

Loan Closet Services Continue Through Coronavirus Pandemic



Eddie Narvaez shows off the Hubscrub.

RCIL's Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (TRAID) program did not stop providing or delivering vital medical equipment to people during the wake of COVID-19 to date. Our staff followed all CDC and state guidelines and took extra precautions such as wiping down all equipment upon receipt or before going out. In addition to the initial cleaning, we also used our Hubscrub machine with UV light filtration system to clean, sanitize, and disinfect wheelchairs and other durable medical equipment. To ensure social distancing

to those who needed equipment and for our staff, we carefully coordinated deliveries to make sure that the requested equipment could be dropped off at someone's door or entrance and there would be someone there to bring the equipment inside after we left. To ensure safety, staff wore gloves and masks at all times when handling equipment.

One story really stands out to us. At the end of March, we received a call from a woman whose husband was in St. John's Nursing Home. She was desperately trying to get him out of the nursing facility because of the virus but needed a portable ramp. Our Accessibility Specialist loaded up three different sized ramps and went out to the house with them. He was able to set up an eight-foot portable ramp for them that covered the three front steps so she was able to bring her husband home.

In addition to this we also delivered vital bathroom equipment such as adjustable bathroom tub and transfer benches, raised toilet seats, manual wheelchairs, and power chairs. Each piece of equipment we were able to deliver during the past several months kept someone safe and independent in their home. Eddie Narvaez, our Accessibility Specialist, told us, "I need to be there now more than ever for our consumers" and he was.

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497 State Street
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(585) 442-6470

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Dear Friends,

Independence Times provides our readers valuable information about RCIL programs and ongoing advocacy efforts - ensuring people with disabilities can be independent and integrated in the community.

Our featured story highlights how our Loan Closet continued its services during the coronavirus pandemic. Be sure to read about our featured staff member. Please contact us to learn how you can get involved at RCIL.

Bruce E. Darling

UPCOMING EVENTS

All in-person events are on hold during the coronavirus pandemic.

Virtual events will be announced on our webpage and social media.

Coronavirus Pandemic *Continued*

RCIL's TRAIID program provides people with disabilities, seniors, and service providers in the Finger Lakes Region adaptive devices and equipment to borrow and/or try out at no cost. Last year, this program served 661 people.

RCIL's equipment Loan Closet operates between the hours of 9 AM to 5 PM Monday through Friday and there is always a staff available to assist during those hours. You can also reach us at (585) 442-6470 or by email at enarvaez@rcil.org.



Are you interested in getting involved with us?

You can help by:

- ***Volunteering***
- ***Donating***
- ***Attending Events***

You can join our:

- ***Teams***
- ***Advocacy Efforts***
- ***Committees***

Ask us how you can get involved!

We are not-for profit organizations working to keep people with disabilities living independently in the community, with help from services and support they may need.

Upcoming Board Meeting

August 20, 2020
1:00pm—3:00pm
497 State Street
Rochester, NY 14608

**All board meetings will
be conducted on Zoom.**

Newsletter Accessibility:

If you would prefer to
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in an alternate format,
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- Braille
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Contact Linda Taylor:
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CATCH UP WITH RCIL

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Staff Highlight — Darlene Berry

We are thrilled to announce a new member of our team, Darlene Berry, who is taking on the position of Benefits Specialist. She has worked for another Independent Living Center in the same capacity and has a passion for helping people with their benefits. This is a key role and service in RCIL as she will be assisting people with such benefits as SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, Medicare, and DSS benefits.



Darlene pauses for the camera.

Darlene has a son and a two-month-old grandson. Be sure to ask her about her puppy and her love for motorcycle riding!

To get in touch with Darlene for questions about your benefits or to make a referral you can reach her at (585) 442-6470 or by email at dberry@rcil.org.

*This year, give a gift
that lives on year-round.*

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RCIL works for the full integration, independence, and civil rights of people with disabilities.

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