

# THE ADVOCATE

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Serving the Cities and Towns of the Merrimack Valley region.

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Ruth Paulson, C.F.O. & Acting Executive Director

Kevin T. Farrell, Editor



## NILP Newsletter:

A big thank you to all who have commented about our new newsletter, "The Advocate". NILP is very grateful to the many donors and supporters that have come on board to support community based independent living services in the Merrimack Valley region.

## NILP Annual Golf Tournament:

On May 21<sup>st</sup> Mother Nature cooperated and made for a beautiful day of golfing to benefit the programs of NILP. The golf carts revved up and over 60 golfers enjoyed the wonderful course of the Georgetown Country Club. An awards dinner followed up an active day of golfing. The annual event supported by golfers and business sponsors raised over \$14,000 this year. The first place golf team is pictured below.



Fred Porter, George Peavey, Kevin Burriss, & Eric Houlihan

**Golf Tournament Continued on Page 5**

**Annual Legislative Breakfast:** On April 13, 2007, the Massachusetts School of Law in Andover was the setting for the annual NILP Legislative Breakfast. Many of the Senators and Representatives from the Merrimack Valley region attended as well as over 100 consumers. The event was emceed by Rep. William Lantigua (D) of Lawrence. We heard about priorities and legislation that could help consumers. Individuals spoke about gaps in the system and unmet needs that they wanted the legislative members to consider. A number of students from the Greater Lowell Technical School came to the event to learn and meet their Senators and Representatives personally. A new member of the House was introduced, Linda Dean-Campbell (D) who represents Methuen. Subsequently in June, Rep Dean-Campbell visited NILP to meet the staff . Once again George Saragas of Heav'nly Donuts in Methuen donated the coffee, donuts and muffins for our event. Thank you again George for your ongoing, long-time support of NILP.



Rep. Linda Dean-Campbell with Charles Carr and John Miller on her June 4, 2007 visit to NILP

### **Welcome to Our New Staff at NILP:**



Modesta Ortega has joined us as the Personal Care Assistance (PCA) Coordinator. Modesta who is bi-lingual in English & Spanish will continue NILP's policy of providing communication access to the Latino communities we serve.



Linda Coppinger has re-joined NILP as the Information & Referral / Program Specialist for the Adults with Physical Disabilities program. Linda formerly worked at NILP and brings with her many years of experience in human services.



Lisa Jamieson with Zoe has joined NILP as a Skills Specialist in the AST Program working with youth with disabilities. She is a former participant in the AST program.

### **Nanette Goodwin, NILP HR Director Receives Women of Action Award:**

The Ninth Annual Women & Policy Symposium at the Lawrence Senior Center was held on Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup>. Nanette Goodwin from NILP received one of the "Women of Action" awards that went to ten extraordinary women in the Merrimack Valley area.



Nilka-Alvarez-Rodriguez, Lawrence City Councilor congratulates Nanette Goodwin

### **UPS again Helps NILP with the United Way Day of Caring:**



On May 4, 2007, A team of over 20 United Parcel Service (UPS) employees arrived at NILP with rakes, brooms and shovels to once again help clean the outside areas around NILP. The board, staff and participants of NILP want to salute UPS and their employees for their long-term relationship with NILP through the years. Thank you again, UPS! **Special thanks to Diane & Fred Porter, Joseph Burke, Kevin Farrell and Karen Bureau for providing us with the photos used in this issue.**

### **From the NILP Executive Director:**

I want to share with you that I was offered an opportunity to join Governor Deval Patrick's team as the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission. I have accepted and will assume the Commissioner's position on August 13, 2007.



Charles Carr with Board members Paul Brouillette, Gary Hale and Denise Jackson

As founder and CEO of NILP this has been one of the most difficult decisions I have ever made, but after 27 years, I believe moving on will ultimately be the best thing for us all. As I reflect back, together we have made great strides for people with disabilities but there is still more work to be done.

As Commissioner, I will have an opportunity to carry on working for people with disabilities and affect change in the system that will allow people with disabilities throughout the state to work and live independently. NILP is strong and vibrant. Our professional, experienced and dedicated staff is ready, willing and able to continue providing the high quality independent living services and advocacy that people have come to expect over the years.

I want to thank you all for allowing me to serve as the Executive Director and for your continued faith in the Northeast Independent Living Program. I look

forward to working for you as Commissioner and carrying the message of Independent Living throughout the state.

Charles Carr

### **Program Spotlight:**

Each issue of the Advocate will highlight a program or service at NILP. This issue looks at the Services to the Mental Health Community. This program has been in existence at NILP for over 20 years providing Information and Referral, Disability Awareness Training, Peer Advocacy and Peer Counseling opportunities, support groups including the L.O.V. E. group, a member controlled grass roots support/advocacy organization; as well as information on community resources, social and recreational events. An annual consumer-run conference called "No Surrender" was held on June 20th at the Double Tree Hotel in Lowell with nearly 200 participants. For more Program information, contact Nan Donald, Director, (978) 687-4288. E-mail [ndonald@nilp.org](mailto:ndonald@nilp.org)



Nan Donald (standing) with volunteers Linda Forbes, Steve Kanan & Denise Jackson at the registration desk of the "No Surrender" conference.

