

It takes the experience and focus that BCIL staff exhibit to address the tough situations presented by many people contacting us for services. Here's a small sampling of recent success stories.



A WOMAN LIVING WITH FAMILY in eastern Massachusetts was paralyzed in a domestic violence incident in Haiti. She worked with BCIL, fearful because she believed her abuser was now in the area. She received expert mentoring from a staff member fluent in Haitian Creole and was referred to an accessible shelter, where she can live safely in anonymity and with connections to a variety of critical services.



A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WITH MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY wanting to move out and go to college struggled greatly with the challenges she'd face living on her own. Her parents were equally nervous. For two years she was mentored by a staff member at BCIL who herself had faced similar questions. Now, with the assistance of PCAs set up by BCIL, the young woman is going to school and living in a dorm at a college in Boston.



A 53-YEAR OLD MAN who was stuck in a local Veterans Administration hospital for over three years contacted BCIL. Through the work of our direct services department and PCA program, he found housing, got PCAs, and is now living in his own home.



AN 83-YEAR OLD WOMAN was denied nighttime PCA coverage by MassHealth. BCIL staff assisted her to appeal the decision. The woman was at high risk for going into a nursing home. The appeal was won and she continues to reside in her own home.



A 54 YEAR-OLD FORMER SCHOOL TEACHER who had a debilitating stroke contacted BCIL. She and her teenage daughter were living in a family member's inaccessible apartment. BCIL interceded with a local housing authority to press her need for housing, an affordable and accessible family unit was obtained, and now the woman is completing a computer course in a vocational rehabilitation training program as a step toward reentering the work force.

JOANNE MILLER WAS IN A BAD CAR ACCIDENT in 1992 that left her with limited speaking ability and reliant on an electric wheelchair for mobility. For eight years she was, as she calls it, "warehoused in a rehab center." She then got assistance from BCIL to get on the PCA program and obtain her own apartment in Cambridge. She is now one of BCIL's strongest advocates. She's at the State House. She's at City Hall. She's in the streets. She's in all the key meetings. She's an independent living superstar.

EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION SUPPORTS INDEPENDENCE

In the past six months, BCIL has linked with Fraser Corporation and Tom Perry, a member of the BCIL family, supporting their distribution of donated medical equipment and technology to people who need it to enhance their independence. The following has been given away: 3 scooters, 4 electric wheelchairs, 6 manual wheelchairs, 3 hospital beds, 3 Hoyer Lifts, and an assortment of canes, walkers, crutches, and shower chairs.

FRED FAY ADVANCED LEADERSHIP FORUM



Last month, BCIL hosted the first Fred Fay Advanced Leadership Forum in Boston with thanks to support from the Newcastle Foundation. The purpose of the forum, named after one of BCIL's founders and a longtime leader in national disability



Mark Johnson, national disability rights leader with ADAPT and Shepherd Spinal Center, facilitated the forum.

advocacy, was to bring current leaders of the Disability Rights movement together with the emerging generation of leaders to strategize about the future direction of the movement. The intensive weekend was also aimed at giving participants the background, training, information and expertise to return to their communities and organizations and lead successful advocacy efforts for disability rights.

Afterwards, leaders from Washington, DC, Chicago, Atlanta, California, Texas, Michigan, Utah, Maryland and Massachusetts expressed that this was a unique cross-generational gathering that will be sure to have significant impact. Discussion centered on leadership, what makes a movement, new models for disability rights organizations and what actions should come out of the meeting. A position letter summarizing the participant's thoughts will be going out to leading, national disability rights organizations. Their goal is to generate continued dialogue on the issues and use the forum as a portal to bring people together to broaden the scope and impact of the disability rights movement.

BOSTON CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

60 Temple Place, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02111-1324





Leading the Way for Services and Rights

2008 was a terrific year for BCIL—and 2009, which will mark the organization's 35th anniversary—should bring more notable accomplishment.

During the past twelve months, over 5,000 people linked up with BCIL to receive important services and be part of strong advocacy campaigns. The cause of independence and the quest to promote the civil rights of people with disabilities continued to spark passion among our members, staff, and board.

The BCIL PCA department, repeatedly hailed as top-notch, is a crucial avenue to independence for many in Greater Boston. As one of our consumers stated, "BCIL provided me with a PCA program and I love it!" PCAs assist people with activities of daily living so they can go to school, get a job, raise a family, leave a nursing home, and do all those things that are part of living dignified lives where the individual is in control.

The Direct Services department at BCIL continued its work as a jack-of-many-trades unit, providing mentoring, advocacy, referrals, and information to people looking to, among numerous things, receive Social Security benefits, find an accessible home, obtain assistive technology, get on MassHealth, or figure a way to go to college. One consumer remarked about one staff's skills in American Sign Language, stating "He's terrific, like his coworkers!"

New alliances were forged by BCIL in the past year while old ones were strengthened. We have established solid ties via signed agreements with nearly a dozen providers of elder services in the Boston region, paving the way for smoother provision of services to people with disabilities who want to age in their own homes and remain vital parts of their families and neighborhoods. Meanwhile, our *Act Today Influence Tomorrow* program, carried forward in conjunction with Easter Seals, is involving upwards of thirty younger people with disabilities



in an exciting new project to introduce disability history into public school curriculums. Broad awareness and appreciation of what it has meant and still means to be a person with a disability is essential to keep the march toward equality moving at full speed.

