people moved out of institutional care with assistance from ILCs in 2010.
- 14,291,280:** Dollars saved as a result of these transitions.
- 124:** Percentage of return on investment for every dollar spent on Independent Living Centers*

** Based on a study of Resources for Independence, Central Valley.*

Lupe, the VIVA job developer, got the young woman an interview with a Los Angeles area McDonalds where she was hired on the spot. McDonalds was so impressed, they asked Lupe to send more applicants and hired four more VIVA program participants, ranging in age from 23 to 71.



ILCs aided many individuals applying for benefits that enabled them to pay rent, buy food and provide for themselves.

ILC staff provide information, resources and assistance to empower individuals to manage their own affairs. With these services, centers enabled individuals with disabilities to take control of their lives, solve problems and meet their functional needs.

Jose's Story

Coming from Guatemala, "Jose" had no language skills, as education for deaf people was non-existent in his home country. Jose was working as a gardener when he learned about the Independent Living Resource Center in Santa Barbara. There he began to learn American Sign Language, improved his vocabulary and learned job hunting skills. He found a job at a local grocery where he worked for about 14 months before an accident landed him in the hospital. Paramedics didn't know he was deaf. It was difficult, until an ASL interpreter from ILRC was finally called. With the interpreter's help, Jose was able to communicate with his doctors, heal from his injuries, and return to work.

Key to Independent Living

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (AT)



The ability to meet a functional need can be critical to a person's ability to live independently. Assistive technology (AT), adaptive and assistive devices, help people compensate for functional limitations resulting from their disability. That's why AT advocates at ILCs work hard to make sure people acquire the devices they need to maintain their independence.



The AT Network, California's federally funded AT Act project, worked in 2010 to strengthen the ties that bind AT advocates and other professionals in a collaboration that improves access to services for all Californians. We consolidated several programs under the AT Network umbrella, upgraded the ATnet.org website and revised our on-line directory of service providers.

The addition of the AT Exchange (*visit online <http://exchange.atnet.org>*) provides access to 13 device lending libraries around the state, funded

by the AT Network. And this was just the beginning of our efforts to get more devices into the hands of the people who need them.

More than 20 organizations attended a November summit to explore common challenges and opportunities to increase the reuse of AT. A small task force was formed as the core of a statewide reuse network that will work to expand the supply of used devices and tackle public policy to encourage reuse of AT.

One concrete result of the reuse summit was the creation of a fund to help pay for the repair of devices and a grant opportunity to pay for capacity building projects. In 2011 these initiatives will increase the number of used devices low income Californians with disabilities can acquire from reuse programs around the state.

At the local level, AT advocates worked hard to assist individuals in their efforts to get AT devices. They helped people like 3 year old Jordan who had just received his first electric wheelchair. With help from the United Auburn Indian Council, Placer Independent Resource Services was able to install a modular ramp at Jordan's home so he can enter and exit on his own.

Device Recycling Helps Senior Get on Her Feet

Her insurance company said no. Even though "Evelyn" had a documented neurological condition that was affecting her ability to walk, and she had already fallen several times, her insurance company denied her request for a scooter. Her condition did not merit one they said.

Evelyn came to the Marin Center for Independent Living looking for help to solve this problem. She needed something to use to get around safely without constantly worrying about falling. MCIL was able to provide her with a light weight, modular scooter that was donated to their medical equipment recycling program. Evelyn took it for a test drive with good results. She was shown how to assemble, disassemble and load the scooter into her vehicle as well as how to maintain and use the scooter. Then off she went, looking forward to shopping safely, something she hadn't been able to do for a long time.



What does it mean to people with disabilities who receive help acquiring AT they need? It means a college student who cannot write notes due to his Cerebral Palsy can listen to his professor's lectures on the digital recorder he borrowed from Rolling Start's device lending library. It means 45 year old Paul can come and go as he pleases since a ramp was installed at his apartment. He no longer has to coordinate his schedule with others who he depended upon to get in and out of his home. It means 17 seniors who received handheld magnifiers and other optics at an outreach event can read their mail, prescription bottles and favorite books. And it means security and peace of mind for the 67 seniors signed up for lifeline, a medical alert emergency response service, who are now confident that they can summon help when they need it.

