VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING
Annual Report FY ’11

Working Together for Independence and Civil Rights


(Not pictured: Sam Bethel, Mike Charron, Tracy Dorman, Patrick Fitzgerald, Jack Hall, Patsy Huston, Rever Kennedy, Matthew Kimball, Santina Leporati, Paul Maurice, Janis Moore, Charlie Murphy, Shannon Reynolds, Patricia Tedesco, Tanya Vyhovsky)
January 2012

It is with pleasure that we submit to you the FY 2011 Annual Report. Over the past year we have been part of very challenging moments and from that has come incredible opportunity for our state.

Our organization continues to advocate with people with disabilities for full inclusion in our society. We are pushing for equal access in our community and our peers continue to take risks to advocate for equal rights. Peers took risks by approaching municipalities and businesses that are not accessible. We saw people stand up in the Legislature to ask for supports and services that allow us to continue to be independent. The independence we strive for is beyond living in our community; we want to participate fully in our community – be employed, attend a concert, buy local, participate in athletics and recreation. As new ADA regulations are implemented we are here to provide technical assistance to our community so that everyone has equal access to the activities they choose.

Thanks to all of you who volunteered your time with VCIL this past year. Your hard work – from stuffing envelopes on advocacy issues and fund raising, to being available to work with a peer – has been instrumental in our work.

We also thank all of you who contributed financially to VCIL over the past year. In a time when many are struggling, we appreciate your willingness to support our mission to ensure others with disabilities have opportunities within our community.

In the new fiscal year we will continue with our partnerships, increase awareness and advocate for our rights. We are not numbers to be counted and outcomes to be evaluated. We are Vermonter’s who connect in solidarity to ensure equality.

On behalf of the board and staff at VCIL we want to thank you for your support in the past, present and future.

In Solidarity,

Sarah Launderville, Executive Director

Martha Roberts, President
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The Mission of the Vermont Center for Independent Living

The mission of the Vermont Center for Independent Living is to empower Vermonters with disabilities, Deaf Vermonters, and others to tear down the physical, communication, and attitudinal barriers that keep us from realizing our full human potential.

Together, we will build communities to:

- achieve our human and civil rights and equal access to services and opportunities;
- have available ongoing resources and options for independent living; and;
- realize our power to control and direct our own lives.

We join together to celebrate our diversity and the common goal for the full inclusion of all persons in the life of our communities.
WHO WE ARE

The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL), a statewide nonprofit organization directed and staffed by people with disabilities, promotes the dignity, independence and civil rights of Vermonter with disabilities. Founded in 1979, VCIL was the first organization in the state to have a majority of board and staff with disabilities. In FY’11, 85 percent of our staff and board were people with significant disabilities. We understand what it takes to help others.

VCIL’s central office is in Montpelier and has five branch offices in Bennington, Brattleboro, Burlington, Rutland and Newport.

INFORMATION, REFERRAL AND ASSISTANCE (I,R&A)

VCIL’s Information, Referral and Assistance Specialists provide quality referrals and information to people seeking assistance on a variety of issues. In fiscal year 2011 VCIL provided 1,788 individuals with information, referral and/or assistance.

PEER ADVOCACY COUNSELING PROGRAM

Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) offer individual and group support, skills training, guidance for self-advocacy and resource development. PACs help peers define their individual interests and needs, develop and work toward personal goals, learn specific skills that enhance their ability to live independently and access available resources in their communities. PAC’s are using a new “Options Counseling” approach when working with peers. This Aging and Disabilities Resource Connection (ADRC) initiative provides for a three part system. The system consists of a formal intake, take home plan (ILP) and a documented follow up. This allows for a more complete service to peers.

Youth Leadership Program

The VCIL Youth Leadership Program (YLP) is a cross-disability program that serves high school students and young adults with disabilities who want to learn independent living skills.
and enhance their transition options and supports between high school, college and employment.  

**Deaf Independence Program**

The Deaf Independence Program (DIP) provides individual and group skills training to the culturally Deaf throughout Vermont.

**Benefits to Work Program**

The Benefits to Work Program (B2W) helps peers plan for employment and greater independence. Our B2W specialists teach peers how to utilize work incentives and provide information and assistance about the Ticket to Work program and the various employment resources available through State and Federal agencies. Our Benefit Counselors help peers understand how they can successfully return to work.

**Vermont AgrAbility**

Vermont AgrAbility is a collaborative partnership between VCIL, University of Vermont Extension and Rural and Agricultural VocRehab. The Vermont AgrAbility program provides education and assistance at no cost to farmers and farm workers with disabilities who are engaged in production agriculture and want to continue farming. Farmers eligible for Vermont AgrAbility services may have any type of acquired or traumatic disability—physical, cognitive or sensory.

