



Arizona Spinal Cord
Injury Association

AZSCIA E-NEWS

December 2008

*"A monthly update
on the happenings
and upcoming
events in the
association."*

Arizona Spinal Cord
Injury Association
901 E Willetta St
#2306
Phoenix, AZ 85006
Phone: 602-239-5929
Fax: 602-239-6268
E-mail:
info@azspinal.org

We're on the Web!
www.azspinal.org

Disability Empowerment Center (DEC) Open House

Open House to Celebrate the new Disability Empowerment Center
Date: Friday, February 20, 2009
Time: 10:00AM – 4:00PM
Location: 5025 E Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85034

In addition to ABIL, the 62,000-square-foot center will house the Arizona Center for Disability Law, Raising Special Kids, the Arizona Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Joni & Friends, the Statewide Independent Living Council, Arizona Autism United, the Arizona Spinal Cord Injury Association, Valley Center of the Deaf, and PRN Medical Services.

To see pictures of the DEC, you can visit:
<http://picasaweb.google.com/LarryatABIL> or <http://www.abil.org/dec.htm>.

ABIL Open Position

Position: Employment Coordinator

Arizona Bridge to Independent Living has an immediate opening for a fulltime Employment Coordinator to work as part of our staff on the Ticket to Work program. Applicants must possess certification in rehabilitation counseling or have substantial experience and related education in the recruitment field. Additionally, the qualified candidate will have excellent written and verbal communication skills, and possess strong organizational, planning, problem solving, and analytical ability. Must also demonstrate initiative and be self-directed. The successful candidate will be able to interface with employers and provide a high level of service and support to program participants. Personal experience with disability preferred. Experience in the staffing industry a plus.

Essential Functions and Responsibilities:

- Ensure placement of Ticket to Work Program participants into competitive, community-based jobs that result in elimination of dependency upon SSI/SSDI cash benefits.
- Establish and maintain relationships with employers in order to maintain knowledge of area labor market and employment opportunities for program participants.
- Ability to assist participants with resume writing and assessing skills and qualifications for employment opportunities.
- Maintain knowledge and awareness of community resources.

- Ability to travel to meetings with employers, participants, and others in the community.
- Maintain ongoing communication with program participants who are employed in order to insure job satisfaction and successful long-term employment.
- Use advocacy and mentoring techniques to help beneficiaries reduce or eliminate barriers to successful employment before and after job placement.
- Work effectively with other team members.

Required Qualifications:

- Bachelors degree, masters preferred in vocational rehabilitation, human resources or related field
- Demonstrated ability and desire to help people with disabilities obtain and maintain employment
- Understanding and support of the independent living philosophy
- Bi-lingual ability preferred

Please submit resume and cover letter to larryw@abil.org or mail to:

ABIL Employment Services
 Attn. Larry Wanger
 5025 E Washington Street #200
 Phoenix, AZ 85034

ABC15 News Story

ABC15 Television taped a piece on whether gas stations in the Valley help people with disabilities pump their gas.

I was asked to help with the story, so we placed a hidden camera in my car and went to a bunch of gas stations around town. We followed any posted instructions at the stations, but mostly there was nothing displayed regarding special needs. I honked my horn (as instructed,) and pushed call buttons (when I could reach them.) I was surprised at how difficult it was to get the stations to help.

The news story was taped a few weeks back and aired on, Monday, November 10th, on the 10:00PM news. I was disappointed that they didn't use any of the 5 interviews they taped of people with disabilities discussing the problem and offering ideas for a solution, as well as discussing the specifics of the law. But, the story did bring the problem to attention. I understand the "news" these days is more about entertainment than solutions, and to really discuss a topic requires more than 60 seconds. Still, I was a bit underwhelmed at how they presented the information. I specifically told them I wanted it to be about solutions, not a "gotcha" piece. I guess there's a reason I'm not a TV Producer.

The people I worked with at ABC15 were extremely nice, and truly seemed interested in making a difference. To view the story link here http://www.abc15.com:80/content/news/investigators/story.aspx?content_id=64b66eca-3b89-4b6a-b8c6-028147a2e288.

If any of you have input/ideas/gripes/solutions regarding this topic, please

email me back. I have some ideas and could use help advocating on this issue, if it speaks to you.

Don Price

SkiAble Adaptive Alpine Experience

The event will take place at Sunrise Ski Park in Greer, AZ on Sunday, February 22, 2009 through Tuesday, February 24, 2009. Full day lessons run from 9:00AM – 3:30PM for a cost of \$70.00 and half day lessons run from 9:30AM – Noon or 1:00PM – 3:30PM for a cost of \$35.00. Registration includes one-on-one instruction, a lift ticket and adaptive equipment. It is recommended that registration be completed early because of a limited capacity and lesson days tend to fill quickly. Registration will be available at www.arizonadisabledsports.com/specialevents.html under SkiAble. Only online registration will be available for the 2009 event. Contact Susan Rossi at 480-644-5702 or susan.rossi@mesaaz.org.

