A Message from the Executive Director

Peace in my mind,
Love in my heart,
When my friend can have his way and his part,
A home from the start.

I’m so proud of the amazing work the Independent Living community accomplished in 2018.

The beauty of NCIL is that you, our members and supporters, run the show. In 2018, you fought attacks on the Americans with Disabilities Act, gained the support of a record number of co-sponsors for the Disability Integration Act, testified about the devastating impact of Electronic Visit Verification, and spoke out against policies that would limit access to opioids for people with chronic pain. Your tireless advocacy made all the difference.

The poem above is from 8 year old Solen Duwell-Le Bihan, and was submitted as part of the Disability Integration Act Children’s Art Contest. The artwork created through that project, which is featured throughout this report, makes me hopeful about our future. It also speaks to the urgent need to create a world in which all people with disabilities are truly valued equally and participate fully.

We'll keep working towards that future. Even in these difficult times, we have been able to fight off some of the most egregious threats to our rights we’ve ever been faced with, and we have come together to celebrate the few but hard-won victories we’ve been able to secure. I am more certain than ever that we will move forward, relying on Independent Living principles, to overcome the challenges we face together.

NCIL continues to provide first class member benefits, including training and technical assistance, insurance benefits, and a world class Annual Conference. Most importantly, NCIL provides its members with representation on Capitol Hill, ensuring that our voices are heard by those with the power to enact our priorities. I hope you will join us as we build a future of independence for all.

Kelly Buckland
Disability is a natural part of the human condition.
Advocacy

In 2018, NCIL worked to advance the social, economic, and political equality of people with disabilities.

- NCIL secured a second consecutive year of increased appropriations for the Independent Living Program.
- NCIL created "Including People with Disabilities in Your Political Campaign: A Guide for Campaign Staff," which was used widely by political campaigns in the 2018 election cycle.
- NCIL created a toolkit for advocates and election officials on making election websites and sample ballots accessible.
- NCIL worked with CILs and SILCs nationwide to develop Get Out the Vote strategies and plans to mobilize people with disabilities nationwide to vote in the 2018 election.
- NCIL tracked the campaigns of 67 political candidates with disabilities running in the 2018 elections.
- NCIL prevented the Senate from taking up H.R. 620 or a similar ADA notification bill.
- In partnership with ADAPT, NCIL secured a record number of co-sponsors for the Disability Integration Act in the 115th Congress.
- NCIL worked with CILs in several states to fight and defeat assisted suicide proposals.
- NCIL created a new task force to address the Independent Living community’s concerns with Electronic Visit Verification since passage of the 21st Century Cures Act.
- NCIL created a new task force to address chronic pain advocacy, focusing on barriers to effective pain treatment both generally and as a result of efforts to decrease opioid prescribing.
- NCIL gained significant support in Congress for extending the Money Follows the Person, with efforts to secure reauthorization continuing into 2019.
- NCIL secured introduction of a bill containing two proposals created by NCIL’s Employment / Social Security Subcommittee addressing work disincentives for people with disabilities at or beyond retirement age, which will be reintroduced in 2019.
- NCIL successfully advocated for several key disability provisions to be included in the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization; including an Advisory Committee on the air travel needs of passengers with disabilities, an “Airline Passengers with Disabilities Bill of Rights,” and a revision to Transportation Security Agency (TSA) officer training requirements.
• NCIL collaborated with the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) and other grant partners on the HCBS Business Acumen Center Toolkit, releasing the first module in 2018 with the remaining modules to be released in 2019.

• NCIL collaborated with NASUAD on the 2018 Aging and Disability Information and Referral / Assistance (I&R/A) National Survey, with a webinar and report to be released in 2019.

• NCIL kept an eye on the actions of the Independent Living Administration, including working with our attorney to analyze the information received as a result of our FOIA request; ongoing communication with our lawyers, appropriations staff, and ACL / ILA staff; and close ongoing monitoring of the actions and funding of ILA.

• NCIL conducted a survey of CILs and SILCs on the 704 / Program Performance Reports and the new ACL Reporting System and analyzed results to bring back to ACL.

• NCIL launched the Community Living Advocate position as part of the National Organizing Project (NOP).

This position works with NCIL and ADAPT to advocate for community integration on Capitol Hill, track and analyze community living and home and community-based services (HCBS) policy and trends, and coordinate community organizing trainings.

Through the NOP, NCIL and ADAPT disseminated a documentary about ADAPT in multiple formats, developed and executed a train-the-trainer workshop, trained several emerging ADAPT groups, and recruited over 100 new ADAPT members.

