

# THE ADVOCATE

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Karen Bureau, Interim Executive Director

Kevin T. Farrell, Editor



## NILP Newsletter:

Thanks to all who have supported this newsletter with your comments and stories. We appreciate your interest.

## NILP Annual Meeting

The NILP 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting was held at The Wyndham Hotel in Andover on October 16, 2007. Over 100 people attended and heard keynote speaker MOD Director, Myra Berloff speak about personal safety and emergency preparedness for people with disabilities.

MRC Commissioner and former Executive Director/ founder of NILP, Charles Carr was honored for his long time association with NILP. Also honored was Kevin McCarthy of Lawrence, the Plants and Facilities Director for the Lawrence schools. He received the ADA Champion Award given to a community that shows exemplary compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Other awards were presented to:

Edith Onderick-Harvey, President of Change Dynamics Consulting Company, received the Volunteer of the Year Award for her work with NILP.

United Parcel Service (UPS) of Chelmsford Hub received the Annual Community Partnership Award for their extensive volunteer work through the United Way Day of Caring program, painting, cleaning, grounds keeping and financial support at NILP (story page 2).



NILP Board member, Ellen Gilbert, MRC Commissioner, Charles Carr and NILP Board President, Gary Hale.

Paula Callanan, NILP Skills Specialist received the 110 Percent Award for going above and beyond her responsibilities. Frank Berry of Tyngsboro, received the David E. Ray Award for his tenacity, determination and courage toward achieving independence. The evening ended with the annual elections to the Board of Directors.

## Welcome to Our New Staff at NILP:



Lucinda Rondon joined NILP as the agency Secretary. Lucinda who is bilingual in Spanish-English is the first person most callers to NILP will encounter. She is furthering her education at Northern Essex Community College.



Janet Kowalchuk has joined NILP as the Information and Referral / Housing Specialist. She comes to NILP with a good knowledge base concerning housing options available to people with disabilities

**UPS helps again with the United Way Day of Caring:**

Once again, the employees of **United Parcel Service (UPS)** came through and helped finish the task of painting and cleaning the grounds of NILP. On May 4th, September 27th and October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007, several groups of UPS employees from the Chelmsford Hub, came by to paint and clean. Under the leadership of Jay Connors, all of the tasks were completed. Thanks also to the generous donation of paint and supplies by **The Home Depot in Pleasant Valley, Methuen**. The UPS employees painted the shed and all of the outside furniture at



Gina Masiello, Kim Soucy & Lisa Crider from UPS clean up the grounds.



Kim Soucy and Lisa Crider tackle painting the shed at NILP.

NILP. Thanks again to all at UPS who gave their time and effort. Your help is really appreciated.

**From the Interim Executive Director:**

The NILP Board of Directors appointed Karen Bureau Interim Executive Director in October. Karen is a long time NILP employee with a broad knowledge base of operations and practices.



Karen has been actively involved in the Disability Rights community in Massachusetts for over ten years. She received her Bachelors Degree in Human Services with a Specialization in Counseling & Psychology from Lesley University and is currently enrolled in a Masters level Certificate program in Human Services Management through Suffolk University. She brings a wealth of skills and a commitment to disability rights to her work.

### **Program Spotlight:**

This issue looks at the Personal Care Assistance (PCA) Program at NILP. The PCA program is a Masshealth funded program, which allows persons with long-term disabilities to hire individuals to assist them with activities of daily living such as dressing, grooming, bathing, and feeding. Masshealth provides the person with the disability, the funds to pay the PCA for their assistance. This invaluable program allows persons with disabilities to continue living in their homes in the community instead of being relegated to long-term nursing facilities. For more information, call Janet Kowalchuk (978) 687-4288

### **TeenFest:**

Once again NILP is planning for **TeenFest**, July 14 through 25 & August 4 through 8, 2008. This annual summer program for youth with disabilities and youth at risk from the Greater Lawrence area will team up with NILP staff and the Epic Theatre Group of New York city to develop and act in their own play as well as participate in several field trips.

**NILP 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament for Independence** is coming again on Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Georgetown Country Club. Help NILP raise funds by supporting us with a sponsorship or by playing your favorite game with fellow golfers at a great golf course.



Waiting for May 12th at Georgetown

For \$159.00 have a great golf day with all meals and a chance to win \$15,000.00 for a hole in one! Don't be left out, see you there! Business sponsorships are available. Call Nanette or Kevin at (978) 687-4288 for registration by April 28, 2008

Thanks to our golfers for their support.



**Fundraising and Development:** 2007 has seen an increase in private donations to NILP. The Annual Appeal for the NILP General Fund brought in twice as much as in 2006. RiverBank in North Andover and David Orlinoff at the Concord Financial Organization in Concord, MA. became the two newest members of "**The NILP Advocates**". This designation denoted a donation of \$1,000.00 or more to NILP. Thanks to all for your donations.

Approved grants to NILP in 2007 include: Essex County Community Foundation, Merrimack Valley General Fund and Greater Lawrence Summer Fund, The Stevens Foundation, the White Fund, Inc. and a major Boston foundation that wishes to remain anonymous. Individual donations are always accepted. Your personal donation helps NILP with programs that have shortfalls or are not funded by government grants. Use your credit card for donations by going to [www.nilp.org](http://www.nilp.org) and under Ways to Support NILP, click on the **JustGive** link. Or send at check to NILP, 20 Ballard Road, Lawrence, MA 01843

**NILP Coming Events for 2008:**

**April 25, 2008, NILP Legislative Forum** at the Mass School of Law, 500 Federal St. Andover, (9:30AM-12 Noon) RSVP to Jim by April 1, 2008 at (978) 687-4288

**May 12, 2008, 5<sup>th</sup> NILP Annual Golf Tournament** at the Georgetown Country Club in Georgetown, MA Sponsorship & Golfing opportunities available. Call Nanette or Kevin by April 28<sup>th</sup> at (978) 687-4288.

**June 18, 2008, 20<sup>th</sup> NO SURRENDER Conference** for services to the Mental Health Community, Double Tree Hotel, Lowell, MA. For further information, contact Nan Donald, (978) 687-4288

**Help Support NILP Today!**

**Yes, I want to support NILP.** Enclosed is my contribution of:  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$500  \$1,000  Other. **Remember all donations of any size may be tax deductible and are important and appreciated by NILP!**

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**Checks should be made out to:**  
The Northeast Independent Living Program, Inc,  
20 Ballard Road, Lawrence, MA 01843

**Also you can go to the NILP Website [www.nilp.org](http://www.nilp.org) and click on the JustGive link to make your credit card donation.**

**If you want this newsletter by E-mail send a request to [kfarrell@nilp.org](mailto:kfarrell@nilp.org)**



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