Dear friends,

I hope that ten years from now, we will be able to look back at 2012-2013 and recognize it as the year of the youth! This year, RCIL made unprecedented progress in focusing on developing youth with disabilities into the leaders of tomorrow.

RCIL has now firmly established its youth group, known as Youth Own!, or YO! This year, YO! participants helped plan numerous social events as well as public relations events to build broader awareness of the RCIL. YO! leaders also travelled to trainings and conferences across the nation to further enhance their skills and abilities.

With YO!, RCIL is focused on connecting youth with disabilities and developing them into tomorrow’s leaders of the disability rights movement. No reason to stop there though, we expect these youth to go on to be leaders in business and non-profits outside the disability community as well!

In addition to YO!, this year RCIL also hosted six high school students for summer positions through the Rochester Works Summer of Opportunity program. It was great to watch these young people grow during their brief time with us. The capstone of their summer is a great video to educate other teens about the right and wrong ways to go about seeking employment.

All of this youth activity adds to our existing youth repertoire: the Ready to Achieve Mentoring Program and Early Intervention loan equipment. Don’t think it stops here though, we have already received additional grants to support our youth programs and we’ll be continuing to seek more.

Of course, youth programs are only one part of RCIL. We assist people of all ages and disabilities. You can learn more about the rest of what we do in the rest of this year’s report and on our website, www.rcil.org. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Bruce E. Darling
President/CEO

RCIL is a not-for-profit, non residential, organization that provides services and advocacy to people with disabilities and seniors.

RCIL supports individuals’ independence by providing information and assistance for housing, transportation, home care, securing benefits and other services.

RCIL advocates for the full integration, independence, and civil rights of people with disabilities.
Commitment to Deaf Services & Advocacy

RCIL continues its mission to keep people independent in the community. We entered the financial year facing more government cuts that affect services which has made it difficult to maintain people’s independence in the community. A good example of this is our work with the local deaf-blind community. RCIL has a Special Services Provider (SSP) program that provides services to these individuals. It is these services that allow for people to live independently in the community in spite of such funding cuts.

As Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” With this in mind, last October, a number of RCIL advocates and volunteers went to Harrisburg, PA to help people with disabilities in our neighboring state. Governor Tom Corbett made cuts to Medicaid in such a fashion that resulted in people being placed into institutions when they were able to live in their own homes with support. We showed, once again, that cuts in Medicaid will only result in more costly institutionalization of people with disabilities.

At the end of October, Hurricane Sandy hit New York State. While there was some more minor damage in our area, most of it was downstate. RCIL was involved with a state wide emergency preparedness phone conference to ensure that everyone with a disability received the best information possible about the impending hurricane. However in Rochester, many deaf individuals were left in the dark about the potential dangers due to a lack of captioning or interpreting for the televised announcements. During Hurricane Sandy, New York City’s Mayor, Michael Bloomberg, provided a sign language interpreter for those who could not read captioning, as requested by the state wide emergency preparedness group. As a result, with the help of RCIL, several organizations wrote a letter of support to New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg for having an interpreter during his press conferences. At the same time, we gave the message to Monroe County that they should be providing interpreters during emergency announcements.

In addition, RCIL brought awareness to the community that closed captioning was not used during live weather reports in Rochester, by writing an op-ed in our local newspaper.

In November, RCIL participated in an effort to win approval by the New York State Independent Living Council (NYSILC) to have the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) set up a 3 year program to fund the Support Service Providers (SSP) program for the deaf-blind community in Rochester. There has been a small program in Rochester for a while that has never had consistent or adequate funding. Due to RCIL’s advocacy, there has been a stable SSP program for the past few years, but a more permanent sources of funding is needed. The programs allows for deaf-blind individuals to live integrated in the community with the help of SSP services.

The communication between many deaf and hard of hearing people, and police officers in Monroe County continues to be a problem. Currently because of RCIL’s advocacy, the Rochester Police Department provided a Deaf Police Academy.

Continued on page 6
We are glad to say that 2012-2013 was another great program year for RCIL. We provided 6697 services to 938 consumers with intakes. 297 were new to us this year while 641 were carried over from the last reporting period. In addition, we provided 2238 information and referrals to individuals who called or walked in. We served 591 casual consumers with assistance with devices or environmental modifications.

While the core of our service continues to be Monroe County, with 254 new consumers this year, we also assist individuals in nearby counties. This year we assisted 31 individuals in Wayne, two in Seneca, three in Livingston, six in Ontario and one in Yates.

RCIL loaned 504 pieces of adult equipment and 160 pieces of children’s and early intervention pieces of equipment to individuals and families in need. RCIL was thrilled to receive a donation of 5 additional Hippo SPICA Car seats from the University of Rochester Medical Center—Golisano’s Children's Hospital Pediatric Nursing unit. The car seats are being loaned out thorough our loan closet. During the year, the car seats benefited 18 children.

RCIL continues to increase its focus on Veterans with disabilities. This year we provided services to 76 Veterans with disabilities.
RCIL has partnered with the Olinsky Law Group in a project called Access Rochester. Under this partnership, RCIL and the Olinsky Law Group are participating in the education of the public regarding rights and responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

RCIL staff is available to conduct site surveys for individuals that experience accessibility issues at area businesses. If you have experienced this, RCIL staff are encouraging these individuals to call us in order to help identify any violations of the ADA in the community and report them to RCIL for review.

RCIL is eager to educate the public about the ADA and are available to conduct site surveys at local businesses. RCIL has purchased ADA tool kits in order to complete site surveys and submit results and recommendations to the requesting agency.

