



Independence Now is the Center for Independent Living for  
Montgomery and Prince George's Counties

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## **Nancy Diehl, Executive Director of Independence Now, Retires**

Nancy Diehl, the Executive Director of Independence Now, Inc. (IN), is retiring. She will end her four years of service to disabled residents of Montgomery and Prince Georges' County, IN's Board of Directors and the employees of IN on June 30.

Nancy came to IN with a background which included providing educational trainings, professional publications, lecturer / speaker, community service, and professional and personal experience with and within the disability arena. During her tenure with the organization her array of experience paid off – growth! When she joined IN In May of 2006, Nancy took on the Independent Living (IL) Services, the Mod Squad Program, The Youth Leadership Program (YLF) and the Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA). To that she added new programs for individuals with disabilities that promote independent thought and action. She identified funding sources and prepared and submitted proposals, which has added projects such as the Travel Trainers, Money Follows the Person (MFP) nursing home transition with Coordinators (2) and Peer Outreach Partners (25), Modifications and Assistive Technology Program, Employment Network (EN) and Access 2 Success. Under Nancy's leadership the staff has grown from about 10 full time to 17 full-time employees , 2 part-time staff, 6 work study students from UMUC, and 2 interns. The number of consumers served through IL Services has increased 80%. Additional services now also include monthly events such as a Women's Group, a Men's Group, Movie Advocacy Night, Creative Cooking Class, Housing Seminar and resuming of the Transportation Action Group (TAG) and monthly Newsletter. Other quarterly and annual events have also been developed. The list could go on. . . . .

Nevertheless, Nancy will be moving back to Tennessee to be with her family. She hopes to buy a home on the river where she and her son can sit and swing and watch the flow of life. She will be missed by many, but her wealth of knowledge will remain and carry on through those who remain. The Board and Staff wish Nancy all the best and thank her for her years of service.

# A Message from the Executive Director of the National Council on Independent Living

Dear Advocates and Friends,

On the eve of the 20th Anniversary of the ADA, our community is overwhelmed with a sense of pride for our accomplishments and determination to finally bring full social, economic, and political equality to people with disabilities.

This July, we will celebrate the future we work toward: a day when our brothers and sisters breathe the free air outside institutions, regain the strength of independence, and bring down “the shameful wall of exclusion” once and for all! This year’s Annual Conference, *20 Years of the ADA: The Fight Goes On!*, is designed to give us the tools to do just that.

In the two decades since President George H.W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act into law on July 26, 1990, we have seen access and attitudes improve exponentially. However, successes like the Olmstead Decision have been dampened by a lack of action or urgency by Federal and state governments. And recent state budget cuts have actually moved us backward!

The promises of equal opportunity in hiring and employment have been decimated by a skeptical judiciary. And the substantial increases in accessible housing and transportation are hardly exciting considering that nationwide, the lack of these vital resources remains the largest barrier to the independence.

It is in the context of this balance, between success and continuing challenges, that we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

It is my sincerest hope that you will join us for this week-long event, especially during this crucial time for our community. The 2010 NCIL Annual Conference will be an opportunity to reinforce the resolve that will be needed during the coming years. This July we will bring our message to Capitol Hill: Freedom! Now!

Sincerely,

**Kelly Buckland**  
Executive Director



## ADA Stories

To Celebrate the 20 years since the American Disabilities Act was enacted, Independence Now is asking for “ADA Stories” from our consumers, our staff, our members, and our Board of Directors. Tell how your life is easier, could be easier or should be easier because of the ADA. The story can be funny, sad, enlightening, or just plain life!

Submit your story to Trish Foley at Independence Now, 12301 Old Columbia Pike, Suite 101, Silver Spring MD 20904 by Wednesday, June 14th. We will publish as many as we can in the July Newsletter.



# 20

Years of the ADA:  
The Fight Goes On!

2010 Annual Conference  
on Independent Living

**National Council On  
Independent Living (NCIL)**

**July 19—22, 2010**  
Grand Hyatt, Washington DC

You can register online at [www.ncil.org](http://www.ncil.org)

For more information, please contact  
NCIL at 877.525.3400 (voice),  
202.207.0340 (TTY), or by email at  
[conference@ncil.org](mailto:conference@ncil.org).

## The DBTAC: Mid-Atlantic Center

The DBTAC: Mid-Atlantic Center provides training, information, and technical assistance on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to businesses, consumers, schools, and government agencies within the **Mid-Atlantic Region (PA, DE, MD, VA, WV, and DC)**. Funded by the [National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research](#) (grant # H133A060085) under the U.S. Department of Education, each of the regional Disability and Business Technical Assistance Centers (DBTACs) has a toll-free line staffed by specialists who can answer specific questions on the ADA. Callers also may order materials from the Center's extensive library of ADA and disability-related publications. The DBTAC: Mid-Atlantic ADA Center provides free or low-cost training programs to help employers, service providers and businesses understand and comply with the law. A training or presentation can be tailored to the interests of the audience, and can be a simple overview or an in-depth review of a particular area of the law.

### Goss, Presenter for June 30th ADA Workshop

**Karen Goss** is the Assistant Director of the DBTAC. She is responsible for the newsletter, bi-weekly e bulletin, evaluation, and other reporting obligations. Karen also coordinates the center's outreach efforts. One of her roles prior to joining the center was as the Business Development Specialist with the One-Stop in Wheaton, MD. In that role she worked closely with the Department of Economic Development, Business, State and Local Government, Health Care Providers, and Maryland's Lead Disability Program Navigator. She has extensive business management and human resources experience in the private sector.

# Disability Awareness Experience

"Don't Miss This Experience!"

If you have a disability or know someone with a disability, come and share in this community Event!!

