SOLIDARITY
FOREVER

* Annual Report 2016 *

NCIL
National Council on Independent Living
A Message from the Executive Director

In 2016, NCIL celebrated solidarity. The ferocity and passion we witnessed in 2016 left a lasting impression. Internally, we honored the contributions of young people with disabilities and people who bring experiences that are too often marginalized within the disability community and by society at large. Externally, we worked to build relationships with our brothers and sisters across the globe.

#Solidarity relies on core principles of Independent Living philosophy. In 2016, we met as equals, ready to learn from our peers across the world and within our Movement. We learned that we have a lot to learn, but also that our potential is greater than we knew.

We recognize the urgency with which we must address the issues facing our community. 2017 will be a critical year for our Movement. Frightening changes threaten programs and services for people with disabilities. NCIL will not stay silent as Congress dismantles legislation that allows people with disabilities to live in our homes and in the community. We will take a firm stand against anyone who denies the rights of students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. With your help, we will stop attempts to weaken the Americans with Disabilities Act and erode our civil rights.

NCIL continues to provide first class member benefits, including training and technical assistance, insurance benefits, and a world class Annual Conference. Most importantly, NCIL provides its members with representation on Capitol Hill, ensuring that our voices are heard by those with the power to enact our priorities. I hope you will join us as we build a future of independence for all. For these reasons and so many more, I ask that you become a NCIL member. In Washington, DC and in every state, Independent Living advocates will work on every front until we achieve a world in which people with disabilities are truly valued equally and participate fully.

Kelly Buckland
Advocacy

In 2016 NCIL worked to advance the social, economic, and political equality of people with disabilities by:

- working with NCIL committees and membership to submit comments on legislation, rules, and regulations, as well as to communicate with representatives from the Administration and Congress on our positions;

- engaging 94 CILs and SILCs to advocate for accessible sample ballots in their counties and states;

- meeting with and encouraging the Pew Research Center to include the disability community in their polling on voting, which resulted in the publication of “A Political Profile of Disabled Americans;”

- working with other national organizations to build relationships and participating in strategic and collaborative efforts related to the Department of Labor’s Home Care Rule, home and community-based services, and access to medical equipment technology;

- submitting comments on legislation related to SSDI, Adult Protection Services guidance, and the Department of Transportation’s proposed paratransit changes;

- actively dialoguing with ACL regarding guidance related to Designated State Entities (DSE) and conducting a survey on the impact of this guidance on CILs and SILCs;

- continuing significant advocacy supporting parental rights for people with disabilities, opposing assisted suicide legislation in many states, and opposing sheltered workshops and subminimum wage employment of people with disabilities;

- helping craft new regulations on the Air Carriers Access Act regarding accessible restrooms, inflight entertainment and communications, and service animals, including emotional support animals;

- participating in meetings and events in order to present the disability community’s perspective on issues including Social Security solvency and reform, Medicaid, mental health reform, autonomous vehicles, transportation networking companies, and the Disability Integration Act;

- actively participating on coalitions including the Disability and Aging Collaborative, the Transportation Equity Caucus, the Administration for Community Living’s Interagency Committee on Disability Research Community Living Workgroup, and the National Disability Mentoring Coalition;

- testifying in opposition to ADA Notification bills in the House Judiciary Committee; and

- working with the Independent Living Administration on regulations, rules, and the transition of the Independent Living program more broadly.
NCIL Accomplishments

In 2016 NCIL was increasingly effective in expanding the work of our members and advocating their issues nationally.

- NCIL set a new record for youth membership and participation for the fourth consecutive year. Youth now comprise nearly 10% of NCIL’s membership base!
- NCIL members elected Emily Ladau to serve in the newly-created Youth-At-Large Board position.
- NCIL received two major grants from the Craig Neilsen Foundation and will “pass-through” over $200,000 to nine CILs around the country in 2016 and 2017.
- In partnership with AAPD and Walmart, NCIL reached over 4,000 students, schools, and employers as part of our Disability Mentoring Day Youth Transition Pipeline.
- Developed a Youth Transition Coordinators Call to support the youth transition work being done in CILs.
- Thanks to the MEAF M<PWR Grant, NCIL attended several national conferences in order to make new connections and encourage others to get involved in Independent Living.
- NCIL representatives traveled to Japan, Nepal, and Costa Rica to share knowledge and build relationships that will advance a global Independent Living Movement.
- Since the creation of the Policy Internship Program five years ago, NCIL has had over fifteen interns from Florida, Wisconsin, Idaho, DC, Maryland, Missouri, New York, Arizona, California, and South Korea.