**HOME ACCESS PROGRAM**

VCIL’s Home Access Program (HAP) provides home entry and bathroom accessibility modifications for low-income Vermonters with physical disabilities. The Home Access Program receives funding each year to help people with disabilities make entrance and/or bathroom accessibility modifications so they can continue to live independently and remain in their communities. In fiscal year 2011 the Home Access Program provided 53 households with ramps or entrance modifications, made 27 bathrooms accessible and installed one ceiling track!
Community Access

VCIL’s Community Access Program works to improve access to buildings, services and programs in the state of Vermont. Program specialists provide technical assistance on the new ADA regulations to Vermont cities, towns, employers and businesses.

Volunteer Program

During FY’11, VCIL’s five offices benefitted from 57 volunteers! The relatively new program now recruits, screens and trains volunteers to increase the capacity of VCIL programs to provide services to people with disabilities. The volunteer program showcases VCIL’s valued volunteers in seasonal newsletters, and at annual open house events.

Sue Williams Freedom Fund

The Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provides funding for services and equipment to help people with disabilities achieve or maintain independence in their own homes. In FY’11 SWFF spent over $69,865 and helped 86 peers obtain services or equipment.

MEALS ON WHEELS

FY’11 was another busy year for the Meals on Wheels (MOW) program. MOW served 65,086 meals to 556 peers statewide in the course of the year. This program continues to ensure that people who are unable to prepare meals because of a disability have at least one hot meal a day, five days a week.
GET INVOLVED

Community Meetings:
VCIL holds ongoing community meetings where people with disabilities come together to organize around systems issues and share stories.

Meetings are held monthly throughout the state. Schedule of meeting dates and locations can be found at www.vcil.org or by contacting our I,R&A Department at 1-800-639-1522.

VCIL Web site:
Check out the VCIL web site at www.vcil.org. From that site you can gain access to our Facebook, Twitter and YouTube pages.

Facebook:
Facebook is a social networking site that VCIL uses to connect to the Facebook community. We invite you to join our ongoing discussions and post upcoming events.

Twitter:
VCIL invites you to follow us on Twitter, which is updated at least weekly by the Executive Director.

Donations:
The Vermont Center for Independent Living depends on private contributions to support our civil rights work. Please consider contributing to our organization by donating online today through our secure Network for Good link, through the United Way or by sending the enclosed envelope directly to VCIL.

Scan the tag above to be taken directly to our web site
PEER SUCCESS STORIES

John Thomas - AgrAbility:
Last January, John fell on the ice while unloading a shavings truck and suffered a blood clot on the brain and a hernia.

After several months in the hospital and in rehabilitation facilities John returned to his dairy farm barely able to remember his own name. His daughter and son-in-law were helping out by doing the milking and farm chores in addition to working their full-time jobs. John was eager to return to his barn and continue his work as a farmer.

The VCIL AgrAbility staff came to John’s farm to perform an assessment. After talking with John about the tasks he needs to perform on the farm they discussed what improvements could be made. It was decided that it would be best if John no longer had to lift the two large buckets of milk from each cow and then carry them to the bulk tank at the end of the long barn. This meant he would need a milking system that would take the milk directly from the cows to the milk tank without any handling by John.

Fortunately, John had purchased a complete pipeline system at a farm auction months before his accident and had stored it in his hayloft. The entire system was installed and working properly by July.

John became instantly aware of how much less lifting he had to do at every milking because the milk is now pumped directly from each cow into the tank without John having to do any heavy lifting.

John has said that his quality of life has improved because he is able to operate his dairy farm independently again.

Anonymous – MOWs:
“I was a teacher for many years and then worked at Capital City Press. When my job was outsourced to India I returned to school to become a Medical Laboratory Technologist. I had always suffered from back problems but when I began doing my lab studies it became obvious that something was really wrong. It took time and many tests before they found that I had osteoarthritis,
spondylolisthesis (a condition when the vertebra section of the spine slips forward or backward onto another vertebra) and degeneration of both sacroiliac joints (joint between the pelvis and hip bone) which causes most of my pain. Although I was able to complete my degree I have been unable to get a job. There are many days when I can’t stand for more than 10 minutes or walk very far. Some days I use a walker or a wheelchair and even when sitting I must change positions frequently. Meals on Wheels has been great because no matter how much pain I am in, I’m sure to have at least one decent meal each day.”

**Anonymous - HAP**
The feedback provided is on behalf of my brother. This approach has been taken for two reasons. Primarily, my brother is in great discomfort; even the most mundane tasks, such as writing and typing, are not possible for more than a short period of time. Also, often times, family members are greatly impacted by the disability of a loved one. Therefore, I thought it would be effective to provide insight from the perspective of someone who, although is not disabled, has witnessed the challenges of disability and experienced many of those challenges in a way that only a caregiver could.

