



Raising Our Voices in Sacramento!

Disability Capitol Action Day 2007

About 2,000 people gathered in Sacramento on May 23 for Disability Capitol Action Day. The annual event, organized by the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers, featured educational speakers, a resource fair, entertainment, and an inspiring march to the capitol building. See further photos on page 15.



Olmstead Decision Affirmed Rights of People with Disabilities to Live in Own Homes

People have the right to live in their own homes.

That would appear to be a reasonable expectation. However, until the landmark Olmstead Decision in 1999, it was an expectation made on much shakier legal ground for people with disabilities. This month, **June 22** marks the anniversary of this huge step that was made by the United States Supreme Court in support

of the rights of people with disabilities to live in their own homes instead of institutions.

The Olmstead case involved two developmentally disabled women in the State of Georgia. One of the women had also been diagnosed with schizophrenia and the other with a personality disorder. Both had been voluntarily admitted to

See OLMSTEAD continued on page 9

TCIL's Annual Fair on October 5 in Eureka



Mark your calendars! TCIL will hold its 4th Annual Assistive Technology and Respect for Abilities Fair on Friday, October 5 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Adorni Center in Eureka.

We expect, as in past years, to have a large number of business vendors at the Fair, who will display some of the latest in assistive technology. Numerous local service providers will attend as well. We also hope to offer various activities, refreshments, guest speakers, demonstrations, an art display, entertainment, and a raffle prize drawing (see page 15).

Confirmed major sponsors of the event, to date, include the City of Eureka, Eureka Times-Standard, KHUM and ABILITY Magazine. Other confirmed sponsors include the Eureka Police Officers Association, KHSU, Red Lion Hotel, North Coast Co-op, Patterson-Connors Insurance, Sun Valley Group, Host Lions Club, Consolidated Management, Bear River Casino, Bayside Bookkeeping, and Suddenlink.

Be sure to keep watch for further details as the date approaches. We hope to see you at the Fair!

RespectAbility

RespectAbility is a publication of Tri-County Independent Living (TCIL) and is intended for all people with disabilities and their families. It provides news and information on disability issues and services provided by our Center.

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TTY #: (707) 445-8405
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TCIL Happenings

John Lynch Joins TCIL Board

John Lynch of Eureka, who has over 25 years of experience in vocational rehabilitation, has joined the TCIL Board of Directors.

Born in Connecticut, Lynch grew up near Edwards Air Force Base in the Mojave Desert. He moved to the area in 1964 to attend Humboldt State College (now H.S. University), where he received his B.A. in Economics (1971) and an M.A. in Human Services Administration in 1992. He's also taken graduate courses in Native American Vocational Rehabilitation.

Lynch was a partner in opening Arcata's Minor Theater after graduating. In 1980 he switched directions, working for the Census Bureau, and then a CETA program before becoming a Job Developer at HSU in 1981. He then worked six years as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and has been in his current position, with the Hoopa Yurok Vocational Rehabilitation Program, for seven years.

"I want to gain a wider knowledge of the services and resources available in this area for my consumers," says Lynch of his objectives as a Board Member. "I also want to make sure the people of eastern Humboldt County



Tri-County
Independent Living
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Working together to promote independence
for people with disabilities.

are represented and that the existence and needs of Native Americans in our area are addressed whenever possible."

Lynch is divorced, with a son and a daughter. His hobbies are ideal for Humboldt and include fly fishing, woodworking and photography.

Progress on Developing Residential Wheelchair Ramp Program

A wheelchair ramp can be key to the independence of a person with a disability and even determine whether or not they can live in their own home. Unfortunately, at the present time there are few resources in our area to help with the construction of home wheelchair ramps.

TCIL receives several dozen calls each year from individuals who need wheelchair ramps at their homes. Many times their disability is a recent occurrence and they aren't prepared for all of the expensive changes they may need to make their homes fully accessible. Wheelchair ramps can cost from \$5,000 to \$8,000 and few contractors are even willing to construct them. This is particularly problematic for low-income people due to the lack of other resources. In fact, this is a major statewide and nationwide problem for people with disabilities.