Board of Directors

Regional Representatives: Sarah Launderville, Chad Underwood, Jan Derry, Kent Crenshaw, Maureen Ryan, Julie Espinoza, Roger Frischenmeyer, Tami Hoar, Sheri Burns, and Doug Toelle.

Members At Large: Felicia Agrelius, Darrel Christenson, Steve Higgins, Amity Lachowicz, Emily Ladau, Jessie Lorenz, and Brian Peters.

- Lou Ann Kibbee, President
- Bruce Darling, Vice President
- Roger Howard, Treasurer
- Mary Margaret Moore, Secretary
- Dustin Gibson, Diversity Committee Chair
NCIL’s 2016 Annual Conference on Independent Living was an unforgettable experience. This year’s theme, *Solidarity: Everybody In*, brought advocates from all across the nation and the world to celebrate the Independent Living Movement and do the work that will bring our community to its full potential.

Attendance surpassed our expectations, with nearly 900 Conference attendees participating in the week’s events. We created a major presence on the streets leading to the U.S. Capitol as we marched and chanted in support of disability rights. Workshops and special events highlighted some of the best work happening in the IL Movement and created space for advocates to learn from one another. We organized Get Out The Vote efforts for the 2016 election; we heard from leaders at the Independent Living Administration about their vision for the future; and we prioritized the voices of people with disabilities currently underrepresented in our Movement.

Plans began for a Global Independent Living Summit, which will take place in 2017. The NCIL Youth Caucus raised over $18,700 to support travel and lodging for youth with disabilities to attend this year’s Conference, which featured several powerful youth speakers at the Awards Luncheon, Closing Plenary, and Rally.

We want to thank each and every one of the advocates that attended. This year’s Conference was outstanding because of your presence.

### Award Recipients

#### National Advocacy Awards:

- Max Starkloff Lifetime Achievement Award: Lex Frieden
- Max Starkloff Lifetime Achievement Award: Bob Kafka, Stephanie Thomas, and The ADAPT Community
- President’s Award: Phil Pangrazio
- Corey Rowley National Advocacy Award: Stephanie Woodward
- Frank Harkin Memorial Award: Bruce Darling
- Diana Viets Award: Lydia X. Z. Brown
- Women’s Caucus Award: Robyn Powell, Alice Wong, and Jan Derry

#### Regional Advocacy Awards:

- Region 1: Bill Shine
- Region 2: Adam Prizio
- Region 3: Brenda Dasher
- Region 4: Kent Crenshaw
- Region 5: Kathy Foley
- Region 6: Kate Garrison
- Region 7: Rosie Cooper
- Region 8: John Pavao
- Region 9: Sheryl Nelson
- Region 10: Joan O’Keefe
A Sampling of Member Accomplishments

In every state and territory, NCIL’s member Centers for Independent Living and Statewide Independent Living Councils lead efforts to secure civil rights and gain an equal playing field for people with disabilities in their communities. This is a small sampling of their accomplishments.

- Three Rivers Inc. in Wamego, Kansas celebrated its 30th anniversary providing CIL services to northeastern Kansas and assisted 237 people achieve their community-based living goal.

- The disAbility Resource Center in Fredericksburg, Virginia sponsored SAIL (Self-Advocacy, Independent Living), a peer support group whose members work on a curriculum that includes disability history, education, employment, transportation, housing, self-advocacy and legislative advocacy, leadership and empowerment skills, and abuse prevention.

- The Maine Statewide Independent Living Council championed and then led a study of what a travel voucher system could do for Mainers with disabilities seeking independent living. A hearing was held on the study and the committee voted unanimously to draft legislation to move the idea forward.

- REACH of Plano, Texas assisted 42 youth with disabilities to successfully transition from high school to college and/or employment. Those young people are now leaders and role models for younger children with disabilities.