Governing Board

• Bruce Darling, President
• Sarah Launderville, Vice President
• Darrel Christenson, Treasurer
• Lou Ann Kibbee, Secretary
• Jessica Jimenez, Diversity Committee Chair


Members At Large: Brian Peters, Doug Toelle, Kim Gibson, Emet Tauber, Vilissa Thompson, and Eiryn Griest-Schwartzman.
Presented July 25, 2018 to Bridget Gabriel

In honor of your winning submission for the 2018 DIA Art Contest -- “What the DIA means to me”

In appreciation for your talent and effort to advance the Disability Integration Act

[Signature]

[NCIL Logo]
NCIL Accomplishments

In 2018, NCIL was increasingly effective in expanding the work of our members and advocating their issues nationally.

- NCIL worked with the Centene Corporation on their Barrier Removal Fund to improve disability access with healthcare providers in Illinois, Texas, and Ohio. Over $500k in improvements were made in 2018, including accessible exam tables, ramps, Braille materials, automatic door openers, accessible bathroom renovations, and much more!

- Through the Barrier Removal Fund, NCIL passed through over $25,000 to Centers for Independent Living in Illinois, Texas, and Ohio to complete accessibility surveys with healthcare providers in those same states. We used the survey information to push providers to make access improvements and to improve the accessibility information listed in provider directories.

- NCIL’s Governing Board traveled to Minneapolis, MN for their fall 2018 Governing Board meeting and held a very successful reception with representatives of the Minnesota CILs and SILC.

- NCIL coordinated the IL-NET National Youth Transitions Learning Collaborative with 12 CILs from all over the country. With outstanding facilitation from the staff of LVCIL (Lehigh Valley, PA), this learning collaborative was the first of its kind in the Independent Living Movement and created an opportunity for these CILs to learn and share from each other as they built successful programs for young people with disabilities in their communities.

- NCIL’s 2018 Annual Conference on Independent Living was one of our largest ever, drawing 1,011 advocates from all over the world for a week full of stellar learning, networking, and advocacy.

- NCIL continued implementation of an ambitious 3 year strategic plan that will focus on an intersectional approach to leadership development, advocacy, and supporting our member CILs and SILCs!

- NCIL received a $40,000 grant from the WITH Foundation to develop a video on sex and sexuality for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in partnership with Rooted in Rights

- NCIL welcomed a fully accessible over the road bus by Motor Coach Industries to our conference for the first time! This bus was on display during our conference and participated in our March to the Capitol.

- NCIL partnered with ADAPT to conduct a Disability Integration Act Art Contest for children and Essay Contest for young adults.
ENOUGH

PEOPLE NOT PROFIT
Strategic Plan Priorities

Mobilize & Strengthen NCIL’s Capacity

- Increase representation and leadership of multiply-marginalized people with disabilities throughout NCIL’s structure.
- Use new and better tools to mobilize NCIL’s membership to advance Independent Living and disability rights.
- Increase NCIL’s membership.
- Increase NCIL’s revenue.

Legislative & Advocacy

- Increase NCIL policy staff.
- Strengthen relationships with members of Congress and further develop Congressional champions.
- Participate in coalition efforts that advance civil and human rights with a focus on intersectional advocacy.
- Increase media relationships and coverage with emphasis on ensuring diverse representation.
- Utilize legal assistance to advance Independent Living and disability rights.

Strengthen the IL Network

- Provide pass-through funding opportunities to member CILs, SILCs, and Independent Living Associations.
- Educate CILs on the new core services.
- Increase representation and leadership of multiply-marginalized people with disabilities throughout the Independent Living Movement.
- Provide CILs and SILCs with the tools and resources they need to maintain quality and demonstrate their value.

In Memoriam

NCIL Mourns the loss of:

- Merle Buckland
- Jamey George
- Roger Frischenmeyer
- Teresa Favuzzi
- Kalle Könkkölä
- And so many others.
NCIL’s 2018 Annual Conference on Independent Living was an amazing experience. Over 1,011 people joined us from all over the world.

This year’s theme, Mobilize: Resistance through Action, was more than just a catchy title. From day one, we focused on preparing NCIL members to take action at the conference and back home.

NCIL’s pre-conference sessions, Resistance through Direct Action: How IL and ADAPT Work Together and Integrating Disability Into Emergency Management: A Blueprint to Saving Lives in the Community, were action-oriented and very well presented. The opening plenary featured a rousing speech from Rebecca Vallas from Center for American Progress, who shared her vision for collaboration and action from all oppressed people to demand their civil and human rights.

NCIL’s 2018 March, Rally, and Day on the Hill, was as lively as ever. Incessant rain didn’t deter hundreds of people with disabilities from marching in the streets and taking their concerns to Congress. We had such a huge turnout at our rally that we had Members of Congress lined up behind the stage to address NCIL members.