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Court Decision on Comfort/ Companion Dog

A recent court decision in Sacramento involved a case with an interesting twist. The main issue with the plaintiff involved her bringing a companion dog to work for emotional support.

Chris Storm has depression and anxiety. She had been bringing her dog, Lacey—a tiny Maltese—to her job at a mental health facility for years, with no apparent problem. Then a new Executive Director came in and after seven months, suddenly told Storm that she couldn't bring the dog to work anymore. She claimed that there were numerous complaints about sanitation issues. Then after Storm filed a grievance, the Executive Director eliminated Storm's position as Fiscal Director.

The court decision in this case was a mixed one that dodged the issue of when it's okay to have a "comfort animal" in the workplace. The jury said that Storm had been unjustly fired for bringing her dog to work, but they did not agree that she was the victim of disability discrimination. Apparently they didn't recognize her depression and anxiety as a disability.

Such decisions may not bode well in terms of future compliance with the ADA and remind us why we must keep up the fight for disability rights.

RCAA Wellness Center to Offer One-Stop Resource Link for Mentally Ill

The Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA) opened The Wellness Center in Eureka this June in order to help provide needed resources to underserved mentally ill individuals in our area.

The facility, located at 418 Sixth Street, is intended to serve people diagnosed with a major mental illness and will provide a reference library and resource links, family, consumer and other support groups, classes and workshops, peer support that will include issues relative to navigating the mental health system, and various social and enrichment activities such as holiday parties, field trips, job skills training, and arts and crafts classes.

The Wellness Center will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and may be open for evening groups as well. For further information call RCAA at 707-269-2021.

Any Complaints About State Park Access?

Disability Rights Advocates (DRA) of Berkeley would like to hear about your experiences with state park access.

DRA, in 2005, reached a comprehensive settlement with the California

See NEWS continued next page

NEWS *continued*

Department of Parks and Recreation to provide people with sensory and mobility disabilities full and equal access to state parks, including beaches, monuments and recreational areas. Resulting changes, such as removal of barriers, will be phased in due to the amount of work to be done.

DRA is monitoring progress of this settlement and would like feedback. If you have encountered any access barriers,

send a complaint to: Director, CA State Parks, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296-0001. The complaint form can be obtained at (916) 653-8148, TTY at (888) 877-5378 or at http://www.dralegal.org/cases/public_entities/tucker_v_ca_parks.php. If you do file a complaint, please also LET DRA know by contacting Jennifer Bezoza, (510) 665-8644, TTY at (510) 665-8716 or email at jbezoza@dralegal.org.

Thank you for your generosity!

Donations Received Between February 5, 2007 and June 1, 2007

over \$1,000.00

ABILITY Magazine
City of Eureka
Eureka Times-Standard
KHUM

\$500.00 to \$999.00

Horizon Air

\$250.00 to \$499.00

Bear River Casino
Eureka Police Officers Assoc.
KHSU
Patterson-Connors Insurance

\$100.00 to \$249.00

Bayside Bookkeeping Service
Benbow Inn
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HealthSport
Humboldt Association of Realtors, Inc.

Lost Coast Brewery
North Valley Bank
The Sun Valley Group, Inc.

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Center Arts-Humboldt State University
Kayak Zak's
Jene L. McCovey
San Francisco 49ers

\$25.00 to \$49.00

Carter House Inn
Hurricane Kate's
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Tetrault Tire Pros
WaterWorks Park

0 to \$24.00

Henderson Center Bicycles

In-Kind Donations

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Tim Howard
Dyann O'Brien
United States Bowling Congress/Humboldt

Our Invaluable Volunteers

Bob Borck, Carpenters Local Union 751
Bob Lazelle
Lynn Navarro
Ken Terrill, Redwood Community Action Agency
Bill Turnbull
Greg Williston, SHN Consulting Engineers & Geologists, Inc.
Stan Wong, Humboldt Habitat for Humanity

Awards Lunch Draws Crowd



About 100 people attended the Northwest Committee for Employment of People with Disabilities (NCEPD) 14th Annual Recognition Luncheon on May 3 at the Red Lion Hotel in Eureka. Event co-sponsors were Tri-County Independent Living, the Humboldt County Office of Education, The Job Market: Disability Navigator Program and the Work Force Investment Board.