AT is one of the keys to independence. CFILC and its members have unlocked quite a few doors for people with disabilities as the result of their efforts to provide Assistive Technology services last year.

Independence with AT Devices

AT devices can be empowering for people with disabilities. Like George, who has a disability that has left him without the use of his arms and legs. Last spring he lost the little remaining use he had of his hands and fingers. At San Mateo's Center for Independence of Individuals with Disabilities, AT advocate Steven Freier researched and located a voice activated remote control that George could use to control his TV, Tivo and stereo. Steve also found an adaptive telephone from California's Telephone Access Program (CTAP) fitted with a sip and puff switch.

With the addition of Dragon Naturally Speaking and a computer connected to an HD TV screen, George was well positioned to manage his communications and connections to the world himself, without the assistance of his personal attendant.

CFILC's 25 members seek to serve a population that numbers in the millions. Many people with disabilities, especially those who acquire their disability later in life, are unaware of the services, support and advocacy available to them. That is why we have frequent outreach events to educate the public and bring services to people who live far from the centers that serve them.

A March event in Blythe is typical. Located on the eastern border of Riverside County, Blythe is closer to Phoenix than Riverside. Staff from the Community Access Center went to Blythe in March for a two day assistive technology outreach event at the town's community/senior center.

They conducted workshops and demonstrated a variety of devices for people with low vision. Intake interviews were conducted with many of the participants. More than 15 received individual blind and low vision skills training. Several received free low vision kits with either English or Spanish speaking devices.

ILCs also outreach to educate consumers. The Dayle McIntosh Center was one of many that worked to Get Out the Vote in their community. DMC hosted a voter workshop in September so community members could learn about propositions on the November ballot. The League of Women Voters presented an unbiased look at ballot proposals. This was followed in October by a roundtable at which candidates for local office met with community members and discussed some of the issues that concern people with disabilities in Orange County.

DMC also initiated a quarterly community movie series featuring people with disabilities. More than two dozen people attended the first event in

Into the Community

OUTREACH



May where they watched *Music Within*, a film about the creation of the ADA. At another movie night, participants engaged in a panel discussion about the stigma of mental illness and how to address it effectively.

The 20th anniversary of President George H.W. Bush's signing of the Americans with Disability Act was honored with a variety of celebrations by ILCs across the state. These were opportunities for us to remember the struggle for equality, learn the history and write the the next chapter. Many centers held resource fairs in conjunction with these events so people with disabilities had another chance to learn about ILCs and get involved in advocacy efforts.

Resources for Independence, Central Valley and the Center for Disability Innovation sponsored the first Youth Day Conference as part of the Western Region Disability Conference held in Fresno last July. More than 120 high school students with disabilities and their teachers attended the event, listening to presentations on career development, transition services, and job placement services.

At just about all these events (and others like them) people with disabilities discover options and opportunities they never knew they had. They learn about their rights. They learn about services and benefits that can help them lead a more independent life. And they often find solutions to long standing problems they were unable to solve alone.

Advocacy in Action

ADVOCACY



Public policy often has a significant impact on the daily lives of Californians with disabilities. The decisions made by legislators and government officials can often mean the difference between independence and institutionalization for people with disabilities. CFILC and its members are leaders in collaborative advocacy for systems change that removes barriers to independence and preserves vital services for seniors and people with disabilities.



The **Systems Change Network**, a coalition of advocates within California's Independent Living Centers was at the forefront of efforts to ensure that people with disabilities retained vital services in the state's budget process. Proposed cuts to Medi-Cal, In-home Supportive Services, public transit and schools all had the potential to adversely affect our lives. We sifted through mountains of media reports and analysis to bring our community accurate information on budget proposals and their potential impacts. Advocates

at ILCs organized in their communities and held workshops to educate and motivate people to take action. More than 5200 letters to policy makers were generated on budget issues during the spring of 2010.