### **TeenFest 2007:**

Once again for the fourth year, NILP and the Epic Theatre Group of New York City have put on the Teenfest Program for youth with disabilities in the Greater Lawrence and surrounding Merrimack Valley towns. Under the leadership of Jenny Pickett, Tim Connors and Joseph

Burke an exciting two-week **Teenfest** program afforded youth with a disability and youth at risk , an opportunity to develop and perform in their own play “Reality or Fairy Tale” a play about an youth with a disability and his experience in a mall with his service dog and his attempts to make a store purchase at age 10. The play highlights the hardships that people with disabilities face in their quest to fit into society. Held at the Parthum School in Lawrence, Teenfest culminated with the performance of the play on July 20, 2007 to a good crowd of families, well-wishers, funders and staff.



Partial funding for this program was provided by The White Fund, the Essex County Community Foundation Greater Lawrence Summer Fund, CME Energy and a major Boston area Foundation that wishes to remain anonymous. Additional in-kind donations were provided by area businesses to whom we are very thankful for their continued support. Carleen’s Coffee Shop Lawrence, Chili’s Andover, The Chateau Andover, Coca-Cola Seabrook NH, Courtyard by Marriott Andover, CVS Lawrence, CVS Methuen, CVS No. Andover #209, CVS Turnpike St, No. Andover, Hannafords Chelmsford, Jackson’s Restaurant Methuen, Jay-Gees Ice Cream Methuen, Jim’s Original Subs Lawrence, Lawrence School Department, Lomac’s Catering Dracut, Panera Bread No. Andover, Pepsi Bottling Group Haverhill, Pizza Hut Methuen, Riverside House of Pizza Lawrence, Romano’s

Macaroni Grill Methuen, Stop & Shop No. Andover, Texas Roadhouse Methuen, Walgreen’s Lawrence, Wild Oats No. Andover, and The Wyndham Hotel in Andover. Thanks to all of you who helped us make a very successful Teenfest 2007.

### **NILP Participant’s Picnic:**

On Wednesday, August 8, 2007 over 70 people attended the annual NILP Participant’s Picnic at Berry’s Pond at the Harold Parker State Forest in North Andover. The rain left in the morning and the day turned into a beautiful summer afternoon. Attendees and NILP supplied the food, while the picnic committee, chaired by Modesta Ortega, organized for the event.



With the cooperation of DCR, Harold Parker State Forest Superintendent, Steve David, everyone had a wonderful day. Kevin Farrell, Fred Day and Joseph Burke grilled the burgers and hot dogs. Assisting and serving were NILP Staff; Matt Pellegrino, Paula Callanan, Jo Bower, Linda Coppinger, Modesta Ortega, Karen Bureau, Shawna Chrostowski, Tim Connors and NILP Board Member, Denise Jackson. All had a great day enjoying themselves, meeting new friends and reconnecting with old ones.

Charles Carr, NILP’s departing Executive Director, made the rounds and spoke with everybody in one of his last official acts as Executive Director at NILP.

**Golf Tournament** (cont. from page 1)

Second Place: Jerry Collette, Keith Sequin, Mike Barrett and Mike Mommola  
Most Honest: Dan Hamel, Dennis Conlin and Jason Peters

Closest to the Pin: Emily Hoffman

Long Drive: Mike Barrett

**Thanks to our Business and Community Supporters:**

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**Golf (Continued)**

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 Whirlaway Golf Center, Methuen

Thanks to these sponsors, supporters and the golfers, for making the NILP Golf Tournament a success. Sponsorships are now available for May, 12, 2008. Call (978) 687-4288, ask for Kevin Farrell



Thanks to our golfers for their support



Fun on the course.



**Fundraising and Development:** Since October, 2006, NILP's Development department under the leadership of Kevin Farrell has gone full steam ahead to encourage donations and identify and obtain grants from foundations. Foundations who have approved grants to NILP include: Essex County Community Foundation, Merrimack Valley General Fund and Greater Lawrence Summer Fund; Local Cultural Councils from Dracut and Tewksbury as well as The Clipper Ship Foundation, The Stevens Foundation, the White Fund, Inc. and a major Boston foundation who wishes to remain anonymous. Individual donations have increased and 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.

**New for 2007 only**, there is a provision in the law affecting IRA's that allows a person 70 ½ or older to donate their IRA, tax-free to a 501©(3) non-profit and not have to take a mandatory withdrawal which is subject to taxation. For additional details contact your tax advisor. This law only applies to tax year 2007. Act now and make a difference for NILP!



[www.nilp.org](http://www.nilp.org)

20 Ballard Road, Lawrence, MA 01843  
(978) 687 4288 Voice/TTY, (978) 689-4488 FAX

## 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)**

### **NILP Coming Events for 2007:**

**NILP Annual Meeting, October 16, 2007, 6:00pm-9:30pm at the Wyndham Hotel, Andover, MA (I-93 Exit #45)**

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