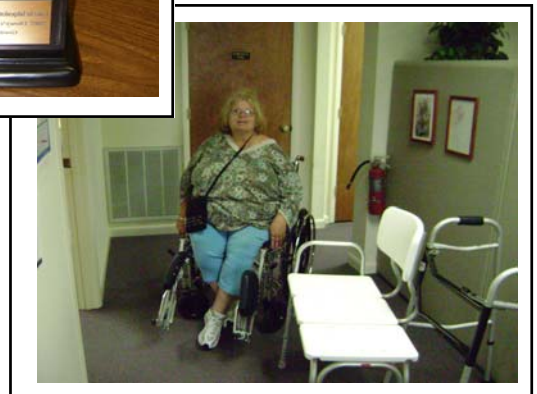


# ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008

*The Center for Independent Living in Central Florida*



Advocacy for People with Disabilities



## **OUR MISSION**

The Center for Independent Living in Central Florida, Inc., in partnership with the community, promotes personal rights and responsibilities among people with all disabilities and strives to eliminate architectural, communication and attitudinal barriers by providing education, resources and training to enhance self-determination through informed choice.

## **OUR VISION**

To preserve the dignity and respect of people with disabilities through full access and full integration in society.

## Message from the Board Chair and Executive Director

In fiscal year 2007-2008 the Center for Independent Living in Central Florida continued to achieve, excel, and expand the promise of full access for people with disabilities.

CIL has proven to be one of the most robust and determined independent living centers in the southeastern United States. In 2007-2008 CIL either maintained or expanded many services. The agency continues its Four Core Services of Advocacy, Information and Referral, Skills Training, and Peer Support. Significant additional services include Services for the Deaf, Accessibility Surveys, Community Training, Counseling Services, Sign Language Interpreters, Home and Community Accessibility, and many more. Our special wheelchair ramp building event, Rampage!, built six ramps this year creating greater access for individuals. CIL now offers Housing Services to help people with disabilities find affordable and accessible transitional or permanent housing. Our Employment Services have been expanded to include more components targeted to U.S. military veterans and the Business Advisory Council continues to grow and become an important partner in providing permanent, meaningful employment for people with disabilities.

Despite a shrinking economy, CIL is looking forward to the new fiscal year with optimism. Our consumers count on CIL to provide help and guidance on the road to independence and we will be here for them. We have much to be thankful for. CIL appreciates the donors, volunteers, our Board, and other supporters who help sustain and grow our organization. We are also very thankful for our knowledgeable and dedicated staff who works very hard every day to help make CIL and our community a better place. So, now it's on to a new year with new challenges and new triumphs. Please join us on this journey to help fulfill the promise of access and independence for all people with disabilities.

Sincerely,



Cheryl M. Stone  
Board Chair



Elizabeth Howe  
Executive Director

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Center for Independent Living in Central Florida, Inc.

### **2007-2008 Annual Report**

#### **Board of Directors**

Cheryl Stone, Board Chair  
Maxine Moul, Vice Chair  
Kristina Kinde, Treasurer  
Peggy Kelley, Secretary

James Diaz  
Linda Grant, MA, Med, LMHC  
Mark Jones  
Carey Larabee  
Paul Odham  
Sandy Osborn  
Peter Schoemann  
Faye Warren

## Accomplishments

The Business Advisory Council (BAC) held four meetings that were attended by more than 225 businesses. The BAC is a council of businesses dedicated to finding ways to integrate people with disabilities into the workplace.

Through a generous grant from The Able Trust, also known as the Governor's Alliance for the Employment of Citizens with Disabilities, CIL is providing employment services to more Florida residents who are U.S. military veterans with disabilities. The agency will work closely with the Veteran's Administration to provide these important services.

The agency continues to distribute phones to members of Orange, Seminole & Osceola counties who are hard of hearing or speech impaired. The phones are distributed at the Center and in the community.

CIL, along with Osceola County schools, attended a Transition Forum to offer students with disabilities services after they graduate from high school.

To help increase accessibility in the community, CIL built 22 wheelchair ramps.

CIL continues to increase fundraising efforts. Over \$25,000 was raised through the wheelchair ramp-building event "Rampage" and other donations.

CIL, along with Volunteer Florida, assisted with the 6 Days/6 Ramps wheelchair ramp building project.

CIL's third annual *Deaf Resource Fair* was held. Exhibitors from a variety of agencies, businesses and churches gathered in CIL's main conference room to answer questions, display products and talk about the unique challenges facing those in the Deaf Community.

CIL commemorated the seventeenth anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disability Act by hosting its third annual Equipment Giveaway. Disability-related equipment donated to the center was given away to people with disabilities.

For a second year in a row, CIL was awarded a grant from Walt Disney World to conduct the "Dreams and Plans" project. This grant will be used to provide transition services to Osceola County Middle and High School students with disabilities.