In dealing with an undiagnosed muscle condition for the last ten years, I have watched my brother’s life progress from a thriving state to one of immobility, among other issues. Countless tests have been conducted and he has consulted with some of the top specialists in the country to no avail. As his health has continued to deteriorate with no explanation for cause, so too has his quality of life.

This past summer was especially trying. My brother’s health rapidly deteriorated. We were concerned that he would become bedridden. It was extremely important to get him to see his doctors while he still could.

We could not have done this without the Home Access Program (HAP). Our needs were immediate and HAP responded accordingly. The HAP staff worked to ensure that the application process was efficient. All updates were communicated in a timely manner and were done so with a professional demeanor. It was a pleasure working with the Home Access Program.
The Vermont Center for Independent Living has been an integral part of the solution. On behalf of my brother and my entire family, thank you for your assistance and for your presence in the lives of those who are in great need. I conclude this note with what has recently become a favorite quote of mine. "Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all."

**Paul de la Bruere-AgrAbility:**
Paul is an organic dairy farmer who practices rotation grazing (a process where livestock are moved to partitioned pasture areas, to allow vegetation in previously grazed pastures to regenerate). Paul suffered a lower back injury that damaged the spine and required surgery. VCIL’s AgrAbility program was contacted by Rural and Agricultural VocRehab (RAVR) to help Paul continue farming. VCIL’s AgrAbility Specialists did an assessment with Paul to find out what kind of help he needed. One thing they found was that the padding and back support on the tractor seat that Paul sits on for up to 4-5 hours a day needed to be replaced.

Another area that Paul needed help with was over seeding his pastures. Paul had been walking with a hand seeder prior to his injury but could no longer do this on the rough terrain. He would need a seeder for the back of his tractor.

Paul also needed to reduce the amount of heavy lifting he did. A bale spear support for his tractor would make removing the spear easier. Paul had been removing it by hand requiring him to set it on the ground and then lift it back up to put it on the tractor. A task that he performed 4-5 times a week prior to his injury.

VCIL’s AgrAbility fund helped Paul get a new ergonomically designed seat for his tractor, a hitch seeder for the back of his tractor and a spear rack support for the bale spear.

Paul is very pleased with the services he received from VCIL and the independence it has allowed him.
Anonymous - HAP
Almost two years ago I got very sick. I ended up in the hospital. When I recovered the doctors told me and my daughters that I could not return to my home and needed to be where I could receive help. I didn’t like the idea, but agreed to go to a nursing home and rehab in Barton Vermont. I did receive great care and I did get better. I quit smoking and drinking which was hard after 40+ years but I did it.

In May I told my daughter I wanted to go home, but she told me my home wasn’t ready for me; it needed a new water system and other things needed to be done to make it easier for me to live there. Well she went to work getting things done, but the money was hard. I went with my daughters to take out a USDA loan to replace the water system and get a new roof. We did all this when I got back home because I was needed to do the paperwork, but my daughter helped me since I can’t read or understand things. We needed to change my will to a living will which took time but it all got done. It’s good to have a new water system and a roof that won’t leak or fall in! With the new roof and deck I can sit outside even in the rain. The next thing I received was a new state of the art ramp from the Home Access Program (HAP) which makes it possible for me to get in and out of the house since I am on oxygen most of the time.

It’s been great to be home! The last thing I did was have a new shower installed with the rest of my USDA loan. It’s nice to be safe in the shower and I have a seat in it too because standing long periods of time bothers me and my breathing isn’t great, so the oxygen comes in with me.

Everything has worked out for me and I was glad that there are programs out there to help people with no money and have a disability and having a daughter that gets things done!
ABOUT OUR PEERS

GENDER

Female ...... 1,000
Male............ 788

OUR DISABILITIES

Cognitive ........ 82
Hearing .......... 152
Mental/Emotional197
Multiple ........ 167
Other .............5
Physical ........ 978
Vision ............ 18
*Unknown..... 189

INDIVIDUALS SERVED
BY COUNTY

Addison............57
Bennington ....... 163
Caledonia .......... 100
Chittenden........ 301
Essex.................18
Franklin............118
Grand Isle.......... 6
Lamoille .............69
Orange...............60
Orleans ............96
Rutland .......... 184
Washington .......243
Windham .......... 187
Windsor.......... 107
*Unknown ........ 53
Out of State .......26

*Much of the data represented is from IR&A calls where people do not always disclose their age or type of disability

AGES OF OUR PEERS

Under 6 years....1
Ages 6-17 .......12
Ages 18-34 ... 150
Ages 35-64 1,053
Over age 65 .. 174
*Unknown..... 398
SERVICES AT A GLANCE

- Information, Referral & Assistance
  - 2,183 peers and organizations

- Home Access Program
  - 27 bathroom modifications, 53 ramps/entrances and, 1 ceiling track project

- Peer Advocacy Counseling
  - 400 peers served

- Meals on Wheels
  - 556 peers served - 65,086 meals!