Guest speakers included Dr. Garry Eagles, Superintendent for the Humboldt County Office of Education and Dan Heinen, Operations Manager for Express Personnel in Eureka.

“Equal opportunities are created as much from within as without,” said Eagles. “We can make opportunities for ourselves,



but should be willing to explore more options, take more chances, experience more failures, but be able to bounce back more times.”

Eagles did note that great strides have been made in opening doors to jobs. “How-

ever, we need more employers to comply with the law because they want to, and not because they have to,” he emphasized.

The following were honored at the luncheon: Employer of the Year—OH’s Townhouse in Eureka, McDonald’s in Fortuna, and Jo Tenyson Samson of Eureka, who operates an occupational therapy program; Employee of the Year—Teresa Christian, Resource Specialist, Area 1 Agency on Aging Caregiver Services Program, Tim Alexander, Red Lion Hotel and Jacob Besette, Costco Wholesale; Service Provider of the Year—

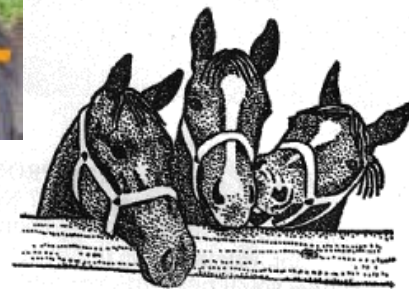
Reaching for Independence of Fortuna, operated by Bob and Sarah Frawley, and Disabled



Student Programs & Services at the College of the Redwoods in Eureka.

Kathleen Adkins, of the *Eureka Reporter*, was honored with a Media Award while special recognition was given to SNAP! A Theatrical Production, which was a collaboration of Making Headway, the Eureka Adult School and Dell-Arte International School of Physical Theatre.

PHOTOS: Top (left to right)--Members of SNAP, Bob Van Fleet, TCIL Board President, NW Committee Member & Michael Proulx, Dept. of Rehab. & NW Committee Member; Middle--Dr. Garry Eagles; Bottom--Jacob Besette (left) & Bob Van Fleet.



People who spend time with horses say “*it’s a horse thing.*” To people with disabilities, that horse thing can also be a good thing for many reasons.

“You tend to get hooked,” says Susan, one of two on-site caretakers with the Camelot Therapy Riding for Access to Independence Program in Trinidad. Susan grew up with horses and is happy to be working with them again.

This positive addiction is also obvious with Arcata resident, Sarah Chamberlin, a participant with Camelot for the last 12 years.

“I like the program because I get to interact with the horses and figure out their different personalities,” she says with a genuine enthusiasm that defies the dreary day outside. The rainy weather and muddied grounds preclude any riding on this Saturday, but Sarah is still happy to be at Camelot surrounded by Sitka spruce and the horses quietly huddled in

their stalls.

“My favorite horse is Kristov—he’s a real sweetie!” she adds. Sarah then runs through the names of several other horses and describes them in detail.

Camelot was founded by Doug Jager, a former HSU professor, back in 1985. He currently runs the program through a local 4-H trail organization along with his daughter, Sally Friedley. Over the years it has served hundreds of clients and currently has a long waiting list.