Several thousand people with disabilities, family members and caregivers gathered at the Capitol in May for the Disability Action Coalition's 7th annual **Disability Capitol Action Day**. Following a march, resource fair and rally, many descended on the offices of their Assembly Members and State Senators to provide personal testimony and educate law makers about the issues that affect their lives.

We worked with a diverse coalition of organizations to fight for a just state budget. Bay area ILCs forged a new alliance of new disability groups such as developmental disability, HIV/AIDS, senior, health advocacy, and child care groups to send a message about preserving the safety net for all Californians. The coalition was able to stop the most draconian cuts proposed by the Governor.

Advocacy happens at the local level as well. Many people with disabilities learn to advocate for change at their local ILCs. Resources for Independence, Central Valley started the Community Leadership Academy designed to teach people with disabilities how to be effective members of boards, government councils and commissions. The first cohort of 15 graduated in the summer of 2010 and many have joined the boards of local community benefit organizations. Three more classes in Fresno, Merced and Visalia are schedule to start soon.

Youth with disabilities were also advocates for change in 2010. It was largely the efforts of young advocates like Drake High School Senior Allie Carrington, that





generated support for a resolution (ACR 162) naming the first week of October as **Disability History Week**. Students in Hayward formed the Disability Action Network for Youth (DANY) and began a campaign for the passage of ACR 162, collecting over 200 petition signatures.

As they receive services at ILCs, many people with disabilities learn about their rights and how to advocate for themselves.

Like the mother and daughter who sought shelter from domestic violence at a housing program run by Santa Barbara Domestic Violence Coalition (SBDVC). They were welcomed but the 16 year-old's service dog was not. An advocate from the Independent Living Resource Center educated the SBDVC staff about service dog access rights, provided an ID card

and vest for the dog and was able to quickly reunite dog and owner so the dog could continue to provide seizure alerts for the teen.

Whether it is federal, state or local public policy, or just an individual's challenge, learning to advocate for our own needs is a vital skill for independence. The advocates at California's independent living centers spoke up to protect community services in 2010. They also continued a tradition of training consumers to effectively speak for themselves. And many did.

Individual Advocacy Brings Understanding and Equality

A concerned mother from the Coachella Valley School District contacted the Community Access Center in Riverside for help dealing with a problem at her child's school. She had received a letter telling her that special arrangements would be needed before she could contact the school.

At a meeting with school district personnel, CAC staff helped revise her child's Individual Education Plan (IEP). They then discussed why the mom needed to notify the Special Education Director of her intentions to speak with her child's instructor, visit the classroom, or simply have a conversation with personnel from the school's front desk.

Although the district had an open door policy that requested parents call the school prior to visits and check-in at the school's main office, they were asking this parent to follow different rules because she was difficult and hard to deal with.

CAC's advocate reminded them that the district's open door policy was created to provide all parents access to their child's classroom to make observations, learn strategic teaching methods that can be applied at home and have better communications with their child's instructor. An agreement was finally reached in which the school's open door policy would be no different for this parent than any other parent of a child attending this school.

The services of many community based organizations can be difficult to access if you are down on your luck and have a disability. Shelters, food banks, and other programs are often run out of churches, community centers and other older buildings not designed with physical access for people with disabilities in mind. These organizations often have programmatic as well as physical barriers that make it difficult for people with disabilities to access their services.

Ramping Up for Food

More than 20% of rural Del Norte County's population live below the poverty line. In the year the Community Assistance Network applied for Access to Food funds, it distributed 263 tons of food; equivalent to providing two bags of groceries to every person in the county.

The Community Assistance Network operates out of a two story building. Many offices are upstairs, inaccessible to wheelchair users and others with mobility issues. The network's food bank operated from a modular building using pallets as steps, meaning those who could not enter the building often waited in the rain for assistance.