RCIL currently has a Memorandum of Agreement with OPWDD to provide E-mods in their homes for individuals they serve. We currently have 17 projects completed, or underway for completion, for this year and anticipate meeting and exceeding our budgeted goal for the year. Clearly, with the economic landscape and programmatic shifts in government funding that dictates a move away from traditional residential settings and into more mainstream options, the need for adaptations to individuals homes new and existing will be a priority. Projects include providing fences, ramps, bathroom modifications, and other various requests to allow individuals to stay in their homes.

Marketing and strategic planning have been key factors in developing a strong presence and reputation in our community and it has paid off with the constantly increasing referrals from satisfied customers. Key partnerships with vendors and other providers have been forged this year, and we will look to expand the program into more fee for service opportunities in the coming year.

Youth Leadership Development

RCIL Youth Own Program- YO! and Summer of Opportunity for Youth’s Employment Participants made some fantastic progress this year.

YO! In Celebration of the ADA in July, hosted Summer Fest with RCIL and the Center for Disability Rights (CDR) at our State Street office. Three vendors were here to help wash and tune-up wheelchairs, power chairs, scooters and more. RCIL’s loan closet was open for guests to check out, or drop off donations! Combined with music, dancing and free food; this event was a success!

In July, RCIL hosted five young people with disabilities for six weeks through Rochester Works Summer of Opportunity for Youth program. RCIL served as a job site where these young people worked on a youth “job readiness” video project and built their career portfolio.

Keep the Job!” is a program by teens with disabilities, for teens with – and without – disabilities, to teach you how to effectively get a job and then work hard to keep the job. If you have not yet had a chance to check it out, it is posted on YouTube at the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-H0ttKcv6w
Mentoring at RCIL

RCIL had another successful year for the Ready To Achieve Mentoring program (RAMP). We served 116 youth between the ages of 12 and 17 with disabilities, navigate through a variety of topics such as understanding and disclosing their disability, self-advocacy, vocational rehabilitation and how to access resources in their community. Transition planning and follow-up round out RAMP services, to assist youth with disabilities in successful transitions to vocational settings or higher education.

Employer partnerships are a crucial part of RAMP’s community connections, and also its biggest challenge, with ongoing downsizing and shrinking resources. Additional focus will be on developing companies to be mentors and growing these relationships in the coming year.

RAMP continues to boast outcomes and successes with 100% participation and program completion with 60% improvement in school attendance.

Deaf Services & Advocacy  Continued from page 3

training program one night a week for 10 weeks. Over 20 people have attended the Academy. Those who participated have shared what they have learned with friends and family in an effort to help reduce the number of issues between local law enforcement and the deaf and hard of hearing communities. There is still more work to be done.

RCIL and members of the Monroe County Captioning Committee met with WHEC News Channel 10 to get them started with captioning their shorter news clips online. This is a good start in getting more of our local media to caption their content online.

Last April, RCIL advocates and volunteers went to Washington DC in conjunction with the national organization ADAPT. One of the issues we fought for concerned proposed Department of Labor rule changes that would effect people with disabilities and home health care workers. These rule changes would hurt both people with disabilities and the individuals who are currently working for them in the community. These changes were finalized in Sept 2013, but do not take effect until 2015.

RCIL advocates and volunteers have also been fighting for years with Deaf Truckers United (DTU) and National Association of the Deaf (NAD) for the government to waive the hearing requirement for deaf truckers. We were instrumental in a change in policy instituted in the last year that has allowed 121 deaf people to receive these waivers. RCIL is looking forward to more people receiving these waivers, and increasing employment opportunities for the deaf community.

RCIL continues its mission to keep people with disabilities independent in the community.
Expenses at the Regional Center for Independent Living (RCIL) were $948,000 in 2012, which is a 4% decrease over 2011. Expenditures are closely monitored and controlled to ensure maximization of grant revenues awarded for 2012. In 2012, RCIL’s excess revenues was $12,000 which is a $4,000 decrease from 2011. The main reason for this decrease was a reduction in asset related purchases in 2012 versus 2011.

**Revenues:**

2011/12 ended up being a financially sound year for RCIL with $934,000 of reported revenues. However, RCIL did experience a 4% decline in revenues from 2010/11 that amounted to $38,000.

The largest decrease in revenues was related to the NYS Home Modification program that had a 50% reduction in the number of completed home modification projects which resulted in decrease of $67,000 between 2011 and 2012. The federally funded Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Related Disabilities (TRAID) program received an additional equipment grant in 2012 through the Money Follows the Person (MFP) that increased TRAID program revenues by $17,000. The NYS Spina Bifida program recognized $5,000 more revenue in 2012 than 2011. Also, a variety of investments made in Certificates of Deposit during 2012 resulted in $9,000 of additional interest related revenues.

**Net Assets:**

Net assets, which include owned equipment, cash and investments retained for use in the future were $437,000 in 2011/12 which is a decrease of 3% decrease from the previous year.

This report reflects the most recent audited financial statement for October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012.

---

**Year over Year Trends**

**Revenues**

**Net Assets**
Your Independence Starts Here.

RCIL can link you to the necessary programs and services you need and provide support along the way so that you have the opportunity to live independently and be an active member of your community.

If you are a person with a disability, contact us by phone, e-mail, or in person.

We’re here to serve you.

Please visit our website at: http://www.rcil.org

Find Us On: http://www.twitter.com/rcilny
http://www.facebook.com/RegionalCenterforIndependentLiving

Rochester Location
497 State Street, Rochester, NY 14608
(585) 546 - 7510

Geneva Location
34 Castle Street, Rochester, NY 14456
(315) 789 - 1800