We want to thank each and every one of the advocates in attendance. This year’s conference was outstanding because of your presence and participation.

Award Recipients

National Advocacy Awards:

- Max Starkloff Lifetime Achievement Award: Mike Oxford
- President’s Award: Paul Timmons
- Corey Rowley National Advocacy Award: Christy Dunaway
- Frank Harkin Memorial Award: Senator Tammy Duckworth
- Diana Viets Award: Jessica Jimenez
- Women’s Caucus Award: Judith Heumann, Yoshiko Dart, and Susan Molloy

Regional Advocacy Awards:

- Region 1: Sam Liss
- Region 2: Jonathan Dollhopf
- Region 3: The Maryland Association of Centers for Independent Living
- Region 4: Shelly Simmons
- Region 5: Amber Smock
- Region 6: Michele Erwin
- Region 7: Dot Nary
- Region 8: Dawn Russell
- Region 9: Amina Donna Kruck
- Region 10: Joyanna Geisler
Independent Living Training and Events

NCIL provides a wealth of training and information to our members each year. In addition, NCIL is a partner in the IL-NET national training and technical assistance project for Centers for Independent Living (CIL-NET) and Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILC-NET), which focuses on:

- Deinstitutionalization / Community Services and Supports
- Outreach to Unserved and Underserved Populations
- Consumer Control
- Peer Mentoring of CILs and SILCs
- Systems Advocacy
- Data Collection and Reporting

In 2018, NCIL presented 1 national onsite training, a year-long learning collaborative, 5 workshops, and 12 webinars, reaching more than 800 people. The IL-NET program also provided technical assistance to hundreds in the Independent Living community.

Onsite Trainings and Learning Collaboratives:                      * IL-NET          † NCIL / Other Partners

- Get to the Core of It: Integrating CIL Core Services for a Holistic Consumer Experience *
- Youth Transition Learning Collaborative *
- Exploring SILC Authority to Conduct Systems Advocacy (NCIL 2018 Annual Conference Workshop) *
- SILC Standards and Indicators; Monitoring and Evaluating the SPIL; Training and Technical Assistance Needs of SILCs; and SILC 101 and 102 (2018 SILC Congress Workshops )*

National Teleconferences and Webinars:

- 2018 NCIL Policy Briefing †
- Know Your Resources — Orientation to the IL-NET and CIL-NET.org and SILC-NET.org *
- National Youth Transition Learning Collaborative – Meeting Series *
- Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment in CILs *
- Preventing Guardianship: How CILs Can Be the Frontline to Advocate for Less Restrictive Alternatives *
- Who’s “At-Risk”? How to Determine and Address Risk of Institutional Placement to Achieve the New Core Service of Diversion *
- Approaches to Emerging Systems Advocacy in CILs *
- Expanding Housing Options in Your Community *
- Supporting Youth in Transition: How CILs Can Contract for Youth Transition Services *
- Refining SILC Operations: SILC Indicators and SILC and DSE Assurances *
- Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment in CILs *
- Working Together: Building a Statewide IL Network through CIL & SILC Collaboration *
A Sampling of Member Accomplishments

In every state and territory, NCIL’s member organizations lead efforts to secure civil rights and gain an equal playing field for people with disabilities in their communities. This is a small sampling of their accomplishments.

IndependenceFirst in Milwaukee, Wisconsin provided peer support to 199 persons with disabilities. 100% of survey respondents reported that the peer support they received increased their independence and / or helped them to cope better with their disability.

Atlantis Community, Inc., in Denver, Colorado worked closely with ADAPT and the Colorado Medicaid office to create a robust community transition program after funding for Money Follows the Person ends. As a result, Colorado has a sustainable community transition program to help people with disabilities move out of institutions back into their own homes.

The interns at the George Wolfe Youth Program, a competitive, integrated summer employment program in its 20th year of operation at Topeka Independent Living Resource Center in Topeka, Kansas worked collaboratively with a local historical theater beginning its renovation / restoration process. The interns conducted accessibility surveys, visited comparable facilities, and presented their findings to the board and staff of the Jayhawk Theater.

Southern California Resource Services for Independent Living in Pasadena, California, in collaboration with East LA College, completed year one of the first ever dual enrollment college program for high school youth with disabilities leading to a certification in Engineering Design. Year two will be completed in December of 2019, with a certification in Graphic Design.

