

# RIL-WINNERS

## YOUTH PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

### RESOURCES FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING, INC. (RIL)

4009 Fitzhugh Avenue, Suite 100, Richmond, VA 23230 (804) 353-6503 (804) 358-5606 FAX (804) 353-6583 TTY  
2009

---

#### RIL NEWS

Resources for Independent Living, Inc. (RIL) has expanded its services for youth. Every other month on Friday evenings, RIL hosts social night for the youth. The activities scheduled during that time included board games, movies, going to the mall, and crafts. Also, on several occasions, while students attended social night activity, parents participated in information sessions. The information sessions for parents included such topics as Medicaid Waivers, Human Sexuality and guardianship.

Social nights are scheduled Fridays each month beginning in October 2009. Flyers will be mailed to students to sign up for the socials.

#### IEP - PARENT PANEL DISCUSSION

RIL had a panel of parents to make a presentation at the Transition Forum in March 2009. The topic "What's Right for me in my IEP", gave parents the opportunity to share struggles, problems and potential solutions in getting the right IEP for their children. This presentation will be offered again at RIL's Richmond office this fall.

#### *Division Of Motor Vehicles (DMV)*

Effective July 2008, DMV has a new policy for the driver's license test. Should anyone fail the learner's permit/driver's license test three times, they must go to an approved school and take a class before they will be allowed to take the driver's license test again. RIL is not an approved school so our class will not satisfy that requirement with DMV.

RIL has however, expanded our driver's education classes to at least 10 sessions to help students prepare for the test. Also, individualized sessions can be provided to help students prepare for learner's test. Also, please note that RIL does not provide "behind the wheel" services.

#### *RICHMOND/HENRICO*

The youth program held several after-school group training sessions this year. The training sessions offered included nutrition, bus training and studying to pass the learner's permit test during the fall and spring semesters. Also, individual training sessions for money management were completed in the fall and spring. RIL also had a bus training session during spring break.

#### **BUS TRAINING**

RIL and Armstrong High School offered public bus training for the first time to students at the school. Twelve students were selected to participate in this pilot program. Students participated in classroom sessions where they learned how to read the bus schedule, learned about main city streets, major landmarks and how to map out their destinations and what buses to catch to get there. Students also were taken out on the bus to various locations such as Goodwill Industries, Willow Lawn, and Social Security Administration. Students also had to take a "solo trip" on the bus as their final exam. This was a very successful pilot program and RIL looks forward to providing bus training again for the 2009/2010 school year.

#### *WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE COUNTIES?*

#### *GOOCHLAND*

The students at Goochland High School participated in weekly group training sessions at their school – driver's education, career exploration and budgeting/money management. The Americorp program sent representatives to Goochland High school to share information about their program. RIL looks forward to working with Goochland High School again next school year.

#### RIL TRAINING PROGRAMS

#### *HENRICO*

Again this year, students at Hermitage High School participated in a group training session for studying to pass the learner's permit test at the school. RIL scheduled the DMV representative to come to Hermitage High School and administer the test. Several students passed the learner's permit test. RIL looks forward to working with Henrico schools again next school year.

#### **DINWIDDIE/HOPEWELL**

RIL also held a training session in passing the learner's permit test at Dinwiddie High School and Hopewell High School for the 2008/2009 school year. Several students passed the DMV test and got their learner's permit. RIL looks forward to working with Dinwiddie and Hopewell schools again next school year.

#### **CHARLES CITY/NEW KENT**

RIL held several youth training sessions at our Charles City satellite office. They included basic math, information/referral, money management and driver's education. RIL's program continues to grow this service area.

#### **HANOVER**

RIL held training sessions at our Mechanicsville satellite office as well. Those training sessions include studying to pass the learner's permit test, computer, basic math, job seeking skills, affordable housing/housing placement, information/referral, money management and Social Security Work Incentive.

#### **CHESTERFIELD**

RIL also held training sessions at our Chesterfield satellite office. The trainings held included studying to pass the learner's permit test, computer and money management.

### **SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

#### **2009 Summer Programs**

RIL held summer programs for students with disabilities. The programs were held in Chesterfield, Petersburg and Henrico this year. The summer sessions included classes in nutrition, public safety, teen issues, job seeking skills, money management, learner's permit, first aid, Talking Drums, life after high school, leisure activities, creative therapy and advocacy.

## **OTHER NEWS**

#### **YEAR-END PERFORMANCE FOR HARPISTS**

The Harp Therapy Outreach Program (HTOP) is a peer mentoring program that teaches students with disabilities to play the harp. This program also offers other benefits to the participants such as the ability to remain on task and stay focused, self-determination, increased socialization with their non-disabled peers and increased self esteem. The harp program meets on Wednesdays and Fridays during the school

For the upcoming school year, we will have a "Performance Ensemble" that will meet on Fridays. Our beginners class will be held on Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. at Grace Baptist Church. Our performance ensemble will mentor to harp therapy students who attend on Wednesdays. Parents and students interested in harp therapy should contact our office for more information.

#### **YOUTH ADVOCATES**

RIL'S youth program attended the General Assembly in January 2009. Students visited their senators and delegates and had the opportunity to discuss important issues with them.

#### **THE ADVOCATES CORNER**

Assoc. for Retarded Citizens (ARC)	355-2555
Autism Society, Central Va. Chapter	257-0192
Charles City, Henrico, New Kent CSB	261-8500
Chesterfield Comm. Svs. Board	768-7220
Children's Hospital	321-7474
Family and Children's Services	282-4255
Goochland/Powhatan CSB	556-5400
Hanover Comm. Svs. Board	752-4275
Learning Disabilities Council	748-5012
Muscular Dystrophy Association	285-2690
Parents Coping Together	225-0002
PEATC	819-1999
Richmond Behavioral Health Authority	819-4000
Va. Office for Advocacy and Protection	225-2042