Access to Food's accessibility fund paid for construction of an ADA compliant ramp. Employment and other services have been shifted to the now accessible building making it easier for everyone to get the assistance they need.

Helping
Others
Serve Our
Community
ACCESS TO FOOD



BEFORE



AFTER

CFILC and its members educate service providers on how to make their materials and programs accessible. We advise organizations on ways to improve physical access.

Our Access to Food project concluded in 2010; a program that improved access to food banks, food pantries and other emergency food distribution sites in 21 communities across California.

With funding from the Vitamin Cases Consumer Settlement Fund, CFILC developed a set of self assessment tools and then reached out by telephone to more than 400 organizations. During the project's two-year life, we provided technical assistance and training to 62 food banks and pantries.

A major part of the program was the administration of a \$200,000 accessibility fund which paid for improvements such as:

- **Installation of an ADA compliant ramp at All Saints Episcopal Food Pantry in San Leandro.**
- **Creation of accessible pathways, parking spots and an ADA compliant rest room at the Food Bank of Yolo County.**
- **Purchase of a food delivery vehicle for Grateful Hearts Storehouse in Los Alamitos.**

By helping other organizations understand accessibility and working with them to make their sites and programs easier for people with disabilities to utilize, CFILC and its members are breaking down barriers to vital services.

The Supreme Court's 1999 ruling in the case of Olmstead v L.C and E.W affirmed the right of individuals with disabilities to live in their community. Since that time, CFILC and its members have been at the forefront of efforts to change California public policy to implement that decision.



While Californians for Olmstead, an ARRA-funded project, led by CFILC built a coalition of stakeholders to tackle policy, ILC staff tackled the every day challenges faced by people with disabilities who wanted to get out of institutional settings and return to their communities.

The Coalition took policy action on a variety of Olmstead-related topics in 2010, its first year. The coalition provided policy makers with information about how proposed cuts would negatively impact the ability of people with disabilities to living in the community, or move out of skilled nursing facilities. As a result, policy makers prevented cuts to SSI/SSP, elimination of the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants, and protected funding for the In-Home Support Services and Adult Day Healthcare programs.

At both the policy level and the practical level, CFILC and its members are leading the way to greater independence for Californians with disabilities. Amending policy will make it easier for people to live in the community. The individual assistance provided by ILC staff will make sure that people with disabilities have the support they need to maintain their independence.

Policy &
Real Life
Solutions
OLMSTEAD



Enjoying Life at Home

“Lilly’s” conservator was concerned. The 96 year old was not getting the kind of care she deserved at the assisted living facility where she was living. She had special dietary needs and required regular meal times. But the facility fed Lilly a regular diet on a schedule that was convenient for them. The conservator was concerned about a lack of stimulation. Lilly has few people to talk with and very little interaction with the staff.

Lilly’s conservator wanted to bring her home to live in the community. But it would require round the clock care. So the conservator approached the Independent Living Resource Center for help. Together they were able to find personal assistants that would not only help Lilly care for herself, but they would also engage her, playing cards and games, talking and providing stimulation based on her interests and wishes. They arranged for her to receive meals prepared just for her based on her dietary needs and served at the times she needed to eat.

Today, Lilly is doing very well in her new surrounding, enjoy more of life than she did while in the assisted living facility.



10 Months is Enough!

I received a call from Owen in early March. After spending almost 10 months in a nursing home following surgery for a pressure sore, he wanted to be out on his own again. But he needed help. I worked with Owen to develop a budget and figure out what he would need to live on his own. Together we completed an application for a transitional grant from the department of Rehabilitation. Owen used the grant to secure an apartment and purchase necessary household items. He also found an In Home Support Services caregiver and was able to move out of the nursing home in a few short weeks.

Leslie Brewer, Program Manager – Placer Independent Resource Services

Helen's Transition to Home

For most of her 60 years Helen's life has been anything but stable. A single mother of eight, raised on the streets, Helen has been in and out of the social welfare system most of her life.

