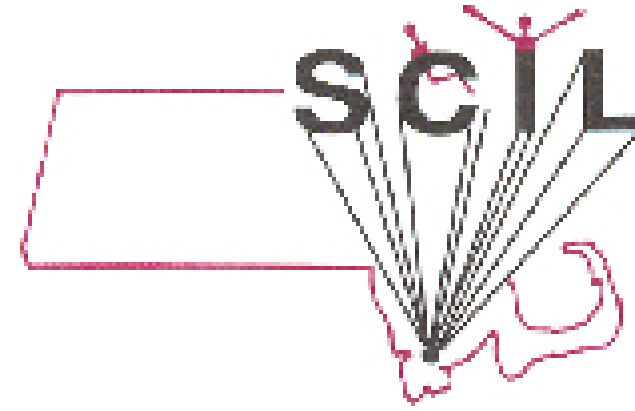


Scholarship Funding

SCIL will be awarding two scholarships of \$250 to individuals with disabilities in pursuit of a degree or certificate program. Those interested should contact Janice Mendes at 508-679-9210 to request a scholarship application form.



SCIL, Southeast Center for Independent Living, Inc.

Fall River Office

Merrill Building, Suite #3
66 Troy St.
Fall River, MA 02720

New Bedford Office
by appointment only:

800 Purchase St., Rm 311
New Bedford, MA 02740

Phone / TTY: 508 - 679 - 9210

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**All SCIL Offices
& Events are
Scent Free**



SCIL Gazette

Newsletter, Issue: Spring 2010

SCIL's Art Program a Great Success!

We are deeply gratified by the wide range of interest and generous support that is building for SCIL's first formal art program launched last year with "A Labor of Love--Sailor Valentines of the Victorian Era." SCIL's first series of art classes last year were filled to capacity. We held two major exhibits in New Bedford and developed the publication of an art calendar for 2010 containing photographic images of works from the exhibits. The works have been so well received that we are undertaking a second year of this series. SCIL has been awarded its very first Cultural Council Grant by the City of Fall River to support our plan to repeat the classes this year and develop a Fall River venue for an exhibit. We also have been invited to return to New Bedford's Working Waterfront Festival next September. The program is so popular that the new spring classes are filled to capacity already.

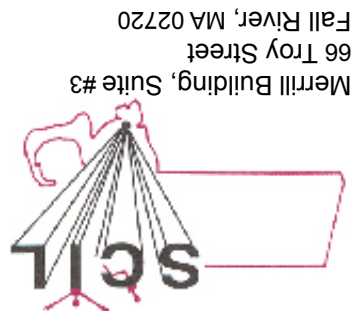
Artists who participated in launching the program and their communities of origin are as follows:

Dartmouth-Lois Alves; East Freetown- Casey Pittsley, Cheyenne Pittsley, Juli Pittsley; Fairhaven-Rosemary Medeiros; Fall River—Claire Antaya, Denise Canuel, Rachel Collins, Russell Heap, Edrit Hendrick, Lorna Marion, Leslie Medeiros, Iris Perez, Lisa Regan, Karen Sullivan, Sandy Tavares, Jennifer Waddell; Lakeville-Dottie White; New Bedford-Edith Colon, Janice Mendes, Peter Oliver, Lisa Pitta, Michelle Sabino, Filomena Tripp; Somerset-Melissa Robillard; Westport-Victoria Botelho, Jessica Silva. Photographers serving the Exhibit were Casey Pittsley, Dottie White and Juli Pittsley, and the Graphic Designer was Michelle Sabino.

The full story of this program, the art and history of the sailor valentines, our artists and their works, is told in the 2010 art calendar that we have sold as a fund raising/capacity building effort. A limited number of copies of the calendar are still available for sale on a first come, first serve basis.



Southwest Center for Independent Living, Inc.



Merrill Building, Suite #3
66 Troy Street
Fall River, MA 02720

A Success Story - Andrew Dufault

When Andrew first came to SCIL at 16 years of age as a TAP consumer, he was living with his parents in their home in Swansea. He had never been away from home, and had never managed his own affairs. Andrew's focus at the time was graduating high school and getting into college. His parents divorced, and Andrew moved with his mom into an apartment. His mom went to back to work. Without his mother's presence during her working hours, Andrew did not have enough PCA coverage, so SCIL provided advocacy and got Andrew's hours increased. Andrew and his mom then decided he would plan to move out after graduation. By this time he was in the end of his senior year. We contacted MRC's Turning 22 / Supported Living Program and had an ITP meeting right away. Andrew obtained services from the Supported Living Program and began working with a Case Manager from Networks. Together we searched for housing, and Andrew started college at Bristol Community College, majoring in Communication. He did well and kept an A / B average. The next step was getting him moved into an apartment. He was very nervous at first, but once an apartment became available at the Hudner Building and we got him moved in, he was very happy and self sufficient.