- Sue Williams Freedom Fund
  - 86 peers received assistive technology totaling of $69,865!
FY’11 HIGHLIGHTS

National Conference

VCIL Executive Director Sarah Launderville and Community Access Coordinator Kim Brittenham represented VCIL at the National Council on Independent Living’s (NCIL) 2011 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Peter Kriff, executive director of the Vermont Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), rounded out the Vermont contingent “marching on Washington.” While in D.C., the three met with Vermont’s congressional delegates to talk about the impact of then-looming budget cuts on people with disabilities. Staff from U.S. Rep. Peter Welch and U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy’s offices – as well as U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders and his staff – shared similar concerns for the future of social services. Sanders, who believes our country is in its biggest ideological battle yet, gave a rousing address to the NCIL Rally attendees on the Washington Mall.

During the NCIL Conference, Sarah presented a workshop on physician assisted suicide and Kim co-presented a panel workshop “Responding to Violence in the Lives of People with Disabilities” with state CIL directors from West Virginia, Illinois and Idaho. New friends were also made with “Care Individuals from Domestic Workers Union in town for the “Care Congress” with mutual hopes of benefitting domestic workers and care providers and the people with disabilities who employ them.

International Conference

Sarah recently served as a Vermont delegate to activities surrounding International Day of Persons with Disabilities in Washington, D.C. In December, 2010 Sarah attended a reception hosted by the United States International Council on Disabilities (USICD) and a conference hosted by the U.S. State Department. Sarah was honored to participate in the events and sees a strong connection to Vermonters with disabilities. She said, “We have so much to share with our international brothers and sisters and so much to learn in return. It is sad that it took so long for the U.S. to sign onto the convention this past year, but I am hopeful that the ratification process through Congress goes smoothly and people with disabilities join nationwide to inform their representatives of the importance of this convention.”
Moaffak Al Khafaji, right, executive director of the Iraq Association of Disability Organizations and Iraq representative for the International Campaign Against Landmines, visited VCIL in April. Accompanying him was Mabrouka Liebhaber of Bridging the Divide, a nonprofit that connects American activists to local activists working overseas on behalf of peace, rights issues and the promotion of good governance.

Other international visitors to VCIL included a group of education professionals from the Republic of Belarus who were in Vermont through a program implemented by PH International (formerly Project Harmony). The goal of this program was to familiarize the Belarusians with the best U.S. practices related to the inclusion of people with disabilities in general education. The program also covered how some students transition into their communities and the work force following their school years.

In August Sarah spoke in support of Medicare and Social Security at a rally held at the VT statehouse and sponsored by the VT Alliance for Retired Americans in partnership with the Vermont AFL-CIO.

In September, Sarah marched on Capitol Hill along with over a thousand others. People with disabilities, seniors, family members, direct care workers and other allies gathered in Washington D.C. for the “My Medicaid Matters” rally.

Members of Congress, including U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders, Medicaid recipients and leaders from various national advocacy organizations addressed the federal budget crisis and its potential to create a recipe for disaster for Medicaid recipients.
Got Access?

VCIL celebrated improved access for people with disabilities during the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence’s Open House and 25th Anniversary event in September. A “Certificate of Appreciation” was presented to the Sabos in recognition of their commitment to accessibility during extensive renovations of the early 1900s building which houses the VT Network. Construction contractor Buzz Ferver worked closely with our Community Access Specialist Mike Charron to bring the historic structure into compliance with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). New accessible elements include designated parking, ground-floor meeting rooms and library, an interior ramp and an ADA-compliant bathroom.

Emergency Preparedness

VCIL PAC Candace Stoumen (standing) teaches a skill building workshop for emergency preparedness in Brattleboro. These meetings were especially important this year with Windham County being so hard hit by disasters.

Business EXPO

Jim Pontbriand of the Social Security Administration and VCIL employees Helen Johnke, Kim Brittenham and Mark Kaufman at the Business EXPO in Burlington where they provided information to employees and individuals regarding benefits, ADA compliance and education and options for technical assistance.

Mike Charron presents an award to Leslie and Tom Sabo, owners of the Barre Street office building which houses the Vermont Network.
FY’11 EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

In April, VCIL held its 2nd Annual “Mud Season Mingle” an event where we serve sweet treats and pretend it is spring!

Vermont author Willem Lange read a short story from his book and expressed his support of our mission.

VCIL’s house band The Inaccessibles performed popular favorites and encouraged guests to sing along.

Vermont Mayor Mary Hooper thanked VCIL for its collaborative work to further ADA compliance in the capital city.

