



Winter Issue
February 1, 2010

Also available online
at
www.socil.org

Transition

Connecting, Looking Beyond, Helping You Step Into Another Level

Each one of us goes through transitions in our lives. You have to learn how to adjust to new changes and challenges which at times can become a bit overwhelming. The people at SOCIL have gone through many of the same challenges you may be facing. They've been there, so they know how to guide you through obstacles.

Meet Scott Campbell - Transition Coordinator

My parents always held the same expectations for me that any parent would have for their child. It was never assumed that I would not attend school, go to college, live on my own, or get a job. Education was important and I was **determined** to graduate, but being a student with cerebral palsy, it made things a little more challenging. I struggled through grade school. When I was a student, there weren't resources and services available to help me with developing independent living skills and there were no legal rights to accommodations that students have now. I didn't know how to go about advocating for myself. Most, if not all of the advocacy for my education was done by my parents and I am thankful for their help. I was fortunate that my parents helped me through the challenges and we traveled down a bumpy road together. At that time, instructors were not available to help students with developing their own self-advocacy and independent living skills, which made my transition into junior high and high school difficult.

My road to **independence** was not a smooth one. There weren't just a few potholes to dodge, it was more like I was jumping over canyons. And, too many times I was so close, but just didn't have that

completely over that big gap – there wasn't a **needed bridge** between myself and the "real world." So I ended up slipping down into the "canyon," having to find a way to climb back out and keep going. And that's what I did - I kept going, and graduated from high school, and went on to complete my undergraduate studies at Berea College in Kentucky. I then went on to earn a Masters Degree in Social Work at the University of Kentucky.

Along the way, I learned first-hand how important it is for students to get instruction and guidance to help develop their own **self-advocacy** and **independent living skills**, and I began working at Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living, so I could accomplish just that--**to work together with families and individuals** to make the road to independence as smooth as possible for them. Obviously, that does not mean there won't be bumps along the way--that's life, but if families hit a roadblock, I am here to help. I may not know every pothole, but I can give you some direction and guidance along the road to independence.

SOCIL can work with students, parents and teachers to assist the student through high school into their first years of adulthood.

Independent Living Classes

Money Management
Job Readiness

Personal Care
Nutrition
Personal Space Etiquette

Self-Advocacy
Emergency Readiness

The classes are designed to assist individuals with disabilities achieve their goals for themselves and learn how to transition from school to community and begin planning for independent living.

SOCIL welcomes your suggestions for additional classes.

Vehicle Purchase/Modification Funding Resources

Whether you are modifying a vehicle you own or purchasing a new vehicle with adaptive equipment, it pays to investigate public and private opportunities for financial assistance. The following resources may help those searching for funding assistance:

- Are you eligible for **funding sources** through the Veteran's Administration, vocational rehabilitation, developmental disabilities services, worker's compensation or health insurance?
- Many car manufacturers offer **rebate programs** to help pay for vehicle modification. Chrysler, Ford and General Motors all have reimbursement programs for vehicle modification costs. Go to <http://www.infinitec.org/live/driving/dealers.htm> for information on how to get up to a \$1000 reimbursement when you purchase and modify a vehicle manufactured by one of these companies.
- There may be **local service organizations** (such as the Lions, Elks, Kiwanis or Rotary Club) that would be willing to help fund a vehicle or vehicle modification for an individual.
- The "**CarTalk**" web site: <http://www.cartalk.com/content/features/Special-Needs/mobility.html> has a special section on funding for accessible vehicles, with suggestions of possible sources.
- Many **private insurance companies** cover driver rehabilitation programs; some driver's insurance may cover vehicle modification.
- Check with a qualified accountant to determine if you might be eligible for **tax credits** for modifications.
- Finally, you might want to try posting messages or looking for used-car postings on disability-related **message boards** such as <http://newmobility.com/> or at some of the message boards such as the ones listed at <http://www.disabilityresources.org/CHAT.html>

Census 2010

In March, census forms will arrive. Please answer the ten short questions and mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided.

When States take the official ten year count of their residents, there will be much at stake.

Ohio stands to be the **only state to lose** more than one seat in Congress when districts are redrawn following the count, which means a loss of federal funding.

Federal funding helps organizations such as hospitals, job training centers, schools, senior centers, and emergency centers provide more services to YOU.

If you have questions, visit the government website at <http://2010.census.gov>

REMINDER: For your safety, if a US Census worker knocks on your door, ask to see their identification. They **will not** ask for your Social Security number, credit card or bank account information, so do NOT give it.

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month

Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) may request reasonable accommodations from their employers, such as:

- Provide instructions in large print and electronically
- Change florescent lights to high intensity white light; increase access to natural light
- Allow employee to use a headset while working to play soothing sounds/white noise
- Receive reminders of important deadlines via email, text message or pop-up calendar
- Provide an electronic organizer, watch or pager with timer function
- Allow taping of meetings for easy playback
- Establish an open line of communication to discuss performance & accommodations

Information and other resources regarding TBI and assistive technology/accommodations is available at the following website:

Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA)
<http://www.biausa.org/index.html>

Earned Income Tax Credit

EITC is one of the largest benefit programs for working families and one of the most overlooked tax credits.