Jager had been a 4-H leader for many years when he got the idea for Camelot. One of his assistants had quit and a friend sent him a brochure about a similar riding program for the disabled with a note that said “wouldn’t it be nice to have such a program in Humboldt County?” The program had emphasized participa-

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Your Elected Officials:

How to Contact Them

STATE

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger--State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814; Tel.: (916) 445-2841; Fax: (916) 445-1633 ; web site: www.gov.ca.gov

STATE OFFICES

Senator Patricia Wiggins--State Capitol, Rm. 4081, Sacramento, CA 95814, Tel: (916) 651-4002, Fax: (916) 323-6958 or 710 E Street, #150, Eureka, CA 95501, tel: (707) 445-6508, web site: <http://dist02.casen.govoffice.com/>

Senator Sam Aanestad--Local: 200 Providence Mine Rd., Ste. 108, Nevada City, CA 95959, Tel.: (530) 470-1846; State Capitol, Rm. 2054, Sacramento, CA 95814, Tel.: (916) 651-4004, web site: www.republican.sen.ca.gov; e-mail: access on web site

Assembly Member Patty Berg--50 D Street, Ste. 450, Santa Rosa, CA 95404; State Capitol, Rm. 4146, Sacramento, CA 94249-0001, Tel: (916) 319-2001, web site: www.democrats.assembly.ca.gov; e-mail: access on web site

NATIONAL OFFICES

President George W. Bush--The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC, 20500, tel.: (202) 456-1414, Fax: (202) 456-2461, email: presidentet@whitehouse.gov

Senator Barbara Boxer--State Offices: 501 I Street, Ste. 7-600, Sacramento, CA 95814, Tel.: (916) 448-2787, Fax: (916) 448-2563; OR 1700 Montgomery St., Ste. 240, San Francisco, CA 94111, Tel.: (415) 403-0100; Fax: (415) 956-6701; National Office: 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, Tel.: (202) 224-3553, TTY: (202) 224-4264, web site: www.boxer.senate.gov

Senator Diane Feinstein--State Office: One Post St., Ste. 2450, San Francisco, CA 94104, Tel: (415) 393-0707; Fax: (415) 393-0710, National Office: Hart Office Building, Rm. 331, Washington, DC 20510, Tel.: (202) 224-3841; Fax: (202) 228-3954, TTY/TDD: (415) 249-4785, web site: www.feinstein.senate.gov

Rep. Mike Thompson Humboldt District Office, 317 3rd St., Ste. 1, Eureka, CA 95501, Tel.: (707) 269-9595, Fax: (707) 269-9598, National Office: 231 Cannon Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, Tel.: (202) 225-3311; Fax: (202) 225-4335, web site: www.mikethompson.house.gov

OLMSTEAD continued from page 1

Georgia Regional Hospital in Atlanta, placed in the psychiatric unit, then later were evaluated by professionals as able to be adequately cared for in a community-based program. The two women also expressed a desire to get out of the hospital and back into the community.

However, the State of Georgia saw things differently. They argued in District Court that there wasn't adequate funding to place the two women in a community setting and also insisted that they were not discriminating against the two women. The lower Court didn't agree, saying that lack of money did not justify these actions but did, in fact, amount to discrimination. They also said that Georgia was violating the "*integration mandate*" of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that requires public agencies to provide services "*in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities.*"

Georgia appealed the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, claiming that the lower court's ruling could threaten funding for services to people with mental disabilities and lead to the closing of state hospitals. Georgia also convinced 26 other states to support this position before an educational campaign by disability rights activists convinced over half of those states to change their minds.

The Supreme Court, on June 22, 1999, affirmed the rights of people with disabilities to live independently in their own homes in their communities by voting 6-3 against the State of Georgia.

The Supreme Court said that unjustified institutionalizations **are** discrimination against people with disabilities because they perpetuate beliefs that such individuals can't live in the community. They also said that such confinement limits those individuals' ability to fully participate in activities of life such as work, family and education.

The Court did also note that states can show they're meeting their ADA obligations in this area by developing comprehensive

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What the Supreme Court Said:

Supreme Court Justice, Ruth Ginsburg, delivered the majority opinion in the Olmstead Decision. Citing Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, her following words say it all:

"..... states are required to place persons with mental disabilities in community settings rather than in institutions when the State's treatment professionals have determined that community placement is appropriate, the transfer from institutional care to a less restrictive setting is not opposed by the affected individual, and the placement can be reasonably accommodated, taking into account the resources available to the State and the needs of others with mental disabilities."