Harold Nadeau, Rosie Miller, Claire Benoit and Maureen Mayo enjoy the festivities.
Bennington Battle Day

VCIL’s Bennington office added another trophy to its case with a second-place win at the annual Bennington Battle Day parade in August. Employees Tracy Dorman and Charlie Murphy were supported in the VCIL mission of “Opening Doors to Quality of Life” by a superhero volunteer cast that included: Haley Nelson, Paul Breese, Mike Everall, Bob Speanburgh, Michael Downey, Mary Gerisch, Larry and Sandra Betit, Ellen Schwartz, Deniese Barringer, Daphne Kinney-Landis, James Parker and Robert Downey. Each offered their unique skills – be they carpentry, artistic or performing as superheroes on the float!

Strolling in Brattleboro

VCIL volunteers Jeanne Attia (behind table) and Liz Snyder (front) and her husband and VCIL’s newest board member Gary attend an event in Brattleboro.
Maureen Mayo Retires

Maureen “Moe” Mayo retired from VCIL in September after 16 years. In recent years she has helped represent VCIL on the Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights and was part of the national campaigns with ADAPT, a powerful grass-roots organization fighting for alternatives to institutions.

On leaving VCIL Moe stated, “I have been involved with the Legislature directly for about 13 years and I have enjoyed testifying on the needs and concerns of VCIL peers as well as forming meaningful relationships with legislators who recognize the importance of our advocacy work to those we present. I think that our legislative presence is important and I plan to support whoever is hired to continue this work.”

A retirement party was held for Maureen at the Steak House in Berlin where she was presented with a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol in her honor.

Guests enjoy the music by VCIL’s house band The Inaccessibles.
Landmark Anniversary Celebrated

On February 17, 2011, Rosemary Miller marked 30 years as the receptionist here at VCIL. Rosie, who was born with cerebral palsy, has never let her disability slow her down. She grew up expecting to find a job, buy a home and pay her own bills. And that is exactly what she has done.

“Rosie is a hard worker and cares deeply for VCIL and the disability rights movement,” said Executive Director Sarah Launderville. “We are proud that she is celebrating 30 years at VCIL.”

Miller has witnessed many changes at VCIL, over the years, including branch offices opening around the state – in Bennington, Chittenden, Orleans, Rutland and Windham counties.

“I love VCIL, said Miller.” “It’s my family. It’s my job. It’s my life.”

**VCIL is currently planning Rosie’s retirement party. It will take place in April 2012.**

Marcy Ryan – Hometown Hero

VCIL volunteer Marcy Ryan received the 2011 Adult Hometown Hero Award from the United Way of Chittenden County. VCIL Peer Advocate Counselor Crystal Brockington helped celebrate Marcy’s volunteerism in front of 400 ceremony attendees during the 10th Annual Hometown Hero Awards at the Sheraton Burlington Hotel and Conference Center in South Burlington.

Crystal noted Marcy’s enduring advocacy for people with disabilities and the benefit she brings to her community through Wayward Wheels, a medical equipment recycling program, as the reason VCIL nominated Marcy for this award. Marcy was one of 64 people nominated. United Way made a donation of $1,000 to VCIL as the organization served by the award recipient. VCIL will use these funds to celebrate future VCIL volunteers.
Annual ADA Celebration

The 21st anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act was held on the Statehouse lawn July 21. Even as the temperatures soared into the 90s people enjoyed the inspirational speeches, tasty lunch, music and camaraderie that the event offered.

René Pellerin, a Vermont Storyteller and comedian, gave an amusing keynote address. Long recognized by his Deaf peers as an amazing entertainer, Pellerin has dedicated his professional life to the Deaf community. He has been instrumental in the passage of laws supporting the needs of members of the Deaf community and sign language interpreters throughout the state.

Surprises were the order of the day when two VCIL employees became the unexpected honorees. Alaina Clements received the 6th annual Deborah Lisi-Baker Leader of Tomorrow Award. Alaina has worked at VCIL since August of 2009. She has done great work for both the Home Access Program and the Sue Williams Freedom Fund.

AgrAbility Specialist Thomas Younkman received the VCIL Advocacy Award at the celebration. Susan Elliot from Congressman Peter Welch’s office helped present the award, which was an American flag flown over the U.S. Capitol June 9th on Younkman’s behalf. Sarah lauded Tom saying “He has changed the way VCIL interacts with farmers who have disabilities. He outreaches to farmers, connecting them to our movement. He organizes and connects framers to the equipment and services available to them to help them continue to farm.”