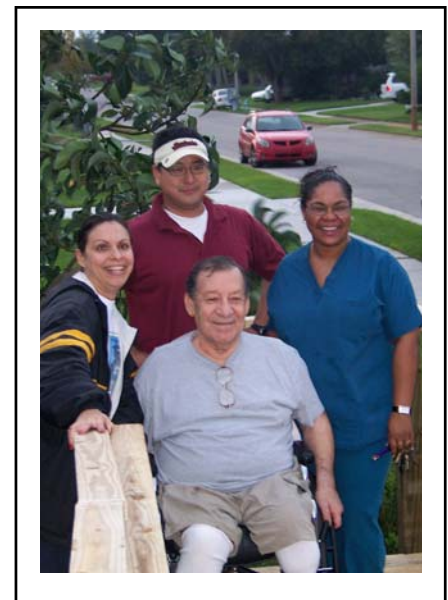
Over 100 people attended the Emergency Preparedness for Persons With Disabilities Conference to learn about government emergency management plans and the importance of personal planning for emergencies. The conference was co-sponsored by CIL, the State of Florida Office of Emergency Management and the Big Bend Health Council.

Lakeland has entered into a partnership agreement with the Agriculture and Labor Program, Inc. which allows for the continued distribution of disability-related equipment in Polk County.

CIL established a relationship with the Osceola Council on Aging to provide more services to Osceola County residents.

## Thanks to CIL Supporters

Abilities Inc.  
Adventist Health System Information Services  
Amerigroup Community Care  
AirTran Airways  
Biziteks, Inc.  
CSX Corporation  
Darden Restaurants  
Enterprise Foundation  
First Watch Restaurant  
Heart of Florida United Way  
Paralyzed Veterans of America – Central Florida Chapter  
Publix Super Market Charities  
Richard Rosenkranz  
Rotary Club of Casselberry  
Sea World  
Tailored Foam of Florida, Inc.  
The Able Trust  
The Boyd Foundation  
The Home Depot  
Volunteer Florida  
Walmart  
Winter Park Chamber of Commerce  
Walt Disney World, Inc.



- CIL appreciates all donors - corporate, foundation, and individual.
- Thanks also to all CIL volunteers - you help make what we do possible.

Please accept our apologies if we inadvertently left out your name.

## Outcome Summary Report

**Total Consumers Served: 1,762**

**NOTE:** The Winter Park service area includes Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties. The Lakeland office serves Polk, Hardee, Highlands, and DeSoto Counties,

### Advocacy/Legal Services

CIL served 160 consumers.

### Assistive Technology

CIL served 35 consumers. Items included doorbell flashers, weather alerts, baby cry signalers, smoke alarms, and wake up alarms.

### Deaf Services Education and Communication

There were 330 consumers served for the entire program. American Sign Language (ASL) classes for families and children are a component of the Deaf Services program. Classes began 9/17/07 with 14 families, 39 individuals attended with 2 Deaf and 2 hearing volunteers.



### Employment Services

CIL served 107 consumers.

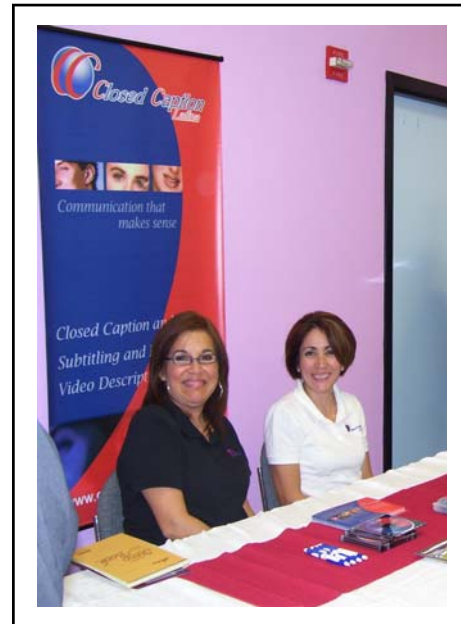
### Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc.

523 new phones were distributed.

### Home Accessibility

CIL increased accessibility for 35 consumers.

Services included wheelchair ramps, bath grab bars, door widening, toilet safety supports, bedrails, ADA commodes, and more.



### Legislative Visits

There were a total of 21 visits to elected officials.

### Mental Health Counseling

CIL served 30 consumers with Mental Health Counseling.

### Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Project

For the Social Security Administration's Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Project, CIL received and responded to 1496 requests for assistance.

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## Consumer Satisfaction Survey

Of consumers surveyed, 98% said they were treated with courtesy by CIL staff.

90% of consumers surveyed said they were satisfied with CIL services.

## Consumer Services

*The Center for Independent Living, in Central Florida, Inc. (CIL) was founded in 1976 by Central Floridians committed to empowering people with disabilities with the skills and tools needed to attain their self-determined independence goals. CIL is a non-residential, private, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. In keeping with its consumer-driven philosophy, the majority of the agency's staff and board of directors are people with disabilities.*

### ADVOCACY:

Consumers learn to represent their own interests, make their own choices, and defend those choices when necessary. Our staff members also work to raise the awareness of the public about issues affecting the lives of people with disabilities.

### INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS TRAINING:

We offer workshops and individual instruction in necessary daily living skills. These classes include: budgeting, managing time, accessing public transportation, using assistive technology, and other independent living skills.

### INFORMATION & REFERRAL:

Our staff members provide information to consumers on a wide array of disability-related issues, as well as, referrals to other resources in the community.



### PEER SUPPORT:

Offering individuals, couples, families, and groups a means of sharing and understanding disability issues affecting daily living.

### ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT:

Equipment or devices may make it easier for someone with a disability to maintain or increase his/her independence. CIL provides equipment to qualified individuals with disabilities.

### DEAF SERVICES:

CIL strives to eliminate communication barriers by providing independent living classes to Deaf consumers. Classes include: written drivers license

and U.S. citizen preparation, and American Sign Language instruction. In addition, independent living skills trainings are provided to Deaf middle and high school students in partnership with area school systems. CIL also offers community workshops for the Deaf. These presentations empower consumers to make informed choices and gain a better understanding of the resources available in their communities. Workshop topics include: ADA rights and responsibilities, advocating for interpreters, video relay service, and more.

### EMPLOYMENT SERVICES:

Consumers seeking jobs receive assistance with identifying employment goals, job readiness, understanding ADA rights and responsibilities, and job search techniques. Employment specialists also provide job referrals and follow-up support. Employment services are offered on an individual basis and in a group setting. In addition, CIL provides employment services to U.S. military veterans with disabilities.

# The Center for Independent Living in Central Florida

## BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL:

The BAC is a comprehensive resource for information, training, and support to help companies integrate people with disabilities into the workplace and consumer marketplace. Meetings are held throughout the year.



## HOUSING SERVICES:

We help people with disabilities find affordable, accessible transitional or permanent housing. We assist people to become home owners by providing counseling on borrowing, down payments, home insurance, and more. We provide resources for those in or near foreclosure.

## HOME/VEHICLE MODIFICATIONS:

Our home and vehicle modification services provide assistance for qualified individuals with disabilities to improve access in their home or vehicle. Services include: ramps, grab bars, hand controls, and more. Also provided are smoke detectors, doorbell flashers, baby cry signalers, and vibrating alarm clocks for the deaf.



## MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING:

Our licensed mental health counselor assists people with disabilities in learning how to overcome behavioral and emotional barriers. Areas of focus include: adjusting to a new disability, job readiness, and job retention.

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT:

As a regional distributor of specialized telecommunications equipment, our staff members provide volume control telephones, telecommunication devices for the Deaf (TDD's) and ring signalers to residents of Florida who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf/blind, or speech impaired. Equipment and training is provided at no cost. Distribution is available in the community to Assisted Living Facilities, Nursing Homes, and more.



## ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES:

Architectural accessibility surveys and consultations are available for businesses, organizations, or groups in need of accessibility compliance information. On-site appraisals are conducted based on federal and state guidelines. Results of the survey are provided in written form.

## COMMUNITY TRAINING:

Presentations and trainings are available to area businesses, groups, and organizations interested in learning how to accommodate and serve people with disabilities. Topics include: disability sensitivity, deaf awareness, workplace accommodations, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

## SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER SERVICES:

Our qualified interpreters are available for meetings, workshops, professional appointments, school classes, and conventions.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITIONS

JUNE 30, 2008

### ASSETS

|   |           |                |
|---|-----------|----------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents   | \$        | 248,664        |
| Investments   |           | 188,302        |
| Contracts and grants receivable                                   |           | 92,226         |
| Other receivables, net allowance for doubtful accounts of \$2,000 |           | 41,437         |
| Prepaid expenses  |           | 15,166         |
| Property and equipment, net                                       |           | <u>325,305</u> |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>   | <b>\$</b> | <b>911,100</b> |

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

|   |           |                |
|---|-----------|----------------|
| Accounts Payable                        | \$        | 6,857          |
| Accrued liabilities                     |           | 52,804         |
| Unearned revenue                        |           | 12,905         |
| Notes payable                           |           | <u>24,143</u>  |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>                |           | <b>96,709</b>  |
| <b>UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>          |           | <b>814,391</b> |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>911,100</b> |

# Center for Independent Living

IN CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC.

## Winter Park

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Winter Park, FL 32789

Phone: (407) 623-1070

Toll Free: (877) 891-6448

TDD: (407) 623-1185

Fax: (407) 623-1390

## Lakeland

115 Traders Alley

Lakeland, FL 33801

Phone: (863) 413-2722

Toll Free: (888) 263-6692

TDD: (863) 413-3010

Fax: (863) 413-2725

[www.cilorlando.org](http://www.cilorlando.org)

Advocacy for people  
with disabilities