- Maryland Centers for Independent Living and SILC worked together on legislative advocacy initiatives, including state legislation to restrict certificates that allow businesses to pay employees with disabilities less than minimum wage.

- Southern California Resource Services for Independent Living hosted the first Disability Pride Parade and Festival in Southern California. Over 725 attendees and an additional 150 volunteers participated in the parade. People with disabilities shared their voices and values, and created change in a society that has yet to understand disability pride.

- The disABILITY Resource Center in Knoxville, Tennessee retained and/or regained housing in the community for 13 individuals, saving the state and federal government approximately $780,000 annually by keeping these citizens out of nursing homes or other institutions.

- Disability Network Southwest Michigan provided 226 presentations to 3,126 participants and built 22 ramps on the homes of people with disabilities to increase access to the community.

- Service Center for Independent Life in Claremont, California held the first annual Disability Athletics Faire, with over 250 participants and volunteers participating in 8 different sporting events, including martial arts, skateboarding, kayaking, golf, and bocce ball.
Independent Living Training and Events

NCIL provides a wealth of training and information to our members each year. In addition, NCIL is a partner in the IL-NET national training and technical assistance project for Centers for Independent Living (CIL-NET) and Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILC-NET), which focuses on:

- Deinstitutionalization / Community Services and Supports
- Outreach to Unserved and Underserved Populations
- Consumer Control
- Peer Mentoring of CILs and SILCs
- Systems Advocacy
- Data Collection and Reporting

In 2016, NCIL presented 7 national onsite trainings and 21 webinars, reaching more than 1,250 people. The IL-NET program also provided technical assistance to hundreds in the Independent Living community.

National Onsite Trainings:

- Affordable, Accessible, Integrated Housing: Expanding Options for People with Disabilities *
- Financial Management Workshop for CILs: Regulations and Beyond *
- WIOA & ACL Proposed Regulations *
- Strategies for Shifting SPIL Development from SILC-DSU to DSE SILC-CILs *
- SILC Standards & Indicators *
- Strategies for Resource Development *
- Uniform Grant Guidance - A Quick Overview *

National Teleconferences and Webinars:

- Peer Support – A Proven Volunteer Model *
- How to Prepare an Indirect Cost Rate Proposal *
- Creating Disability Culture at CILs *
- Intersectionality in CILs: Cultural Inclusion *
- Creating Cognitive Access and Inclusion in the Independent Living Movement *
- Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation Paralysis Resource Center: Your Source for Information, Services, and Support *
- SILC Policies and Procedures: A Solid Foundation for Management *
- Conducting Successful Virtual Meetings: Getting Started with Technology Considerations *
- Uniform Guidance for SILCs *
- Doin’ the Diversion Dance from Rehab to Community: One Center’s Approach to Early Intervention in Rehab Facilities *
- Greyhound Disability Settlement: The Latest on the Greyhound Lawsuit and Claims Process from the U.S. Department of Justice †

* IL-NET † NCIL / Other Partners
Strategic Plan Priorities

Political Power

- Build a strong Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus
- Pursue legal action against violators of disability rights laws
- Build an effective action alert and response system
- Hire Director of Public Policy
- Develop IL champions in Congress

Strengthening the IL Network

- Provide Training and Technical Assistance for CILs and SILCs
- Lead the development of sustainability of CILs and SILCs
- Develop a mechanism for providing legal assistance to CILs and SILCs
- Increase diversity and representation in NCIL and IL
- Increase IL Funding

Communications & Membership

- Create powerful NCIL marketing & branding campaign
- Increase media coverage to achieve legislative goals
- Increase membership

Resource Development

- Research endowments from corporations and foundations
- Access new funding through NCIL’s Governing Board & Corporate Development Council
- Obtain new revenue from new grants
Donors

