



Independent Living

Disabled Resources Center Inc.

Newsletter 2011



DEAR READER



"Well, it's a long, long time from May to December

The days grow short when you reach September."



The words in this classic song remind me of how much has happened at DRC since our last newsletter in May. It's hard to believe that our May newsletter and the beginning of spring has gone through summer and is nearing the shorter days of September.

The days may be getting shorter, but DRC's list of programs is continuing to grow longer. In fact, we've grown so much that the staff and volunteers have begun wearing personalized name tags. Seriously, come and check us out!

We are especially looking forward to a new program that will start the first of October. This program, through the Department of Rehabilitation, will provide Job Development services to individuals looking for permanent and meaningful employment.

For those of you who missed our wonderful 35th Annual Awards Dinner, a synopsis of this event and a list of those who generously supported it can be found on the "yellow" insert in this newsletter. You will note that it was our largest and most successful dinner to date and will be hard to "top" next year. Personally, I was especially thrilled and honored to be recognized by my fellow ILC Executive Directors and am still in awe of this surprise award. Pictures of this delightful evening can be found inside the newsletter.

For those of you who would like to have a more detailed account of the happenings at DRC during 2010, we've included our Annual Report on DRC's website (www.drcinc.org). I think you will be amazed at how much DRC was able to accomplish last year through the efforts of our small, but energetic and devoted staff members and volunteers.

As I've mentioned in the past, many of the staff at DRC are bilingual or trilingual. Sometimes, however, a great deal of time passes before someone needs the special language skills of one of our staff. Just recently,

for the first time in the 10 years **Felicita Moges** has served as our Benefits Advocate, she was able to use the Tigrigna language to represent a consumer at a Benefits Hearing, and the Amharic language to help a consumer who needed assistance in applying for benefits online. These are just two of the advocacy services **Felicita** provides on a regular basis.

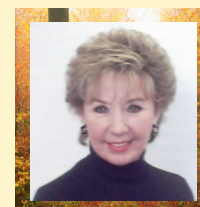
We've also received some new grants that have added to our ever growing list of programs and services. Pacific Hospital Charities is providing funding for our Personal Assistance Program, Technical Assistance Funding we received will be used for a special board training, and the City of Long Beach has provided a new Emergency Shelter Grant. With our new Department of Rehabilitation Transition Grant, we will be able to assist people to move from convalescent care to independent living. Another small grant allows us to pay the transportation costs of our dedicated volunteers. DRC recently signed an MOU with the American Red Cross to provide disaster preparedness. We are so grateful for all these agencies that have confidence in our ability to provide outstanding services.

Additionally, we are appreciative of the volunteer services of **Seble Berhane**, a counselor for the Los Angeles Unified School District and a Counselor of the Year Nominee. Having **Seble** volunteer is a great opportunity for the Center and the staff is all learning from her special counseling techniques.

Other special guests this summer included a 29 person delegation from the Center of China's Disabled Person's Federation, along with **Michael Casner**, Director of International Training at California State University, Dominguez Hills.

The fall season is going to be fun and exciting. We all hope that you will be able to join us in this adventure.

Cordially,
Dolores Nason
Executive Director



AN AWARD WINNING 35TH ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Under the leadership of the Dinner Chair, DRC Board Member, Attorney **C. Timothy Lashlee**, and Master of Ceremonies, **David Sanfilippo**, Director of Disabled Student Services at California State University Long Beach, DRC's 35th Annual Awards Dinner was the best we've had thus far. More people were in attendance than ever before, many people won great prizes and fun was had by all. Some very special and deserving people received awards for their contributions to people with disabilities and the community.

The evening began with an invocation by Board Secretary, **Rev. C. Kit Wilke**, who remembered former DRC board members who passed away in 2010; **Harley Rubenstein**, **Al Morrison**, **Don Westerland**, and staff member, **Clyde Smith**. **Julie Seguin** was also recognized for her years of service as a DRC Board Member.

The honorees who received awards at the dinner were **Dr. José Ramón Nuñez**, Dean at Long Beach City College, who received the Jerry Stein Independent Living Award for his "can-do" attitude and his strong belief that despite adversity, with hard work and determination, an individual can achieve any goal in life. **Assemblymember Warren Furutani**, received the Civic Leadership Award for his strong support and work as an advocate so that people with disabilities will be provided equal opportunities, especially those seeking a higher education. The Community Service Award was given to **Larry Forester**, Mayor of Signal Hill, for his compassion and involvement for many years in the education and support of people living with HIV/AIDS.

DRC Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to **Mugi Miyazaki**, who works many hours each week to teach computer skills to consumers with all types of backgrounds. A scholarship to continue his education was given to **Kyle Myles**, an Army Veteran, in recognition of his service to our country.

Current board members, including President **Cathy Parsa**, Vice President **Theresa May deVera**, Treasurer **Shirley Hsiao**, **Mark Matsui**, **Dora Hogan**, **Janice Liberti**, **Lloyd Saposnek** and **Gail Morrison** were recognized for their service with a special DRC Name Badge that lists their years of

service to DRC.

The "You Are Special" Award was given to DRC Executive Director, **Dolores Nason**. It was presented by **Dr. Lee Nattress**, Executive Director of SCIL, Claremont, on behalf of the seven ILC Directors in LA County, for her outstanding leadership in the community and her exemplary programs for people with disabilities. This award both surprised and delighted **Ms. Nason**. (See picture below)

Among those presenting Certificates of Recognition and honoring the awardees were U.S. House of Representatives Members of Congress **Loretta Sanchez** and **Laura Richardson**, State Senators **Roderick Wright** and **Alan Lowenthal**, State Assembly Members **Bonnie Lowenthal**, **Isadore Hall, III**, and **Tony Mendoza**. **Connie Sziebl**, representing **Supervisor Don Knabe**, **Mayor Bob Foster** and **Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske** also presented recognitions to the honorees.