The Decision was soon applied to people with all types of disabilities.
Happy birthday to Olmstead !

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working plans for placing qualified people with mental disabilities in less restrictive settings. Currently, most or all states have done this. However, a plan is only as effective as the follow-through and while Olmstead affirms the rights of the disabled to live in their own homes, this will not occur unless those individuals with disabilities press hard for those rights.

The Olmstead decision also noted that a state's responsibility is not "boundless" and that the ADA does not require states to make "fundamental alterations in its services or programs." Thus, the reality is that states may have to be prodded in order to actually do something substantial in this area. Such as through....legislation.

Here in California, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed Executive Order S-18-04 on September 27, 2004, which directed the State Health and Human Services Agency to establish the Olmstead Advisory Committee. It meets every three months with the purpose of providing input to the Agency in its efforts to implement the California Olmstead Plan. It has committed to the following principles to achieve this :

1. The opportunities to direct one's own affairs, live independently, work towards and attain economic self-sufficiency are essential components to developing self-worth and personal responsibility.

2. The state has a responsibility to protect against the unnecessary institutionalization of all persons with disabilities of all

ages, including persons with mental, physical, cognitive or developmental disabilities.

3. Unnecessary institutional placement of persons with disabilities of all ages constitutes a form of discrimination based on disability and adversely affects everyday life activities, family relations, social contacts, work options, economic independence, and cultural enrichment of institutionalized persons. Such institutionalization also deprives communities of the contributions of these people with disabilities.

4. Community-based care and services can be more cost effective than institutional care, result in a higher quality of life, and promote the values of community participation, inclusiveness, and respect for diversity.

5. The active involvement of persons with disabilities of all ages and the representatives they choose in developing and implementing of activities or services designed to move people into, or allow them to remain in, community-based settings is critical to achieving these objectives.

Once again, principles and meetings are fine but as a fast food commercial once said back in the 1980's: "*Where's the beef?*"

Well, it's in the resolve of those who are institutionalized (or who are going to be) to say "no, I want to live at home and I

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can do so with adequate support.” That support may be the services of a care provider, such as In-Home Support Service (IHSS) workers, or it may involve more. Numerous studies have shown that it costs less for a person to live at home with support than it does to have that person in a nursing home or other institution. Many state and county governments have recognized this and are putting resources into such areas as better pay for care providers. One way that people with disabilities can push the envelope in the spirit of Olmstead is to support such legislation, local laws, and other efforts.

Olmstead may have been a pivotal decision, but it hardly means that the fight is over for the rights of people with disabilities to stay in their own homes. In the spirit of such individuals as Justin Dart (see below) and 100 disability rights activists who recently were arrested in Washington, DC while urging support for the “Community Choices Act,” we must continue to assert this right and resist any attempts to weaken it.

For more information on how to advocate for your rights as a person with a disability, on the Olmstead Decision, or pending legislation or other issues, contact us at TCIL, 707-445-8404.



A Driving Force in Disability Rights Movement

While June 22 is a positive date in the disability rights movement due to the Olmstead decision, it also marks a sad time.

In a strange coincidence, disability rights activist, Justin Whitlock Dart, Jr., died on that day back in 2002. He was instrumental in the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and also co-founded the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD).

Dart, who contracted polio in 1948, earned undergraduate degrees in history and education at the University of Houston but was denied a teaching certificate from that school due to his disability. His early activism included fights against racism at

what was then a segregated U. of Houston. He also worked to advance employment opportunities for women and the disabled later on, when he went into business.

Dart abandoned a successful corporate career to pursue disability rights in the late 1960's. He became a regular sight in Washington D.C. and at protests/rallies with his trademark cowboy hat and he served in various capacities in the disability rights movement throughout the years. Among his many awards and activities, he was the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1998 and the founder of Justice for All, a group that fights attempts to weaken the ADA.