- **Rural residents, self-employed people** such as farmers, and grandparents raising grandchildren are among those who may be eligible but fail to claim EITC.
- **Working individuals with disabilities** - Many do not realize they may qualify for the credit and are unfamiliar with the concept of a “refundable credit.” **A refundable credit** offers a benefit even to workers whose earnings are too small to have any tax liability.
- **The EITC has no effect on certain welfare benefits** - In most cases, EITC payments will not be used to determine eligibility for Medicaid, SSI, food stamps, etc.

Make your appointment to find out whether you are eligible & to file your taxes for FREE!

Community Action (740) 653-4146

United Way (740) 653-0643

Social Security Disability

Application Process - Faster Online!



Complete your application online at www.socialsecurity.gov and receive your benefits faster.

When completing your application be sure to be as specific as possible. Social Security will need documentation of your disability. That documentation should spell out specifics of your diagnosis and how that diagnosis impacts you. Think about your everyday routine and how it may compare with routines of other people. For example, if a person is afraid of being out in public they may go grocery shopping at two o'clock in the morning to avoid crowds. For that person that seems relatively “normal” as a way of coping but when compared to most other people it is disabling.

Having your documentation with you when you go to your meeting at the Social Security office will also help the application process go faster. As you are awaiting a decision, Social Security may ask for more supporting documentation from a specialist. They will schedule the appointment for you and let you know where and when to go. You do not have to pay for these appointments.

For conditions that automatically qualify you for Social Security benefits visit: www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances

You can check the status of your application and see if all the supporting documentation has been received by going to www.socialsecurity.gov and clicking on the “Check the Status of Your Application” link or by calling 1-800-772-1213.

High School Juniors and Seniors with Disabilities are Invited to the YLF!



What is the YLF? The Youth Leadership Forum is an opportunity to join over 40 high school juniors and seniors from around Ohio in Columbus, Ohio, July 19-22, 2010.

Meet professionals with disabilities and learn how they have dealt with challenges and succeeded; develop a Personal Leadership Plan to reach goals in education, employment and the community; learn about assistive technology, available resources, choosing a career, and the history of disability as a culture; identify existing barriers to personal and professional success and develop plans to deal with those barriers. **Applications are currently being accepted and must be post-marked by February 12, 2010.** There is no cost for students that are selected to attend. There are two ways to apply. Applications can be found at: www.gcpd.ohio.gov/YLF, completed and mailed or submitted online. For additional information, contact Donna Foster -YLF Coordinator at: Donna.Foster@rsc.state.oh.us, or call 1-800-282-4536, ext. 1394. Applicants will receive a letter confirming their application was received.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

418 South Broad Street
Lancaster, OH 43130
Hours: Monday - Friday 9 am - 5 pm
Phone/TTY: (740) 689-1494
Toll Free: (888) 957-6245
Email: socil@sbcglobal.net
www.socil.org

Please contact SOCIL to add/remove recipients from our mailing list

Alternative formats of this Newsletter are available upon request

SOCIL is funded by a grant from the Department of Education, however the contents of this newsletter does not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

"Access Is Opportunity"

SOCIL MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to offer opportunities to consumers with disabilities that will maximize their choices to live in accessible communities.

We are dedicated to eliminating all barriers to access in the community, including housing, employment, transportation and recreation.

Gaining Back Independence (GBI)

Emergency Readiness

Thursday, February 25th, 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Making Easy Menus

Thursday, March 25th, 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Elements of Managing Weight Successfully

Thursday, April 22nd, 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Protect Yourself From Abuse

Thursday, May 27th, 1:00-2:30 pm

GBI meetings are held at Trinity United Methodist Church in Logan.

Transition 101 Training

Friday, February 12th, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Speaker: Valorie Dombroskas from OCECD at Trinity United Methodist Church

NOW FORMING...Autism Support Group in Hocking County

Kick Off Meeting - Thursday, April 8th

Call Mary at 740-380-1545 Ext. 246 for additional information or to register for any of these events.

Lancaster Public Transit System (LPTS)

LPTS announces service into the City of Pickerington and Violet Township. The system will offer demand response, curb to curb service, which means if you need to go to the store, work, medical appointment or social activity, LPTS will pick you up wherever you are and take you where you need to be! All vehicles are accessible with courteous and helpful drivers. This service is available to anyone in the service area (City of Pickerington or Violet Township).

Hours of Operations

Pickerington & Violet Township Service Area:

Monday-Friday 7am-8pm

Saturday 9am-5pm

Lancaster Service Area:

Monday-Friday 6am-9pm

Saturday 7am-6:30pm

Closed Sundays & Major Holidays

To schedule a ride or check pricing call:

740-681-5086

Ohio Relay - 1-800-750-0750