The Center for Accessible Living – NKY in Louisville, Kentucky, in conjunction with REV-UP, set up three voter registration tables, arranged transportation for people with disabilities to get to their polling stations on Election Day, and worked with Kentucky Protection and Advocacy on reporting accessibility issues at polling stations in the Northern Kentucky area.
REACH of Plano, Texas collaborated with the Texas Central Bullet train to ensure that the fastest train in the world will, in less than 10 years, be completely accessible for passengers and employees with disabilities. This bullet train will be an accessible model for all of the world.

Blue Ridge Independent Living Center in Roanoke, Virginia assisted 33 individuals to remain independent within their own homes.

The Ability Center of Greater Toledo in Sylvania, Ohio launched Disability Dialog – a campaign to create awareness, engage the community in a conversation about disability, and answer the question, “What would it take for the Toledo area to be named the most disability-friendly community in the United States?” An online platform was created to share information via interactive discussion boards, informative blog posts, national and local statistics on disability, and podcasts featuring leaders in the disability community.

Autistic Reality in Takoma Park, Maryland partnered with BBDO New York, Michaels-Adams, and EIN SOF Communications to publish works by disabled authors so that people with disabilities have a platform to tell our amazing stories, both fictional and nonfiction, from our amazing points of view.

Service Center for Independent Life in Claremont, California held the 3rd Annual Disability Athletics Faire at Mt. San Antonio College, which featured over 300 athletes and over 500 people in attendance.

The Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin in Menomonie, Wisconsin worked with over 40 consumers as part of the jail-to-community reentry program and engaged in systems advocacy to transform the criminal justice system to meet the needs of persons with disabilities, lower recidivism, and provide people the resources and supports needed once they are released from incarceration.

Kansas Centers for Independent Living were instrumental in ensuring that the statewide Disability Caucus returned to Kansas in 2018. The purpose of the Caucus is to develop new disability leadership in Kansas, to educate Kansans with disabilities about the process of policy making and encourage their participation in it, and to determine major issues facing Kansans with disabilities and possible solutions.
Donors

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- Kathleen Altman
- David Barrett
- Jedediah Barton
- Jim Beck
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- Joanne Bell
- Helena Berger
- Mr. & Mrs. Bergman
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- Diane Coleman
- Maryah Converse
- Deborah Cotter
- Kent Crenshaw
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- Robert Clarke
- Elizabeth Cogliati
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- Katie Collins-Ihrke
- Ryan Croke

Social Media Givers

- Alex Abbott
- Eric Alberty
- Will Alphin
NCIL Staff

- Lindsay Baran, Policy Analyst
- Rachel Bass, 2018 Spring Policy Intern
- Sarah Blahovec, Disability Vote Organizer
- Kelly Buckland, Executive Director
- Sylena Campbell, Administrative Assistant & Bookkeeper
- Eleanor Canter, Communications Coordinator
- Melissa Carney, 2018 Fall Policy Intern
- Tim Fuchs, Operations Director
- Sheryl Grossman, Community Living Advocate
- Denise Law, Member Services Associate
- Cara Liebowitz, Development Coordinator
- Rie Terashima, Accountant
- Hindley Williams, Youth Transitions Fellow

Corporate Sponsors

NCIL recognizes the following corporate sponsors for their support and partnership in 2018:

- Soldier for Justice Award Recipients: Centene and Anthem
- Verizon
- Uber
- UnitedHealthcare
- Waymo
- PhRMA
- Walmart
- Motor Coach Industries
- Center for Disability Rights
- Airbnb
- Ability360
- Pride Mobility
- Molina Healthcare
- Institute for Educational Leadership
- Amtrak
- National Disability Institute
- Microsoft
- Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation

Conference Donors: Tracfone Wireless, American Association for Homecare, Shepherd Center, American Association of People with Disabilities.
Statement of Financial Position*

**Revenues:**
- Grants & Programs $1,124,446 (61%)
- Annual Conference $359,853 (20%)
- Membership Dues $279,572 (15%)
- Donations $20,198 (1%)
- Other Income $49,882 (3%)
- Total 2018 Income $1,833,954

**Expenses:**
- Administration & Finance $187,868 (10%)
- Training & Assistance $358,655 (19%)
- Advocacy & Programs $1,006,454 (54%)
- Annual Conference $310,751 (17%)
- Total 2018 Expenses $1,863,730

**Assets:**
- Current Assets $1,154,445
- Prepaid Expenses $16,799
- Prepaid Legal Expenses $12,822
- Fixed Assets $11,855
- Other Assets $4,499
- Total Assets $1,200,422

**Liabilities and Fund Balance:**
- Current Liabilities $1,116,165
- Unrestricted Reserve $114,032
- Total Net Income ($29,776)
- Total Liabilities & Net Assets $1,200,422

*All figures represented in this statement of financial position are unaudited. Final numbers may vary slightly. Please contact NCIL for an updated report.