VCIL sponsored the celebration. Co-sponsors included Disability Rights Vermont, the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Vermont Workers’ Center, the Vermont Human Rights Commission, the Center on Disability and Community Inclusion, Vermont Statewide Independent Living Council, Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council, Green Mountain Self-Advocates, Vermont Psychiatric Survivors, VocRehab Vermont and Sorenson Communications.
BOARD of DIRECTORS (Jan. 2012)

Martha “Marty” Roberts, President
Samuel E. Liss, Vice President
Ed Paquin, Treasurer
John Pierce, Secretary
John Hall, At-Large Member
Henry Demar
Claudia Pringles
Gary Snyder
Zachary Schmoll
Charlie Teske
Joellen Valley

STAFF (Jan. 2012)

Sarah Launderville, Exec. Director
Janet Dermody, Deputy Director

Financial Services
Michelle Grubb, Finance & Operations Officer

Admin. & Support Services
Stefanie Monte, Executive Ass’t.
Sue Booth, Bus. Office Coord.
Rosie Miller, Receptionist
Patsy Huston, Receptionist
Patricia Tedesco, MOW Program Ass’t.
Patrick Fitzgerald, Outcome & Evaluations Specialist

Information, Referral & Assistance (IR&A)
Ericka Reil, I,R&A Specialist

Development / Fundraising
Dhiresha Blose, Dev. Officer
Linda MeReady, Senior Dev. Spec.

Peer Advocacy Counseling (PAC) and Deaf Services
Mark Kaufman, Advocacy Manager
Jack Hall, Advocacy Specialist
Peter Johnke, Database Coord.
Paul Maurice, IT Specialist
Kevin Plant, Database Assistant
Tracy Dorman, PAC - Bennington
Charlie Murphy, PAC - Bennington
Sam Bethel, PAC - Rutland
Matthew Kimball, PAC - Burlington
Santina Leporati, PAC – Burlington
Tanya Vyovsky, PAC - Burlington
Helen Johnke, Benefits to Work Specialist
Karl Honsaker, Benefits to Work Specialist - Brattleboro
Crystal Brockington, PAC-Burlington
Candace Stoumen, PAC - Brattleboro
Missy Boothroyd, Deaf Independence Program Coord.
Ben Wimett, PAC - Rutland
Tom Younkmam, AgrAbility Specialist
Janis Moore, AgrAbility Spec.

Direct Service Programs
Harold Nadeau, Direct Services Mgr.
Denise Bailey, Direct Services Coord.
Joyce Werntgen, Home Access Program Senior Specialist
Rever Kennedy, Home Access Program Specialist
Alaina Clements, Sue Williams Freedom Fund Program Specialist
Karin Nissen, Meals on Wheels Program Coordinator

Community Access
Kim Brittenham, Community Access Coordinator
Mike Charron, Community Access Specialist
ABOUT OUR FUNDING

Most of VCIL’s funding comes from a variety of federal, state and local sources. VCIL’s primary funding comes from the U.S. Department of Education.

The Department of Education funding helps us provide Peer Advocacy Counseling, skills training services, community advocacy activities, and information, referral and assistance services.

In FY’11 VCIL received funding from several Vermont state agencies, three United Way agencies, and 135 cities and towns, all of whom are valuable partners. We thank all of the individuals, businesses, contractors, community organizations, and partners that help keep our programs active and successful. These include the Vermont Legislature, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, the Statewide Independent Living Council, the New England ADA and Accessible IT Center, the Social Security Administration and the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living.

Most importantly we thank the volunteers and individual donors who help bring VCIL’s mission of dignity, independence and civil rights to every community in Vermont. Your active participation in this movement and your continued support is what makes our work possible.
## Change in Unrestricted Net Assets

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<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues, Gains and Other Support</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal and State Grants</td>
<td>$2,519,088</td>
<td>$2,883,804</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>57,499</td>
<td>26,245</td>
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<td>Municipalities</td>
<td>41,300</td>
<td>30,035</td>
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<td>Fees and other income</td>
<td>55,500</td>
<td>16,813</td>
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<td>Investment Income (loss)</td>
<td>(3,064)</td>
<td>18,490</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-kind contributions</td>
<td>12,436</td>
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<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>23,457</td>
<td>11,853</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support</strong></td>
<td>$2,693,780</td>
<td>$2,999,676</td>
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## Expenses

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## Change in Unrestricted Net Assets

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## Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

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THANK YOU TO OUR GRANTORS

Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)
Disability & Business Technical Assistance Center, New England
ADA Center
Richard E. and Deborah L. Tarrant Foundation
Statewide Independent Living Council
United Way, Franklin Grand Isle
United Way, Green Mountain
United Way, Rutland
University of VT State Agricultural College
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Education
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
U.S. Department of Social Security Administration
VT Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living
VT Housing & Conservation Brd.

VCIL wishes to extend our sincere appreciation to all of our project partners that we have worked with throughout the years. Without these valued relationships our mission would not be possible.