All are welcome! Families, friends, adults, children, care providers - there's something for everyone, and every age!

#### SHARE THE EXPERIENCE!

- ◆ Healthier eating habits
- ◆ Technology demonstrations
- ◆ Medical vendors
- ◆ College & University Reps



Healthy Lifestyle

Entertainment



SPORTS

Raffle

Independent Living

Community Resources

June 6, 2010 from 2-6pm  
916 Ellsworth Drive  
Silver Spring, MD 20910



# JUNE 2010



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Summer Safety 10 am— 12	3	4	5
6 <i>Disability Awareness Experience</i> 2—6 pm	7 Women's Group 12—2 pm	8	9 T.A.G. 2—4 pm	10	11 Men's Group 1—3 pm	12
13	14  <i>Flag Day</i>	15 IN Annual Meeting 4—6 pm	16	17	18 Creative Cooking 11—1 pm	19
20 	21	22 Movie Advocacy Night <i>Precious</i> 6—9 pm	23	24 Housing Seminar 1—3 pm	25 Creative Cooking 11—1 pm	26
27	28	29	30 ADA Workshop 10am—12pm	<b>June is:</b> Home Safety Month National Aphasia Awareness Month National Scleroderma Awareness Month National Scoliosis Awareness Month		



With more than 2,000 participants from around the globe, the festival features performances of dance, music, and theater; visual art exhibitions and installations; film and literary readings; and educational conference featuring almost 70 workshops and panels with renowned speakers.

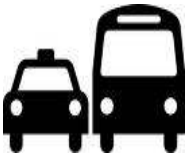
Performances and exhibitions—many free—will be showcased at theaters, museums, cultural institutions, and public spaces throughout Washington, DC. Join this celebration of excellence in the arts by artists with disabilities. For complete information visit [www.vsartsfestival.org](http://www.vsartsfestival.org).



**SUMMER SAFETY (it is more than just sunscreen!) — Community Service Officer**  
 During this workshop, Joy Patil, Community Service Officer for Montgomery County Department of Police, will share safety tips about money handling, summer scams, personal security, robbery prevention, pick pocketing, visiting the ATM.  
**RSVP to Wes Young at 301-277-2839 or [wyoung@innow.org](mailto:wyoung@innow.org).**  
**When: Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10am -- 12 noon Where: Independence Now**



**WOMEN'S GROUP — LOCOMOTION -- International VSA Festival**  
 We have reserved 10 tickets for this performance featuring the Moving Company, Karen Peterson and Dancers, and The Dancing Wheels Company. These three dance companies will perform together bringing a mixture of works that celebrate and acknowledge dancers with disabilities.  
**RSVP to Rochelle Harrod at 301-277-2839 ext. 2050 by June 3<sup>rd</sup>.**  
**When: Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am**  
**Where: Shakespeare Theatre Company, Sidney Harman Hall, 610 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20004, (202) 547-3230**



**TRANSPORTATION ACTION GROUP (TAG)**  
 Discussion and advocacy on issues effecting individuals that use the MetroAccess and public transportation system.  
**Please contact Rochelle or Wes by June 2<sup>nd</sup> if you need accommodations.**  
**RSVP to Rochelle Harrod or Wes Young at 301-277-2839 .**  
**When: June 9<sup>th</sup> from 2pm to 4pm Where: Independence Now**



**MEN'S GROUP — Housing and Accessibility**  
 Discussion on understand your housing rights at the Federal, state and county level.  
**RSVP to Wes Young at 301-277-2839 or at [wyoung@innow.org](mailto:wyoung@innow.org)**  
**When: Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 3pm Where: Independence Now**



**CREATIVE COOKING — 6 week class for those already registered.**  
 Each week there is a new focus from the benefits of eating a variety of food to food safety and grocery shopping on a budget.  
**When: June 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 1pm Where: Independence Now**



**MOVIE ADVOCACY NIGHT — *Precious***  
 Viciously abused by her mother (Mo'Nique) and pregnant by her father, Harlem High Schooler, Precious Jones (Gabourey Sidibe) has an unexpected chance at a different life when she enrolls in an alternative school. Precious must battle unimaginable barriers everywhere in her life.  
 Join us for a free movie, dinner and a discussion after the movie.  
**Please contact Rochelle by June 15<sup>th</sup> if you need accommodations. RSVP to Rochelle Harrod at 301-277-2839 or at [RHarrod@innow.org](mailto:RHarrod@innow.org)**  
**When: Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6pm – 9pm Where: Independence Now**



**HOUSING INFORMATION SEMINAR:** An informational session about affordable housing options in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. Information about housing programs, where to look, and how to apply. We have housing lists and applications available and can provide one-on-one assistance in starting the search for a new home. Get in touch with Wes Young at 301-277-2839 or at [WYoung@innow.org](mailto:WYoung@innow.org) for information.  
**When: Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 1pm -- 3 pm Where: Independence Now**



**The American Disability Act (ADA) workshop - This training will include the history of the ADA, ADA Basics and the ADAAA (Amendments Act), and the individual rights of individuals with disabilities as covered by the ADA. Karen Goss, Assistant Director of the DBTAC will be the presenter.**  
**When: Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 12pm Where: Independence Now**



**Independence Now, Inc.**

12301 Old Columbia Pike, Suite 101  
Silver Spring MD 20904



**INDEPENDENCE NOW'S  
2010 ANNUAL MEETING!!**

AND

**TO HONOR**

**NANCY DIEHL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
ON HER RETIREMENT**

**INDEPENDENCE NOW INVITES**

all consumers and members to the Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors and the Executive Director will report on the state of the organization. A reception for Nancy Diehl is also planned.

**When: Tuesday, June 15th from 4—6 pm**

**Where: Independence Now**