



SILCGA

Newsletter

F a l l 2 0 1 8

Director's Note Page 2

New Resource Videos Page 3

Strengthening IL Event Highlights Page 4

NCIL Conference Recap Page 5

Welcome to Kelly Rhyne Page 6

The Service of Linda Pogue Page 6



SILCGA

**Statewide
Independent Living
Council of Georgia**



Follow us on Facebook & Youtube
or visit us at <http://www.silcga.org/>

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



We have had an amazing few months here at the SILCGA. Since our last update, we had our annual resource development event, released two new Independent Living videos, welcomed a new staff member and said "congratulations!" to two outstanding colleagues.

On September 25th, we gathered at our third annual Strengthening Independent Living event graciously hosted by the Nelson Mullins Law Firm. We were pleasantly surprised by the attendance of Representative Katie Dempsey (R, Rome)! We thank her for her continued support and presence!

In case you missed it. Two new videos were released over the last couple months. New to Disability & HAP. Both are empowering videos I know you will enjoy. Please visit our website, Facebook and You Tube pages to view them...and please feel free to share them.

We are also excited for two of our colleagues, Nichole Davis and Linda Pogue. Nichole, former director of Access to Independence, took a director's position in Virginia! We are happy for her, her family and the awesome opportunity. We also wished Linda Pogue, of disABILITY LINK, a Happy Retirement! Linda has worked faithfully within the disability community for nearly 20 years. Her passion and commitment is unparalleled. We wish them well.

Last but not least, we welcome Kelly Rhyne. Kelly joined us in August as our Marketing Coordinator when we needed her the most! I appreciate her talent and willingness to keep us moving in a positive direction with her creativity!

We are looking forward to the winter season and to next year, and the many things we have planned. Keep your eyes open for community conversations around the state as we prepare to develop our state plan (SPIL), more success stories from the housing assistance program and for session updates.

None of our accomplishments or future plans would be possible without the work of the talented and dedicated staff here at the SILC. Nor would they be possible without your support. Please know that I remain grateful for both.

At this time of thanksgiving, on behalf of our Board of Directors and our staff, I wish you, your family and friends a safe and happy holiday season.

Shelly Simmons
Executive Director

NEW RESOURCE VIDEOS



Knowledge and community are some of the greatest instruments at our disposal. It is because of this that we have been working on key informational resource videos for the independent living community. Through our YouTube page, individuals can gain a better understanding of the Centers for Independent Living, the resources at their disposal, and the direct impact CIL services can have. We are excited to announce the expansion of our YouTube resource page with the additions of our “New to Disability” and “Home Access Program” videos.

Through our “New to Disability” video, we offer insights into what individuals may feel when they are first learning about their disability. The video serves as a reminder that, if you have been diagnosed with a disability, you are not alone. We hope that through this introduction, individuals will realize that they have a new community of peers and support systems at their disposal.

In our “Home Access Program” video we share interviews from many of our consumers that received modifications to their homes in order to make them more accessible. Some of these modifications include adding ramps as well as the widening of doors. This video demonstrates how important the impact our CIL’s have on the activities of daily living of our consumers. Through the sharing of these stories, you can clearly see how our resources are being used for the betterment of others.

We hope that through our YouTube page individuals will feel empowered by the resources available at our CIL’s, including the community of individuals ready and willing to work with them.

To view our video resources, please visit - <https://tinyurl.com/silcgavideos>

STRENGTHENING INDEPENDENT LIVING EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

On September 25th, we hosted our annual get together, "Strengthening Independent Living" event held on the rooftop of the law firm of Nelson Mullins. We send our heartfelt thanks to them for this kind donation of their beautiful event space overlooking Atlanta's skyline and to Petite Violette for a delicious spread of Hors d'Oeuvres. This year we had over 40 people in attendance including leaders from our Centers for Independent Living, representatives from sponsoring organizations, members of the SILCGA board and staff, constituents, and even Representative Katie Dempsey. The evening had several highlights, including a warm tribute to long-time advocate, Linda Pogue who retired at the end of September. Also highlighted was our newly released video focused on our Home Access Program or the HAP, the successful expansion of services in Southwest Georgia at BAIN, Inc., and the celebration of Independent Living Day at the Capital. In addition to celebrating our successes, we also highlighted the much needed work that still needs to be done in the state in order for all Georgians to have access to the Independent Living services that they need. We look forward to next year's event in the hopes of celebrating more accomplishments with all of you as we work to bring Independent Living to all of Georgia.