2008 Phoenix Invitational

Broadway Recreation Center

59 E Broadway Road
Mesa, AZ 85210

Denver Lady Nuggets
LA Lady Warriors

Phoenix Banner Wheelchair Mercury

Chicago RIC Sky

U of A Wildcats – Women

Saturday, December 6th

Game 1	9:00AM	Denver Lady Nuggets vs. Chicago RIC Sky
Game 2	10:30AM	LA Lady Warriors vs. U of A Wildcats
Game 3	12:00PM	Banner Wheelchair Mercury vs. Denver Lady Nuggets
Game 4	1:30PM	Chicago RIC Sky vs. LA Lady Warriors
Game 5	3:00PM	Banner Wheelchair Mercury vs. U of A Wildcats
Game 6	4:30PM	Denver Lady Nuggets vs. LA Lady Warriors
Game 7	6:30PM	Chicago RIC Sky vs. U of A Wildcats

Sunday, December 7th

Game 8	9:00AM	LA Lady Warriors vs. Banner Wheelchair Mercury
Game 9	10:30AM	Denver Lady Nuggets vs. U of A Wildcats
Game 10	12:00PM	Chicago RIC Sky vs. Banner Wheelchair Mercury

Team listed first will be home team. For more information, please contact Gary Venjohn at 602-790-7909.

ABIL'S December 2008 Advocacy Presentations

Accommodations: No fragrances please. To accommodate those with allergies, breathing conditions or multiple chemical sensitivities please do not smoke or wear scented products when attending ABIL events. ABIL's events are accessible in compliance with ADA guidelines. We provide sign language interpreters and materials in alternate formats upon request. To participate via teleconference, please contact David – Local Calls Free.

Social Security Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Presentation for Service Providers

Learn how ABIL's Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Outreach program, granted through the Social Security administration, can help people on SSI and/or SSDI understand how employment affects their cash and medical benefits. Over the last few years, several new work incentives have been created through Social Security and other public programs. Our trained

and certified Work Incentives Coordinators are also happy to provide presentations at your agency location.

Guest Speaker: Erik Jensen - Community Work Incentives Coordinator

Date/Time: Friday, December 12, 2008 – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Gilbert Career Center, 735 N. Gilbert Rd., Ste. 134, Gilbert, AZ 85234

Teleconference: Not Available

Social Security Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Presentations for Consumers

Consumers come and learn how employment will affect your cash and medical benefits. Please sign up for the workshop that matches the kind of Social Security you receive. If you are unsure which kind you receive, David can help you figure that out when you call to RSVP. From now on, we will be having separate workshops for each type of benefit: Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) because each program has different rules and different work incentives. If you receive both, let David know and he will help you get an appointment with a Work Incentives Coordinator. Family members and/or support person are welcome.

Work Incentives & SSDI

Guest Speaker: Erik Jensen - Community Work Incentives Coordinator

Date/Time: Tuesday, December 9, 2008 – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Gilbert Career Center, 735 N. Gilbert Rd., Ste. 134, Gilbert, AZ 85234

Teleconference: Not Available

Work Incentives & SSI

Guest Speaker: Erik Jensen - Community Work Incentives Coordinator

Date/Time: Tuesday, December 9, 2008 – 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Location: Gilbert Career Center, 735 N. Gilbert Rd., Ste. 134, Gilbert, AZ 85234

Teleconference: Not Available

Guest Speaker: Rhonda Webb - Community Work Incentives Coordinator

Date/Time: Tuesday, December 16, 2008 – 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Location: City of Phoenix One-Stop, 9801 N. 7th St. Phoenix, AZ 85020

Teleconference: Not Available

Call David Carey to RSVP for presentations/workshops at 602-443-0723.

Metro Light Rail Opening

The grand opening of METRO Light Rail is Saturday and Sunday, December 27 & 28, with all train rides free. Station celebrations will be held Saturday from 10:00AM to 5:00PM. Saturday activities will occur along the entire 20 mile METRO alignment.

Holiday Bowling Tournament for Individuals with Physical Disabilities

Saturday, December 13, 2008

AMF Mesa Lanes - 2115 E Southern Avenue in Mesa

Check-in at 1:30PM

Please register by December 5th using the following form:

http://www.arizonadisabledsports.com/pdf/BOWLING_TOURNAMENT_REG%202008.pdf

Susan Rossi at 480-644-5702 or susan.rossi@mesaaz.org.

Accessible, Affordable Apartments Available in Lake Havasu City

One and two bedroom accessible units are available for leasing. Please contact Chris Lay, Manager at Havasu Hills Apartments Homes for more information at 928-855-4743 or visit the link <http://havasuhillsapartmenthomes.com/> .

Upcoming e-news information.....

If there is anything that you would like to share with your fellow members, please contact Vangie Mortenson at 602-239-5929 or vangie@azspinal.org. She will ensure that the information will be posted on the e-news.

THANK YOU!