**These lists reflect Individual, Business, Organization and Grantor contributions and/or partnerships for FY 2011. Our deepest apology to any agency, organization or individual we may have omitted.**
## CITIES AND TOWNS

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THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Yiota Ahladas
Dennis Albert
John & Anne Alexander
Beverly Allen
Jane Alper
Ronald Amsden
Angeleno’s Pizza
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Denise Bailey
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Bernie & Sharon Henault
Helyn Strom Henriksen
Linda Henzel
Pamela Hobbs
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Kathleen Keenan
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Sally Leszko
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Robert Maddison
Allen Mackey
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Randall Markham
Preston McAdoo
Doug McGorty
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John Merrick
Linda Messier
Eileen Metivier
Rosemary Miller
Connie Mitchell
Stefanie Monte
Barbara Moore
Thelma Moulton
Sherry Mumley
David Noga
Kathryn Nowell
Kerry O’Brien & Ed Biggins
John O’Dowd
Roger Otis
Luci Patti & Bill Merrylees
Ed Paquin
John Pierce
Brian Pine & Liz Curry
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Charlene Rostkowski
Mathew Rubin
Zachary Schmoll
Karen Schwartz
Stan Senger
John Shook
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Steve & Sharon Steidle
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Elizabeth Studley
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Christine Virga
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Chani Waterhouse
Leonard & Anita Wellman
Craig Wells
Joyce Werntgen
Kathleen Whitney
Cynthia Wigington
Gary & Donna Williams
Mildred Witteeman
Tom Younkman
Amy Zamperini
Joseph Zuaro

Rosie Miller’s 30th Anniversary
Anonymous
Dhiresha Blose
Sue Booth
Mike Charron
Janet Dermody
Patricia & James Dowers
Richie Graham
Michelle Grubb
Gail Halverson
Phyllis Larrabee
Sarah Launderville
Deborah Lisi-Baker
Samuel E. Liss
Linda Meleady
Michael & Carol Meunier
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Janis Moore
Greg & Toni Morgan
Harold Nadeau
John & Barbara O’Dowd
John Pierce
Kevin Plant
Jennifer Raney
Pamela Stanton
Charlie Teske
Renee Wells
Tom Younkman

Sarah Launderville’s Birthday
Anonymous
Dhiresha Blose
Sue Booth
Peter & Missy Boothroyd
Kim Brittenham
Beth Clifton
Janice Dawley
Janet Dermody
Michelle Grubb
Gail Halverson
Patsy & Paul Huston
Samuel E. Liss
Suzanne Sheldon Masland
Linda Meleady
Rosemary Miller
Martha Roberts

In Kind
Bruegger’s Bagel Bakery
Lynn Caulkins
William and Nancy Clements
Zane Cooke
Costco Wholesale
Crystal Rock Water Company
Rusty DeWees
Tracy Dorman
Patrick Fitzgerald
Fred Grubb
Grand Union Family Markets
Hartigan Wastewater
Hunger Mountain Cooperative
Main Street Landing
Norwich University Athletic Dept.
Price Chopper
Charlie Murphy
Shaw’s Supermarket (Berlin)
Silver Ridge Design Inc.
VT Tent Company
Wal-Mart
Harry Willnus
Susan Willnus
Thank you to our Volunteers

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<td>Cynthia Delfino</td>
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We would also like to remember our valued volunteers who passed away this year:

Judy Trower
Eleanor Woodfield
In Memory

VCIL wishes to honor all of our friends who have passed away this past year.

A special thanks to those who designated VCIL to receive donations in their loved ones names. We are honored to receive these gifts.

Dr. and Mrs. James Holmblad, in memory of their daughter Ann.
Mr. Samuel E. Liss, in memory of his mother Anna.
Ms. Susan Willnus, in memory of her son Robert.

Memorials

Patrick Albano, in memory of Ann Holmblad
Anonymous, in memory of Ann Holmblad
Anonymous, in memory of Robert Willnus
Arlene Averill, in memory of Beth Averill
Robert Barasch, in memory of Susan Barasch
Mary Alice Bisbee, in memory of Ann Holmblad
Nick Conyngham, in memory of Robert Willnus
Christensen’s Plant Center, in memory of Robert Willnus
Christensen’s Ruston Farms, in memory of Robert Willnus