- American Association for Homecare
- Heather Ansley
- Julie Ballinger
- Jedediah Barton
- Dwight Bateman
- Mark Betancourt
- Sandra Bookman
- Marca Bristo
- Shannon Buckley
- Sheri Burns
- Mary Butler
- Allie Cannington
- Eleanor Canter
- Phil Chase
- Darrel Christenson
- Diane Coleman
- Michael Collins
- Deborah Cotter
- Yoshiko Dart
- Gale Dean
- Jan Derry
- Mark Derry
- Susan Dooha
- John Douglas
- Maureen Duncan
- Julie Espinoza
- Robert Fuchs
- Laura George
- Dustin Gibson
- Marilyn Golden
- Mitchell Granger
- Keith Gurgui
- Bryna Helfer
- Conchita Hernandez
- Judy Herr
- Tami Hoar
- Roger Howard
- Maxwell Hudson
- Jeff Hughes
- Darrell Lynn Jones
- Bob Kafka
- Rachel Kaplan
- Lou Ann Kibbee
- Kenneth Klauck
- David Koch
- Patt Kosier
- Amity Lachowicz
- Emily Ladau
- Sarah Wendell Launderville
- Carla Lawson
- Michael Leverett
- Mainstream Center for Independent Living
- Ann McDaniel
- Kayla McMillan
- Michael Meadows
- Mary Margaret Moore
- Michael Murphy
- Laura Murra
- Beth Noworatzy
- International Association for the Advancement of Creative Maladjustment
- Center for Independent Living of South Florida, Inc.
- Phil Pangrazio
- Katherine Patterson-Paronto
- Brian Peters
- Peter Price
- Patricia Puckett
- Curtis Richards
- Sharon Shapiro-Lacks
- Laura Smith
- Colleen Starkloff
- Annette Tashiro
- Doug Toelle
- Chad Underwood
- Martha Medlar Valerio
- Suzanne Valls
- Yolanda Vargas
- Andrew Veith
- Sandy Weber
- John D. Westbrook, Ph.D.

Thank you!
NCIL Staff

- Lindsay Baran, Policy Analyst
- Sarah Blahovec, Disability Vote Organizer
- Kelly Buckland, Executive Director
- Eleanor Canter, Communications Coordinator
- Samantha Cohen, Summer 2016 Policy Intern
- Kings Floyd, Youth Transitions Fellow 2016-2017
- Tim Fuchs, Operations Director
- Patricia Gill, Accountant

- Keri Gray, Youth Transitions Fellow 2015-2016
- Matthew Indimine, Summer 2016 Policy Intern
- Denise Monroe, Member Services Associate
- Jen Overfield, Spring 2016 Policy Intern
- Jung Gyu Park, Spring 2016 Policy Intern
- Oliver Stabbe, Summer 2016 Policy Intern
- Rie Terashima, Administrative Assistant

Corporate Sponsors

NCIL recognizes the following corporate sponsors for their support and partnership in 2016:

- Centene
- Anthem
- Google
- Verizon
- UnitedHealthcare
- Walmart
- IndependenceFirst
- Ability360
- AT&T
- The HSC Foundation / Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation Conference Support Fund

- LEAD Center / National Disability Institute
- National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability - Youth
- Pride Mobility Products
- SKIL Resource Center, Inc.
- Tracfone Wireless
- Regional Center for Independent Living
- Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
- Molina Healthcare
Statement of Financial Position*

**Assets:**
- Current Assets  $565,494
- Prepaid Expenses  $26,729
- Prepaid Legal Expenses  $16,427
- Fixed Assets  $8,146
- Deposits  $14,556
- Other Assets  $18,969
- Total Assets  $650,323

**Liabilities and Fund Balance:**
- Current Liabilities  $447,437
- Unrestricted Reserve  $140,442
- Total Net Income  $62,444
- Total Liabilities & Net Assets  $650,323

**Revenues:**
- Grants & Programs  $767,629 (53%)
- Annual Conference  $321,558 (22%)
- Membership Dues  $263,235 (18%)
- Donations  $11,661 (1%)
- Other Income  $84,689 (6%)
- Total 2016 Income  $1,448,772

**Expenses:**
- Administration & Finance  $136,307 (10%)
- Training & Assistance  $625,995 (45%)
- Advocacy & Programs  $362,521 (26%)
- Annual Conference  $261,504 (19%)
- Total 2016 Expenses  $1,386,328

*All figures represented in this statement of financial position are unaudited. Final numbers may vary slightly. Please contact NCIL for an updated report.*