

# BCIL's TRANSITION INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



"A goal of ours is to provide serious supports for students as needed," said BCIL's Sarah Kaplan (front left in photo), who has overseen the program. "We are creating a successful model we hope others will replicate, while at the same time boosting the work chances for students who in many instances may otherwise be deterred from employment."

Young adults with disabilities are significantly less likely than their peers to be employed, and BCIL has responded to what's ostensibly a crisis with action. For the second year in a row, we've piloted an internship program for high school students with disabilities, combining real-world job experiences, including pay, with mentoring, job coaching, and skills building as necessary. Seventeen youth have benefited, including eleven this past summer. Already four have landed new work positions on their own since this past August.



# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

June 30, 2012

## ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$359,027
Certificates of Deposit	\$481,483
Accounts Receivable - Third Parties, Net of Allowance for Doubtful Accounts of \$5,000	\$167,565
Accounts Receivable - Contracts	\$188,529
Accounts Receivable - Other	\$ 81,630
Prepaid Expenses Et Deposits	\$ 35,621
Property and Equipment, Net	\$ 44,676

**TOTAL ASSETS \$ 1,358,531**

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Accounts Payable	\$ 41,849
Accrued Expenses	\$212,426
Total Liabilities	\$254,275

### Net Assets

Unrestricted:	
Available for Operations	\$709,188
Board Designated	\$235,174
Net Investment in Property Et Equipment	\$ 44,676

Total Unrestricted Net Assets \$989,038

Temporarily Restricted \$115,218

Total Net Assets \$1,104,256

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$ 1,358,531**

# DONATIONS

A donation to BCIL helps us serve over 5,000 people with disabilities and advocate for tens of thousands more in a number of critical areas including housing, healthcare, long-term care, transportation, civil rights law, education and employment. BCIL relies, in part, on the generosity of members, corporations, foundations and individuals who see the independence of people with disabilities as an important quality of life issue in the Greater Boston area.



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



BOSTON CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

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

Yes! Here is my \$\_\_\_\_\_ contribution to BCIL.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check payable to BCIL

Please charge my  Visa  Mastercard  American Express  
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Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp.Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you.

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

BOSTON CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

## ANNUAL REPORT - NOVEMBER 2012

The Boston Center for Independent Living had another year of significant service provision and frontline advocacy, advancing the cause of disability rights and independent living in homes throughout Boston's neighborhoods, in our Greater Boston service area, across Massachusetts, and with officials in Washington.

A highlight for the year was our youth internship program. Eleven high school students with disabilities were placed in paying jobs throughout Boston this past summer, for the first time earning a paycheck, learning about the rigors of the workplace, and receiving training in basic skills. BCIL firmly believes that in order to attack the high unemployment rate for people with disabilities, it is essential to open up work avenues for youth.

The national imperative to reform healthcare is taking many forms, and a key initiative is the effort to combine services and care for people with disabilities on both Medicaid and Medicare. Such individuals are referred to as "the duals" because of their dual eligibility for each health insurance program, and there are 115,000 such people ages 21 to 64 in the state, 9 million nationally. What policymakers want to do is set up managed care plans with coverage provided by private insurers. This is a great opportunity to improve care and access to services—but it also creates a situation where services could be cut as insurers guarantee their profit margins. BCIL has been a co-leader of Disability Advocates Advancing our Healthcare Rights (DAAHR), the leading consumer voice, speaking out loud and clear to be sure people will have access to PCA services, medical equipment, and peer services. Massachusetts will be the first state with such a plan, so BCIL's leadership—including in how plans develop in other states—will be essential. Contact BCIL for more information on this evolving and complex initiative.

Supporting Personal Care Attendant (PCA) services are never far from the top of BCIL's to-do list. 1,200 people are on our program, 22,000 people statewide use PCAs,



Hundreds of disability activists jammed into a MassHealth hearing on the duals proposal held at DAAHR's insistence. BCIL outreach and community organizing, including efforts in the Haitian and Latino communities, are involving more people in our advocacy.

and it remains, arguably, the most important independent living program in the state. Key concerns BCIL addresses include ensuring the program is not harmed by budget cuts, that new initiatives such as the proposed orientation curriculums for PCAs honor consumer direction, and that each and every consumer receives quality services.

People with major housing needs continue to come through BCIL's doors on a regular basis. Our dedicated direct-services staff aided 250 people to obtain or retain their housing, helping curb homelessness and increase independence. Within this grouping are approximately thirty people we helped leave a nursing home. Staff also provided information and referral services to 1,500 people, assisting on a range of matters from obtaining Social Security benefits, finding vocational counseling, learning about civil rights laws, and securing assistive technology.