Brian Cunningham, in memory of Robert Willnus
Patricia Delamielleure, in memory of Robert Willnus
Patricia Dowers, in memory of Anna Gold Liss
Ann H. Dunk, in memory of Ann Holmblad
Charles & Sharell Gehrke, in memory of Ann Holmblad
Mildred Gittinger, in memory of Ann Holmblad
John & Victoria Gold, in memory of Ann Holmblad
Marjorie Hamel, in memory of Zachary “Mike” Stamatis
Don & Janet Hann, in memory of Robert Willnus
Kevin & Susan Harlow, in memory of Robert Willnus
Mary Hogan, in memory of Robert Willnus
Mary Hogan, in memory of Robert Willnus
Jone Jensen, in memory of Ann Holmblad
Andrea Wendt Kolton, in memory of Robert Willnus
Sarah Launderville, in memory of Ann Holmblad
Ann Law, in memory of Robert Willnus
Michael & Connie Law, in memory of Robert Willnus
Sally Leszko, in memory of Ann Holmblad
Paul & Elizabeth Levy, in memory of Ann Holmblad
Larry Lewack, in memory of Abby Bassett
Deborah Lisi-Baker, in memory of Anna Gold Liss
Deborah Lisi-Baker, in memory of Ann Holmblad
Samuel E. Liss, in memory of Anna Gold Liss
Judyth Martin, in memory of Robert Willnus
Joseph & Jacuelyn Mazur, in memory of Robert Willnus
Judy McCullough, in memory of Ann Holmblad
Frederick McMahon, in memory of Ann Holmblad
Mark McPherson, in memory of Robert Willnus
Harvey & Joyce Miller, in memory of Robert Willnus
Rosemary Miller, in memory of Ann Holmblad
Greg & Toni Morgan, in memory of Ann Holmblad
Paul & Diane Nielsen, in memory of Robert Willnus
Jean Park, in memory of Anna Gold Liss
Ann Pettyes, in memory of Robert Willnus
Bradley & Julie Piziali, in memory of Robert Willnus
Dean & Patricia Robbins, in memory of Ann Holmblad
Albert & Lois Squire, in memory of Ann Holmblad
Loring Starr, in memory of Anne Marie Marano
Lillian Steinberg, in memory of Ruth Cushner Long
Patricia Tarnawski, in memory of Robert Willnus
VT Medical Society, in memory of Nancy Chard
Marie Thorne, in memory of Ann Holmblad
Joyce Werntgen, in memory of Ann Holmblad
Gary & Donna Williams, in memory of Ann Holmblad
Richard & Jill Wilson, in memory of Robert Willnus
John & Marilyn Wood, in memory of Robert Willnus
**Remembering A VCIL Pioneer – by Deborah Lisi-Baker**

“At VCIL we throw people a lifeline. We don’t try to manage anyone.”

-- A comment of Ann’s remembered by Phyllis Larrabee

**Ann Holmblad** came to VCIL with a new graduate degree in rehabilitation social work and a desire to do something radical with it. VCIL was a brand-new organization. She and Jean Mankowsky were hired to create a Peer Advocacy Counseling Program, something new for Vermont and still pretty new for independent living centers across the country. Jean and Ann shared a belief in the power of individuals to change their own lives and make needed changes in the world we share.

In the earliest days of the PAC program, she and Jean were the peer advocate counselors. I remember Ann telling me about visiting peers in inaccessible apartments where she had to crawl up the stairs to reach them. She visited people in rehabilitation units and nursing homes and in homes on back roads and apartments in small towns all over the state. She was the first to embrace Deaf Vermonters’ call for a Deaf Independence component of the Peer Advocacy Counseling Program at VCIL: a program that allowed Deaf PACs who used American Sign Language to reach out and provide information and support to other Deaf and hard of hearing Vermonters. She provided much of the guiding vision for our first campaigns to get people out of nursing homes. She modeled one of the key tenets of independent living, the need to address both personal change and empowerment and the transformation of programs, policies and services. To Annie, individuals with disabilities were the movement and she helped them recognize and experience their ability to make needed change.

Annie played as intently as she worked and she worked far too hard. Sometimes she would flee across state borders for some respite from the work of peer counseling and social change. She was always shopping for her nieces and nephews, inviting friends out to the movies, and taking a grateful gathering of friends to a favorite hideaway in Rhode Island. I remember her in her chosen spot overlooking the ocean, nestled in with books and blankets and food. She went scuba diving in Australia and Sit Skiing our west. She worked with state agencies and children and adults with disabilities and their allies to create more accessible parks and a play area in Vermont. She was an early partner with the Vermont Arts Council, working with Renee Wells on arts access activities. She was invaluable to the development of VCIL’s Home Access Program.

Ann was fierce in her loves and in her independence. When she left VCIL she still worked for change: helping create a youth leadership program that later became part of VCIL, building her healing arts business, continuing projects to make art and recreation accessible and working for the Rutland VocRehab Office. She continued her own deeply personal journey, always celebrating, questioning, and challenging life’s boundaries. We were lucky to have Ann with us. Her spirit fundamentally shaped and informed VCIL and the Vermont movement for independent living and disability rights.
Lead on, Lead on.

--Justin Dart
Vermont Center for Independent Living

VCIL– Statewide and Central Vermont
11 East State Street
Montpelier, Vermont  05602
802-229-0501 (voice and TTY)
800-639-1522 (voice and TTY)
Email @ vcil@vcil.org

VCIL– Bennington
601 Main Street
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