A stroke in 2008 forced Helen into a skilled nursing facility. Paralyzed on her left side and requiring use of a wheelchair, she had a fiercely independent personality. Helen was determined to take care of herself. When She learned about the Community Transition Program at Resources for Independence, Central Valley, Helen saw an opportunity to regain her independence.

Helen contacted the CCT program coordinator who did an extensive interview to help Helen develop a plan for returning to community living. Other members of the CCT program staff soon joined the team.

"Team Helen" contacted a number of agencies to help Helen find an apartment, arrange for in-home supportive services, and get a few devices she would need in order to do things for herself. The team also reviewed Helen's Social Security Status and helped her file the proper papers to get her benefits increased. They also helped get her child support overpayments reduced, allowing her to afford the apartment recently rented.

With a roof over her head, some assistive devices and community support, Helen succeeded in regaining her independence. Going a step further, she is now working on re-establishing her relationships with her children. Altogether it adds up to a fresh start for a woman who faced many challenges but never lost her determination to live independently and care for herself.



Building a New Generation of Leaders

YOUTH ORGANIZING



Youth with disabilities experience an extreme sense of social isolation. They often grow up in families with non-disabled parents and no positive disabled role models. Often they are segregated in special education classes, placed in institutions, and encouraged to hide their disability; to “pass” as non-disabled.

The YO! Disabled & Proud program was launched in 2009 to support youth with disabilities learn about the disability rights movement, disability history, disability pride, disability organizing and advocacy. During 2010 YO! brought dozens of disabled teens and young adults together to forge community, develop leadership skills and begin to take action on issues that affect their daily lives and future.

A youth summit held at Grizzly Creek Ranch in Portola was the starting point for a year of action and accomplishment for YO! members. 45 young people with disabilities learned about disability history and participated in team building and leadership exercises. They learned about successful efforts in other states to have disability history taught in schools and came away with a plan to launch their own effort in California. While working to successfully advocate for a

Youth in Action

YO! members across the state took action on their own and collectively in 2010:

- 11 YO! members were placed in volunteer positions at ILCs.
- Nikki Hall, a youth advocate intern and College of Marin student, led a Disability History summit at the college.
- Students in Hayward formed the Disability Action Network for Youth (DANY) to lobby their school board to keep funding the Mocha Café, an adult education program. They organized rallies and gathered support from parents, teachers and community members and succeeded in saving their program.
- Youth advocate Sara Mossavian organized a disability awareness event in San Jose with a guest speaker Andy Imperato from the American Association of Disabled People and Assembly Members Jim Beall, Jr. and Paul Fong.
- Johnny Vallin, a youth intern at SCRS and other YO members organized the first LA Youth Summit where students discussed disability culture and shared the common experiences growing up with a disability.
- More than 200 young people with disabilities joined YO! during the year.
- YO members came to the Capitol to testify for the Disability History Week resolution before the Assembly Human Services Committee.



joint resolution (passed by of the legislature in August) declaring the second week of October Disability History Week, YO! Members and other youth advocates held a number of rallies and events to spread the word and gain support. In October, events around the state honored Disability History Week. They were able to get several school districts to begin

to incorporate disability history into their curriculums. Their goal for next year is to have 10-20 districts around the state add it to their curriculums as well.

Although the community colleges have experienced average cuts of about 2.5%, they have cut disability services more than 40%, according to the California Association for Postsecondary Education and Disability. As a result, accommodations are being delayed up to 7 weeks, and in some cases denied altogether. Mobility assistance, readers, note takers, large print books, audio books, sign language interpreters, captioning, campus transport services and other essential accommodations are being delayed or denied, putting the academic careers of students with disabilities at risk. The Taking Action for Accommodations Campaign is educating students about their rights and helping them file complaints under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act with the United States Department of Education Office of Civil Rights.

In collaboration with Disability Rights California YO! Disabled & Proud organized five simultaneous 504 trainings across the state. Over 75 students with disabilities attended.

