SOUTHERN NEVADA CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

SPONSOR A WORTHY CAUSE!

October is National Disability Awareness Month. To acknowledge and celebrate, the Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living (SNCIL) is having its 26th Annual Disability Awareness Day on October 21, 2017.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to introduce you to the *Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living* (SNCIL), and our mission to *remove barriers preventing independent living* in southern Nevada. We undertake this mission through the provision of services designed to maximize the ABILITIES of people with significant disabilities. I think it often surprises people when I tell them that we have been providing critical services to the disabilities community in southern Nevada since 1984.

I am writing at this time to request your support for our **26th annual Disability Awareness Day (DAD),** an important community event to which we invite providers to set up and staff booths to share their information with people with disabilities. We average about 60 vendors (nonprofit vendors are charged $35.00 and for profit vendors are charged $75.00) and 350+ participants; **provide entertainment, hold a program including speakers - and free lunch is provided for all!**

This year's event will be held on **Saturday, October 21, 2017** from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Lorenzi Park on Twin Lake Drive and Washington.

Permit me to tell you a little about us…

"Independent living" is defined as the right to assume responsibility for directing one's life in the community. It is living as one chooses and can afford. It includes managing one's own affairs, fulfilling social roles and making decisions that lead to less physical and psychological dependence on others. It is the freedom to take risks and make choices. **The SNCIL exists to help people achieve the freedom that comes from achieving their independent living aspirations.**

The majority of SNCIL's board members, staff and volunteers are individuals with significant disabilities; compelling examples of the valuable contribution persons with disabilities are making every day in our community. In addition to enriching our society through their work and resources, these individuals serve as powerful role models and sources of inspiration to others – persons with or without disabilities.

The SNCIL offers the following services to all persons with disabilities without regard to disability or ethnicity:

- Information and Referrals
- Basic Independent Living Skills Training, including Money Management
- Peer Counseling – Individual and Support Group
- Advocacy – Individual and Systems
- Benefits Counseling
    - Adaptive Equipment
    - SSI/SSDI Back to Work Benefits
    - Medicaid, Medicare…
- Adaptive Equipment
- Housing and Transportation – Guidance and Information
- Assistance Transitioning from Institutions to Community Living
- Public Awareness and Community Education

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Through our various programs, we served over 6,000 persons in 2016 throughout the Las Vegas metropolitan area, North Las Vegas, Henderson and southern Nevada rural areas and we distributed over 2,000 Disability Resource Guides to consumers and providers in the area. We are one of over 400 consumer-directed Independent Living Resource Centers funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living. However, in order to offer the full range of services so critical to our mission, we also rely on funding from other government sources – local, state and federal; fee-for-service contracts; foundation support; corporate sponsorships and private donations.

Outcomes…

It is truly amazing to see the miracles that are happening in the lives of the determined and resilient people we serve. Everyday, we are fortunate to witness individuals who, with our assistance and the support of our contributors, are reaching their goals – transitioning from nursing homes to the community, finding employment, fulfilling educational goals or becoming more self-sufficient in their current situation. Because we desire to affirm our belief in the need for and the success of the work we do with proven outcomes, we conscientiously measure our efforts and we are always eager for any feedback that will help us provide the best quality and most effective services possible.

In conclusion…

I am appealing to local agencies at this time because, as we all know, times are difficult – state and federal budget deficits and record-breaking unemployment in Nevada are affecting us all. **But no segment of the population is more impacted than our friends and neighbors who also live with a disability. These fellow citizens overcome barriers and challenges every single day, but now, especially, is a time when we cannot afford to neglect them.** Not when, for example, the unemployment rate for persons with disabilities (who are in the labor force) is twice that of the high rate for people with no disability.

Disability Awareness Day is more essential than ever and that is why I am respectfully asking you to consider joining us and other such partners as the City of Las Vegas; Enterprise Holding; the Challenger Newspaper; and the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living. Your contribution will go toward advertising for the event, street signage, bags, pens, water bottles, food items, door prizes, etc. Additionally, this year we will need help with food items, overnight security, and vendor licensing. We are pleased to recognize and acknowledge your sponsorship with a listing in the DAD event program, in all press releases and news stories, and also on the SNCIL website.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look most forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Evilsizer
Executive Director