Justin Dart will always be an inspiration to the disability rights movement.

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tion in horse shows before, but then switched direction.

“We started with just a few kids, but the word got out quickly and it grew into a huge endeavor,” says Jager, who is now retired.

Jager notes that Camelot works with people with all types of disabilities, including traumatic brain injury, developmentally disabled, cerebral palsy, autism, multiple sclerosis and more. He says that consultations are made with parents and physicians if necessary, but that Camelot can handle most disabilities.

The program also utilizes a wide network of volunteers that can number 60 or 70 at one time, and it can always use additional help.

“We have a good group of kids that help out, and a few adults too,” he notes. “The young volunteers we get tend to grow up with a better awareness of people with disabilities and they work well with clients,” he emphasizes. “It’s a good bunch who tend to socialize as well and a lot of friends are made through the program.”

Camelot offers both trail days and

care days on alternating Saturdays. On trail days, volunteers and riders head out for one-hour rides at 11:30 a.m. and at 1:30 p.m. Participants begin with exercises in an arena, practice of cognitive skills, and stretching. A wheelchair accessible ramp is available for those in a wheelchair.

This is followed by the actual ride, when participants head over to a state park across the street from Camelot to a half-mile gravel path that is safe for riders and the volunteers that accompany them. Each rider is assisted by a “head walker,” who leads the horse, and “side walkers” who help the client. Back riders can sit on the horse with the client if necessary and all volunteer roles are assigned according to level of experience and training. A typical, good weather day, according to Jager, sees about 15 clients riding in the program, with about 25 enrolled at any given time.

“It gives people with disabilities a great outlet to be outdoors and a chance to socialize,” Jager says.

Care days see volunteers engaged in care of the horses currently at the site.

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Use of TCIL Advocacy Room/Computer Lab

One service offered at TCIL is our accessible Advocacy Room/Computer Lab. This is free for use by all of our consumers and it includes internet access, a telephone for local calls, and contact information for elected officials. However, due to limited space and computers, we ask that you make an appointment to use it at least a day in advance. Also, please limit your time to two hours and to one day per week. Exceptions to these policies may be made in certain situations.

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This includes cleaning stalls, watering the troughs, necessary maintenance, grooming of horses, and any volunteer training that needs to be done. Camelot's current stable of eight horses and ponies includes two Arabs, one Welsh pony, one Icelandic pony three Norwegian fjords and one Haflinger. Jager notes that the program only accepts calm, quiet, good-natured animals.

While Camelot currently can't accept new clients, it does need volunteers. If you would like to help out, contact them at 707-677-0604. Jager also says that another riding program may soon be starting in Bridgeville, so stay tuned.

Note: All photos with this article are courtesy of Camelot

WANTED!!!

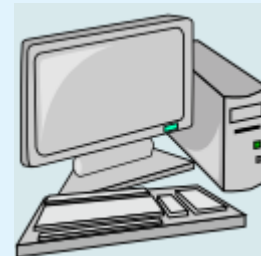
Not dead or alive...but used and still working.....

Have you seen this computer?

Details: Pentium 2 or 3

Speed: 350 megahertz or higher

Status: Working



Don't throw those old computers in the slammer. Let TCIL rehabilitate them and offer them to our consumers through our Computers for People with Disabilities Program. If you have used towers, monitors, and keyboards/mice, or know of someone who does, please call us at (707) 445-8404.

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TCIL is hoping to meet part of this need with the development of a residential wheelchair ramp construction program.

Years ago a retired man named Jim Boal spearheaded a ramp construction program in this area. This amazing individual was highly motivated; he utilized numerous volunteers and other resources to construct 100 ramps before the years caught up with him. After that, the Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA) took over the effort and was able to construct about 100 ramps from 2000 to 2003. They were unable to continue the program, but are one of several area groups willing to support a new residential wheelchair ramp construction effort at TCIL. Other committed supporters, at this time, include Habitat for Humanity, the College of the Redwoods, Americorps,

and the Carpenters Union Local 731. Several area lumber and hardware suppliers have also offered to sell needed materials at-cost to help us save money.