After living on his own for about a year, Andrew had gained a lot of confidence and learned many new skills. One of his hobbies was playing poker. He began taking the bus alone, and eventually went all the way to Foxwoods totally on his own to play poker, happy to be traveling independently. He then set a goal of raising \$1,000 for a plane trip to Las Vegas to play in a poker tournament.

At the beginning of this year a more spacious apartment became available at Borden East, and Andrew accepted it. He also decided to take a break from college and focus on two of his lifelong dreams and goals. Andrew has decided to try being a professional poker player, and he has met his goal of raising \$1,000. A friend of his mother has given him her frequent flier miles to get to Vegas by plane. On May 28th of this year Andrew will be going to Vegas to play in a World Series Poker event "\$1,000 No Limit Texas Hold 'em," and the event will be aired on espn360.com. If he makes it to the last table, we can watch him. Besides poker, for many years Andrew has been writing and compiling poetry, and has decided to publish a book "Living Breathing Poetry." This project will require more financial planning.

Andrew is very content with his life, and we at SCIL are very proud of him and happy for all his accomplishments. We wish him continuing success in all his future endeavors.



Andrew in his new apartment at Borden East.

SAVE THE DATES!

Please save the following dates and mark them on your calendars.

April 22, 2010 Our Annual State IL Day at the Boston Statehouse.

July 23, 2010 Our Annual ADA Celebration at Dunn State Park.

As always, SCIL will have buses available for both trips. Please call us at 508 679-9210 Voice / TTD for more information and to sign up for the trips. Reasonable accommodations for the Statehouse must be made by April 12th. Reasonable accommodations for the July 23rd trip must be made two weeks prior, by July 9th. These are scent-free events, as are all of SCIL's events.



Personnel News

It is with mixed emotions that SCIL reports that Leily Colon has left us to pursue her education in nursing. While we are sad to see her go, we are happy that her replacement is her sister, Edith. Fluent in English and Spanish, Edith is a certified nursing assistant. She holds an associate's degree from UMASS-Dartmouth and has experience as a mental health assistant. Welcome aboard, Edith!

Leaving us also was Jessica Silva, who has followed her dream of being a teacher. Jessica accepted a position as a kindergarten teacher in New Bedford. Both will be missed! SCIL wishes them the very best!

SCIL is also pleased to announce that we have hired Henry Grace to serve as the coordinator of our transitional program at SCIL. Henry brings us his thirty-one years of teaching experience in the Fall River school system. He has also taught in the Adult Basic Education program, served as a career counselor in the Air Force Reserves and as an Educational Surrogate Parent in the Massachusetts Special Education Office of the Department of Education, Boston. In addition to working at SCIL, he is GED Teacher/Career Services Counselor in the Adult Basic Education Program at Bristol Community College. Welcome aboard, Henry!

Census Alert!

Please make sure you mail back your census information as soon as possible. People with disabilities have a major stake in a complete census count. Accurate numbers have an impact on programs such as Mass Health, Medicare, housing, Vocational Rehabilitation services, SSI, programs funded by the Rehabilitation Act, accessible transit, and special education for children ages 3 through 5. Federal law protects your information and your identity, and the Census Bureau cannot share your information with any other government agency, including immigration.



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

Computer Classes

New 8 week session coming up! Classes start the week of April 13th.

Classes are held in the morning from 10-12 or afternoon from 2-4, and run for 8 weeks. A certificate of completion is given once class is completed successfully. All classes are free!

On Tuesday, April 13th, Introduction to Computers

On Wednesday, April 14th, Keyboarding and Date Entry

On Thursday, April 15th, Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access

Resume Writing and Development, QuickBooks and Internet training are also offered, on an appointment basis. Contact Steve Wood at 508 679-9210 at SCIL.



SCIL would like to thank the following for their generous contributions to our turkey baskets for our consumers:

Pastor David A. Arruda and the Faith Fellowship United Methodist Church, Mansfield

Union United Methodist Church, Fall River

Somerset United Methodist Church

Mass Rehabilitation Commission - Fall River Area Office

Pastor Norman Noriega, Full Gospel Church of East Freetown and his congregation

Rev. Richard Chretien and the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Notre Dame de Lourdes Church in Fall River

Rev. Marc Bergeron, St. Anne's Church, Fall River