THANK YOU AGAIN TO OUR SPONSORS -

LDG Development
Georgia Advocacy Office
GVRA
Shepherd Center
Walton Options
Access 2 Independence
BAIN, Inc.
Disability Connections
disABILITYLink
disABILITY Resource Center
LIFE, Inc.
Marty Collier
Carter Garber
Multiple Choices



2018 NCIL CONFERENCE RECAP



Living with a disability can be extremely isolating. At times, you experience helplessness and feel like there is little that can be done to improve your everyday life. It is because of this that community gathering is so important for people living with disabilities. Through community, individuals can exchange experiences, stories, skills, and ideas for improved living. It is with this need in mind that The National Council of Independent Living, State Councils, and Centers for Independent Living throughout the country were created. They always say that two heads are better than one which is why work at the National level is crucial to major and long lasting change in our communities. It is because of this that this year's 2018 Annual Conference was, "Mobilize: Resistance through Action" with a focus on advocacy education.

Highlights from the conference include the annual March on Capitol Hill where, despite the rain, hundreds raised their voice to bring attention to the needs of the disabled community on a national stage. Another important highlight every year is the Youth Conference which fosters and lifts up the voices and talents of young leaders in the Independent Living movement. However, one of the most exciting parts of the conference this year for SILCGA specifically was being able to celebrate the work of our Executive Director, Shelly Simmons, as she received the Region IV Advocacy Award from NCIL. We are so proud of the work she has done and are excited to see her recognized at the national level.

We are so thankful for everyone's continued support so that we can make conferences like this happen. Our Mobility Coordinator, Jordan Hall, attended NCIL for the first time this year and was blown away by the rich education and connections she made. She shared that the best part of the conference for her was "realizing how amazing the community is that we are a part of." We look forward to next year and seeing how much further our community has come toward living fully independent lives.

WELCOME TO KELLY RHYNE

We are excited to welcome our new Marketing Coordinator, Kelly Rhyne who joined us back in August to help us prepare for our annual Strengthening Independent Living event. Due to her excellent work on the event, we asked Kelly to remain on staff to help us bring a fresh new look to our marketing materials that we use to promote independent living across the state. Kelly is a graduate of Candler School of Theology at Emory University where she received her Master of Divinity. She is working toward ordination in the United Church of Christ with hopes of becoming a chaplain in the Atlanta community. Kelly is passionate about social justice and is thrilled to be working for a non-profit like SILCGA who is working to bring necessary resources to those in need.



THE SERVICE OF LINDA POGUE



If you are aware of the advocacy work within the Georgia disability community, then chances are high that you had the privilege of meeting or hearing of Linda Pogue. Whether she used her voice, uplifted others', or fought with her eloquently written notes to legislators, it is clear that Linda's career was driven by her passion to, "Ensure the right of people with disabilities to live in the community [of their choice]. No excuses accepted!" Linda wore a variety of hats within her career in the Independent Living Movement. With me, Linda was a colleague, supervisor, and is a dear friend. From staff meetings to marches at the

annual NCIL conference, that touch of green always made the environment more optimistic and motivated! Working with Linda in multiple capacities, I didn't fear not knowing the "right" answer because she always seemed to find the "right" in my thought process. Linda treated me how I had longed to be treated, as a person capable of achieving tasks set before me. I know that I'm not the only one lucky enough to have worked with Linda. As she keeps it moving into retirement, I hope she doesn't stray far. - Parker Glick