As these ramps will be for low-income people, TCIL's goal with the program is to keep costs to a minimum. We will use volunteer labor, utilize a standard, modular ramp design, and hope for further donations of materials, storage space, tools, and transport. TCIL has also applied for grant money and will hold annual fundraising events in support of the ramp program.

We hope to get this program underway before the end of the year, if not sooner. Please watch for further details on the in-works ramp program over the coming months.



TCIL Raffle Fundraiser for Ramp Effort

Tri-County Independent Living is in the process of developing a **residential wheelchair ramp construction program** intended for low-income people with disabilities in our service area of Humboldt, Trinity and Del Norte Counties. Currently, TCIL has two fundraisers underway to raise money for this new, much-needed service.

The first is a **donation appeal letter** that has been mailed out this month. The second is a **raffle drawing** that will take place at our 4th Assistive Technology & Respect for Abilities Fair, Friday, October 5 at the Adorni Center in Eureka.

We will have a number of attractive prize packages offered through the raffle and will have a complete list by the end of June. They will include round-trip airline tickets on Horizon Air, Disneyland tickets, a night out in Eureka (including a dinner for two and theatre tickets) and a night out in Arcata (also with a dinner for two and theatre tickets). We plan to have raffle tickets available for sale early in July and to make them available at several events over the summer and early fall. Be sure to keep watch for details or give TCIL a call. Also check our donor list on page five for an idea of some of the prizes we have to-date.

Disability Capitol Action Day



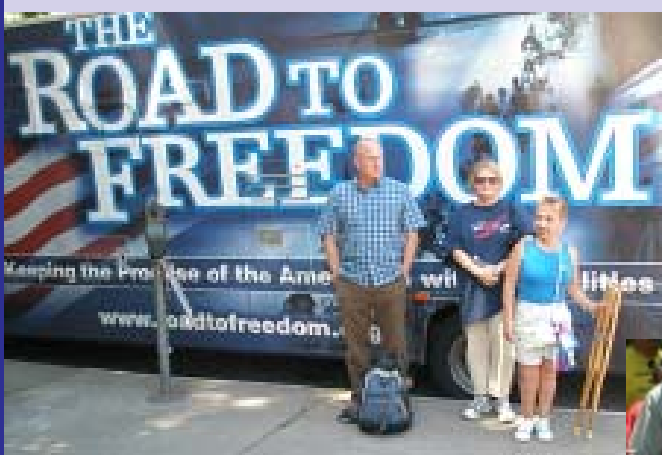
Right: Senator Darrell Steinberg addresses the crowd.



Right: These tents symbolized the loss of housing for homeless mentally ill people if cuts are made in mental health programs.



Above: Some of the 2,000 marchers!



Above: TCIL staff in front of Road to Freedom Bus; Right: Jene L. McCovey (using wheelchair) next to TCIL's Mari Dorenstreich in march.



TRI-COUNTY INDEPENDENT LIVING

955 Myrtle Avenue
Eureka, CA 95501



Homeowner & Renter Assistance Program

Tri-County Independent Living provides free assistance to consumers (claimants) who need help preparing Homeowner or Renter Assistance Rebates.

Claimants must be:

- U.S. citizen or designated or qualified alien
- 62 years of age or older
- blind or disabled
- owned and lived in their home in California on Dec. 31, 2006
- paid \$50.00 or more per month for rent in a qualified rented residence in California during 2006.



The program allows a once-a-year payment from the State of California to qualified individuals. The filing period is July 1 through Oct. 16, 2007 and any claims submitted later may take longer to process.

For more information and to set up an appointment at our accessible building, contact: TCIL at (707) 445-8404 (voice), (707) 445-8405 (TTY), 1-877-576-5000 (toll free) or email Mari @ mari@tilinet.org or Matt at mattb@tilinet.org . Note: Bilingual services are available.