The BCIL advocacy agenda remained a statement of the organization's commitment to be on the frontline on issues of importance to Boston's and the state's disability community.

- We continued to be a leader of the campaign for fair compensation for PCAs, organizing an event in May that resulted in over fifty people meeting in the governor's office with Lieutenant Governor Murray to explain that poor wages and benefits for attendants—they're paid just \$10.84/hour without sick days, health insurance, or paid vacation—results in high turnover and unreliable service for consumers. Our friends with the PCA Workforce Council and 1199SEIU, the PCA union, have indicated that a deal for better pay is close.
- We remained loud advocates for improved access in Boston, an effort now paying dividends. We worked with the Disability Policy Consortium, the Disability Law Center (DLC), the Neighborhood

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Access Group, and Adaptive Environments to convince Mayor Menino to dedicate \$15 million to improve access to sidewalks and establish a new commission for people with disabilities. We also worked with DLC on voting access; the city has now moved 30 polling sites to accessible locations.

- We are now championing state government as a Model Employer of People with Disabilities as a means to combat low employment rates and spur hiring by state government, Massachusetts' largest employer. The governor signed off on the idea and the Employment Now Coalition, spearheaded in part by BCIL, is pushing for implementation details and timelines.
- We successfully joined with the Citizens Housing and Planning Association to support \$500,000 in increased funding for the Alternative Housing Voucher Program for people with disabilities.
- We continued our tight partnership with Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS) to seek compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act at the MBTA. The T has continued its efforts, estimated to cost \$310 million, to improve access to subways, stations, and buses as a result of the class action lawsuit settled in 2006. Elevator performance has vastly improved and we are pleased that over fifteen people with disabilities have been hired by the T to specifically implement and monitor progress of the settlement.
- We pursued our effort, also in conjunction with GBLS, to promote equal access at area hospitals to close the health care disparity gap for people with disabilities. Too many health facilities lack accessible exam rooms and equipment, and have limited policies for ADA compliance. To address our concerns, we anticipate announcing a strong working relationship with major Boston-area hospitals in the coming year.

BCIL's work would not be possible without the support of many people and organizations. Many thanks to those who have responded to our membership appeal. We now have close to 300 dues-paying members, a figure we want to continually grow. We also are indebted to the United Way, The Boston Foundation, the Carl and Ruth Shapiro Family Foundation, the Hyams Foundation, the Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation, and the Lenny Zakim Fund for their generous backing of our advocacy and service work. Critical core funding is provided by the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission and MassHealth to operate our direct services and PCA programs. Dr. Robert Master continues to provide fantastic energy for the annual BCIL Marie Feltin Awards Ceremony fundraiser and the Perini Corporation and O'Connor Constructors remain outstanding supporters of our annual Construction Industry Night at the Pops.

Looking ahead, our theme for 2009 is leadership. It is essential that BCIL remain at the forefront of advocacy and service provision to people with disabilities. Continued success also will be critical for efforts such as *Act Today Influence Tomorrow* and our recent Fred Fay Advanced Leadership Forum. BCIL and the disability community in general must be ready to meet challenges presented by a world that changes at lightening speed yet still denies people with disabilities the equality they deserve.

We thank all of you for making 2008 a great year. We know you'll be with BCIL in 2009 as we help lead the way in the independent living arena.

Bill Henning
Executive Director

Sergio Goncalves
Chairman of the Board



Support BCIL

Show your support for our work and help us continue our important mission. Your contribution will support BCIL's civil rights advocacy work and the critical services we provide to assist people with disabilities to live on their own, get a job, graduate from school, find housing and be active, productive members of their own community. All dues and donations are tax deductible. Dues-paying members are also entitled to attend BCIL's Annual Meeting in November.

Yes! I want to make a \$_____ contribution to BCIL.

Yes! I want to be a BCIL dues-paying member.
My \$20.00 dues are enclosed.

Yes! I need to pay reduced-rate dues.
My reduced-rate membership is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

\$_____ (amount of total contribution)

Enclosed is my check payable to BCIL

Please charge my Visa Mastercard American Express
 Discover Diners Club

Card Number _____ Exp.Date _____

Signature _____

Thank you.

Please send to BCIL, 60 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111-1324

BCIL

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BCIL MARIE FELTIN AWARD CEREMONY

Friday, March 13, 2009 Grand Ballroom, Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel

Plan on joining fellow disabled advocates for our 13th Annual Awards Gala honoring those in our community who have done outstanding work on behalf of people with disabilities.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

June 30, 2008



ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$	205,695
Certificates of Deposit	\$	373,896
Accounts Receivable - Third Parties, Net of Allowance for Doubtful Accounts of \$10,000		116,824
Accounts Receivable - Contracts		132,084
Accounts Receivable - Other		42,532
Prepaid Expenses & Deposits		13,631
Property and Equipment, Net		29,798
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	914,460

The Boston Center
for Independent
Living gratefully
acknowledges the
support of the
United Way.

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Accounts Payable	\$	20,498
Accrued Expenses		98,337
Total Liabilities		118,835
Net Assets		
Unrestricted:		
Available for Operations		441,521
Board Designated		210,000
Net Investment in Property & Equipment		29,798
Total Unrestricted Net Assets		681,319
Temporarily Restricted		114,306
Total Net Assets		795,625
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$	914,460