With the leadership, organizing and advocacy skills that teens and young adults with disabilities are learning and the experience they are gaining as a part of the YO! Disabled and Proud program, a new generation of leaders for the independent living movement is emerging. They will be well prepared to face the challenges that face the movement in the years ahead.



Youth with Disabilities Organize for Action in Hayward

The Mocha Café is a local transition program for youth with disabilities at the Hayward Adult School. When Dolores, Community Resources for Independent Living's community organizer, started working with the group, the students were concerned about proposed cuts to the adult school's budget that they felt would jeopardize the program.

Many of the teens and young adults joined the Disability Action Network for Youth (DANY) and began to strategize to fight the proposed cuts. Dolores worked with DANY members to develop their case. They soon began attending Hayward School Board meetings, speaking up about their concerns and educating the board on the importance of the program and the need to keep funding it. They met privately with the school board president. They also organized and held a rally at city hall attended by many of the young people with disabilities in the Mocha Café program along with parents, teachers, community leaders and other allies. Even the press showed up!

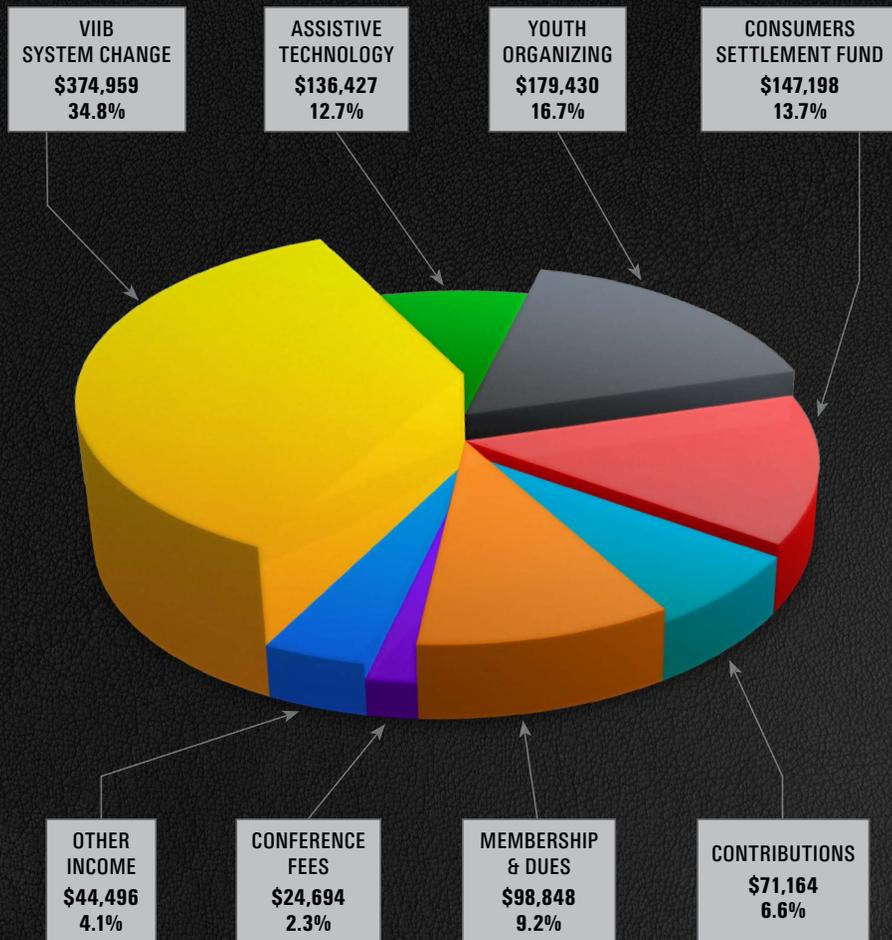
Thanks to the hard work these students put in to speaking up on their own behalf, the board voted to continue funding the Mocha Café.



CFILC Revenues & Expenses

JANUARY 1, 2009 – DECEMBER 31, 2009

REVENUES



EXPENSES