Fare increases to MBTA services were a huge concern for people across Eastern Massachusetts in the past year—and could be again if the T's fiscal situation doesn't improve. BCIL advocated and led protests

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# SERVICE & ADVOCACY

## BCIL STAFF

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**VOLUNTEERS**  
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Activists stage a symbolic blockade in front of the State House to highlight the need for funding for *The Ride* and how service cuts would stop travel for many people with disabilities.



against huge increases for The RIDE, which provides door-to-door van service for those who can't use buses or the subway. Many BCIL members spoke against the steep hikes, in coalition with groups such as Mass Senior Action, and radical fare proposals were taken off the table. But when the smoke finally cleared, RIDE users were hit with fare increases of as much as 250% for some trips—compared to a 23% increase for other forms of transportation. More action will definitely be needed to be sure that people aren't priced out of The RIDE; already BCIL has heard from people sacrificing trips to social events so they can afford trips for their medical appointments.

The many BCIL's accomplishments during the past twelve months would not be possible without the support of numerous individuals and organizations. We thank those who respond to our annual membership appeals, join us for advocacy activities, and attend our special events. We are indebted to United Way, the Hyams Foundation, the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of Massachusetts, Community Catalyst, and the Miller Innovation Fund

for their generous backing of our advocacy and service work. Critical support for our many IL services is provided by the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, under Commissioner Charles Carr, by MassHealth, directed by Dr. Julian Harris, and by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, under Secretary Ann Hartstein. BCIL also is appreciative of our advocacy partnerships with Greater Boston Legal Services, the Disability Policy Consortium, the Disability Law Center and dozens more who join us in support of the Disability Rights Movement.

As we look to 2013, we again see a call to action as disability services and programs will face continued challenges as public officials wrestle with difficult funding decisions. BCIL will keep the independence and aspirations for people with disabilities at the forefront of our action agenda. And we again will need all of you to be there, in partnership, to advance the disability rights cause.

Bill Henning, *Executive Director*  
Sergio Goncalves, *Board Chairperson*

# SUCCESS STORIES

*The creativity, perseverance, and experience of BCIL staff assist many people to move from difficult situations to greater independence. Here is a quick sampling of successes.*

- A 61-year-old woman who had to reside in a nursing home for several years contacted BCIL because she was not allowed by staff to leave the grounds. We helped her develop a safety contract with the nursing home and she was able to go out into the community of her own free will. We then worked with her to find accessible housing. She now lives on her own in Quincy, is on BCIL's PCA program, and is becoming a leading BCIL activist, organizing meetings and attending events.
- A six-month old girl with numerous physical and neurological disabilities became eligible for Social Security Administration benefits through the work of BCIL with the baby's mother. This has enhanced family stability during a challenging period.
- A 27-year old man who is legally blind was homeless. He came to BCIL for services, received peer mentoring and assistance to apply for public housing. The effort paid off: he is now living in a unit in Boston.
- A teenage girl with intellectual and developmental disabilities came to Boston with her family after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti upended their lives. First they lived with a friend, but when this didn't work out, BCIL staff assisted them to move to a shelter, which became a temporary stop: they now have their own apartment and are settling into the community.
- A 50-year old man who had a stroke determined he no longer wanted to reside in a nursing home. He contacted BCIL, received significant input on his housing options, and eventually secured a unit in Medford for which he now pays full rent. A key to his independence is BCIL's PCA services.

## CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY NIGHT AT THE BOSTON POPS

Once again, the construction industry came together in support of BCIL at our 33rd Annual Construction Industry Night at the Pops. Attendees were treated to a gourmet reception at Symphony Hall and a terrific performance by Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops. BCIL is grateful to our Host Sponsor, O'Connor Group of Companies, especially President Tom O'Connor and Chris Mayo, for its leadership, backing and efforts on our behalf, along with our additional Sponsors and attendees who joined in to demonstrate their support for our work in the disability community.

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Members of BCIL's PCA Department: Brandon Goldsmith Garcia, Renee Foster, Maria Bourgeois, and Peter Cronis (25 years service with BCIL).

## BCIL MARIE FELTIN AWARD CEREMONY



BCIL Marie Feltin Award honorees Institute for Human Design's Valerie Fletcher, Elmer Bartels and Stan Eichner.

evening were Elmer Bartels, disability rights pioneer and former MRC Commissioner; Stan Eichner, disability rights champion and past director of the Attorney General's Disability Rights Project and the Disability Law Center; and the Institute for Human Centered Design and Valerie Fletcher for blazing a trail in design that includes everyone.

The ceremony would not have been possible without the efforts of BCIL's great friend, Dr. Robert Master, and our Master of Ceremonies for the evening, Dr. Lisa Iezzoni. BCIL also gratefully acknowledges Partners HealthCare and 1199 SEIU for being Host Sponsors for the evening, along with all our other sponsors and attendees whose support helped make the BCIL Marie Feltin Award Ceremony a great success.



Among our many services, BCIL holds bi-monthly Housing Workshops where consumers come to BCIL and learn about their options, find out where to search for housing, discuss their situation with IL Advocates and Skills Trainers, and get help filling out applications and housing forms. Homelessness remains a worry for many BCIL consumers.

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