Please help in congratulating RCIL, selected the 2014 Best of the Web Awards recipient winner in the Human Services category by the Rochester Business Journal! RCIL was presented a plaque on April 9th at the Best of the Web Awards Breakfast held by the Rochester Business Journal, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

The judges highlighted our use of great visuals, good use of space, navigation and choice of color and contrast. They were impressed with the layout and our focus on highlighting the people we serve.

A big shout out to the entire Atomic Design team, who built the new site, for all of their hard work in designing and transforming it with us! Atomic Design is located right here in Rochester, New York!

RCIL began a redesign of the site, www.rcil.org, back in October of 2013. RCIL staff have been working with the Atomic Design team for several months on this project. RCIL will continue to update and enhance the site to ensure accessibility and functionality of the site, for people to easily access information and contact us! Please let RCIL know what you think!

RCIL and the Center for Disability Rights will be hosting a series of ADA related events in July to celebrate and create awareness for the 24th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act!

*A Film Festival to highlight films pertaining to people with disabilities
*Deaf Day to create awareness around Deaf culture
*Young Professionals Event brought to you by Youth Own (YO!)
*Legislative Breakfast to address critical issues pertaining to disability rights
*ADA Picnic to celebrate and bring awareness to the ADA!

Please contact RCIL for more info! (times and dates to be announced)
Dear Friends:

*Independent Times* provides our readers valuable information about RCIL programs and ongoing advocacy efforts – ensuring that people with disabilities can be independent and integrated in the community.

Our feature story share RCIL’s nomination and awarding of the 2014 Best of the Web Award in the Human Services category from the Rochester Business Journal! We are excited to have our new website launched, accessible and easily navigable to learn more about what RCIL has to offer! You can also read about recent activities with RCIL’s Youth Own group, including the viewing of Spider-Man 2 premiere in Rochester! RCIL’s Employment program has been busy as well and would love to share a personal success story with all of our readers.

RCIL assists people of all ages and disabilities. Please contact us to learn how you can get involved!

Sincerely,

Bruce E. Darling
President/CEO

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**Road Trip for Youth Own - YO!**

In February, RCIL’s Youth Leadership group, YO!, filled two vans with teens and young adults for a college visit to hear a presentation by Lauren Burdett, a guest presenter at SUNY Brockport’s Annual Student Leadership Conference. Lauren, along with Jeiri Flores, a conference organizer (both YO! Mentors), made it possible for YO! members to attend Lauren’s presentation of her graduate research paper on job discrimination and people with disabilities. This included an ice breaker and several small group discussions in which YO! members participated. The information obtained was directly related to YO! members lives, that may assist them in the future.

Lauren has a long history with RCIL. As a teenager, she was a founding member of RCIL’s first youth group in 2002. Lauren worked with staff and other members to expand the group and increase involve of young people in Rochester’s independent living movement. She has recently been in contact with YO as a mentor in order to share her knowledge with teens in the program. After the presentation YO! members and mentors trekked across the snow, in spite of frigid temperatures, to Trax, an on campus dining facility to enjoy pizza and conversation! Overall, it was a positive experience. This YO! “Road Trip” was a success and there will absolutely be more to come! A big thank you to Lauren and Jeiri for including YO! in such a great event!
Regional Center for Independent Living

**YO! Checked out Spider-Man 2 Premiere!**

Youth Own—YO! Was given FREE passes to attend the Spider-Man 2 Red Carpet Premiere in Rochester, NY on April 30, 2014. The premiere was held at Regal Henrietta Stadium 18 and the film was shown in 3D! A big thank you to the City of Rochester Youth Bureau and Youth As Resources (YAR)! To see more pictures from this event go to www.facebook.com/YouthOwn. To learn more about how teens/young adults can get involved in RCIL’s youth leadership and mentoring group please contact our Youth Services coordinator at (585) 442-6470 or jgrover@rcil.org.

Members of YO! Group pose for a pic at the premiere!

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**Great News to Share in Employment Services!**

In February, Luis Ortiz, was referred by Carole Jarvie at ACCES-VR to RCIL. Luis was unable to continue work at his previous job due to medical issues. With the help of ACCES-VR, Luis completed CDL B license training at the Professional Driver Institute (PDI) to become a passenger bus driver. Once Luis graduated, he found a job with the Rochester City School District as an on-call bus driver. His goal is to become a permanent, full-time driver within 6-months. Luis meets with the RCIL Employment Specialist monthly to achieve this goal. In April, Luis said to RCIL’s Employment Specialist; “Thank you. I appreciate all of the help I received through RCIL’s wonderful employment program. It gives hope to people who are looking for a job or a better career.”

As part of the Employment program at RCIL, job placement services is our primary focus, we provide the consumer with a portfolio containing a résumé and references, assistance with educational goals, job search development, job fair and interview coaching, and help in obtaining and maintaining part-time or full-time employment. This assistance is ongoing even after employment is achieved.

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**Important News and Info:**

**Upcoming RCIL Board Meeting:** Thursday, June 19, 2-4 pm, 497 State Street

Members are encouraged to attend! *Not a member? Wish to speak with the board?* Contact Linda Taylor at (585) 442 - 6470 for assistance.

**Problems with this newsletter?** Receiving too many copies? Have you changed your address? Contact Kristin Salter at (585) 442-6470 for assistance.

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Visit us at [www.rcil.org](http://www.rcil.org) for more information on our services, and keep up-to-date on our advocacy efforts!

See what's happening online!

Visit our Facebook: [http://www.facebook.com/rcilnys](http://www.facebook.com/rcilnys)

Visit our Twitter: [http://www.twitter.com/rcilny](http://www.twitter.com/rcilny)

Visit our YouTube: [http://www.youtube.com/rcilvideo](http://www.youtube.com/rcilvideo)
Minimum contribution $10 per year.
Membership year is November 1 – October 31.

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CITY          STATE          ZIP

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Enclosed is my contribution of $________ .

Make your check payable to Regional Center for Independent Living and mail it, along with the completed membership form, to:

Regional Center for Independent Living
497 State Street
Rochester, New York 14608

All donations are tax deductible.