As always, DRC is focused on continuing its mission to empower people with disabilities and was happy to share this special evening with the many supporters who have long joined with them in the fight for equal access for all.

On the reverse side are the names of those who helped to make this 35th Annual Awards Dinner such a special and noteworthy event, as well as those who support DRC throughout the year.



DRC Board Secretary **Rev. C. Kit Wilke**, DRC Executive Director **Dolores Nason**, SCIL Executive Director **Dr. Lee Nattress**

NEW OFFICERS AT THE HELM OF DRC

At DRC's Board Meeting held on August 4, 2011, the Board of Directors elected **Lloyd Saposnek** President. The other officers elected for a two-year term were **Theresa deVera**, Vice President, **C. Kit Wilke**, Secretary, and **Shirley Hsaio**, Treasurer. Congratulations and many thanks to all the Board Members for their time and dedication to DRC. A special gratitude to the Board Members that are willing to hold office and take on the added responsibilities.

DRC STAFF COLLABORATING



John Lewis, Long Beach Mental Health, **Dolores Nason**, DRC Executive Director, **Tina Fofoa**, DRC Volunteer, **Carolyn M. Rossi**, DRC Special Grants Coordinator, and **Andrew Swinton**, DRC ILS/Peer Support Coordinator.

JOB DEVELOPERS



Two of DRC's Job Developers, **Alice Bruns** and **Rick Burnett**, at an outreach

WAY TO GO SHINCHIRO!

Everyone who comes to DRC has a special story to tell about their adventure to overcome adversity. This summer, however, none has been more rewarding than the adventures of **Shinichiro Yoshikawa**. When his Mom first brought him to DRC he used a wheelchair and lacked self confidence. Because of the stroke he suffered and the partial paralysis, it was thought that **Shinichiro** would not have the motor skills necessary to use adaptive computer equipment. Imagine our delight, when after just a few weeks, he walked into the computer lab utilizing a walker and saying "hi" to everyone he encountered. The applause of the staff, volunteers and consumers brought a big smile to **Shinichiro's** face. He continues to amaze us with his progress. The motivation and self confidence **Shinichiro** exudes are contagious. His Mom credits the staff at DRC for the great strides her son has made in defying his doctors expectations.



Shinichiro Yoshikawa and **Vincent Johnson**, DRC's Assistive Technology Coordinator

CONSUMER'S COMMENTS

“Khanny, thank you for all your help. You make a huge difference!” **A.L. (Lakewood)**

“Finbar, this is a great program. I have learned so much. If I had not been for this program I know I would not have had either the skills to write a professional resume and cover letter, or the courage to go on a job interview and present myself to a job interviewer and feel that I have what it takes to get the job, or at least compete. Finbar, you are a good Job Developer. You care about the people and the needs of the people.” **Y.T. (Compton)**

“Mario and Rick, thank you for helping me in getting my utility bills paid, especially my electric bill.”
E.H. (Paramount)



DRC: Disabled Resources Center
The Key to Independence

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Mission Statement:

To empower people with disabilities to live independently in the community, to make their own decisions about their lives and to advocate on their own behalf.

CALENDAR OF DRC EVENTS

AUGUST

- 3rd - Women's Support Group "Yoga Exercises" from 1:00pm to 2:30pm
- 4th - Co-Ed Support Group "Open Discussion" from 1:00pm to 2:30pm
- 4th - DRC Board of Directors meeting at 5:30pm
- 10th - Women's Support Group "Share Your Most Cherished Possession" from 1:00pm to 2:30pm
- 11th - Support Group's "Museum Express Tour" from 11:00am to 5:00pm
- 15th - 17th Job Club from 9:00am to 12:00pm
- 17th - Social Security Administration and Benefits Workshop from 9:30am to 11:00am
- 17th - Women's Support Group "Tai Chi Movement" from 1:00pm to 2:30pm
- 18th - Co-Ed Support Group "Guest Speaker on Systems Change -Richard Hernandez" from 1:00pm to 2:30pm
- 18th - Long Beach Transit meeting at Long Beach Transit at 1:30pm
- 23rd - Mobility Management Training with Cynde Soto at 11:00am
- 24th - Women's Support Group "Bring a Favorite Poem or Saying" from 1:00pm to 2:30pm
- 25th - Co-Ed Support Group "Budgeting Part 2" from 1:00pm to 2:30pm
- 30th - Peer Counseling/Stepping Stones to Employment Graduation at 2:00pm
- 31st - Department of Rehabilitation Vendorization Certification meeting at 10:00am

SEPTEMBER

- 5th - Labor Day Holiday (Center closed)
- 14th - DRC Advocacy Group Meeting at Neighborhood Resource Center from 3:00pm to 5:00pm
- 14th - ILC Directors meeting at WCIL from 10:00am to 2:00pm
- 19th - Department of Rehabilitation meeting at 1:30pm
- 25th - Lutheran Social Services Telethon from 1:00pm to 8:30pm
- 26th - Lutheran Social Services Telethon from 5:00pm to 7:00pm
- 29th - Personal Assistant Orientation Workshop from 1:00pm to 4:00pm

OCTOBER

- 1st - Department of Rehabilitation Job Development Fee For Service Program begins
- 2nd - 5th - Annual APTA meeting and Expo in New Orleans
- 3rd - ADA meeting at APTA from 3:00pm to 4:30pm
- 10th - Columbus Day Holiday (Center closed)

