

Our Mission

ETCIL helps people facing barriers related to their disabilities achieve full participation in their communities with greater independence, self-sufficiency and involvement in the community.

Core Services of ETCIL

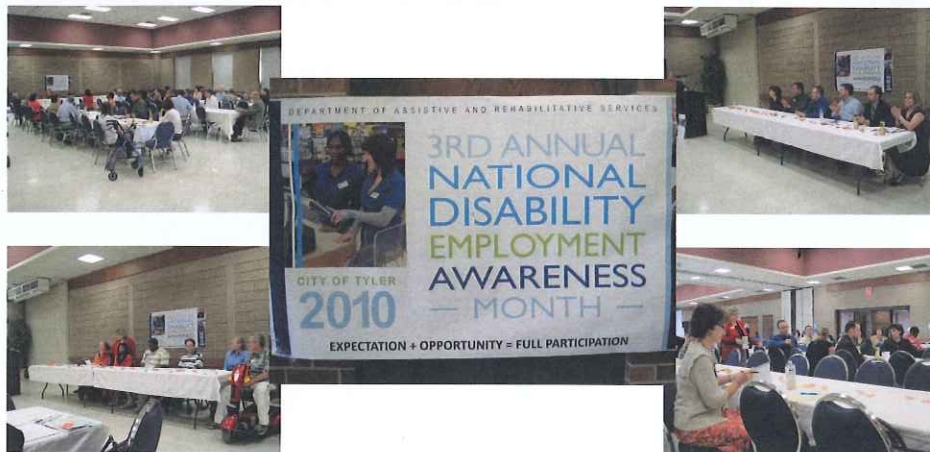
- ◆ Information and Referral
- ◆ Advocacy
- ◆ Independent Living
 - Skills Training
- ◆ Peer Support

Programs

- Home By Choice
- Resource Advocacy
- Representative Payee
- Hearing Loss Resources
- Sign Language Interpreting



DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH EVENT



ETCIL, DARS (Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services), Workforce Solutions of East Texas and the City of Tyler held this 3rd annual special event on October 20th at the Rose Garden Center. The Honorable Leo Berman of The Texas House of Representatives read a Proclamation from City of Tyler Mayor Barbara Bass, acknowledging October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Area employers, known for hiring people with disabilities, presented their perspectives on related myths and realities. Facilitated by Mike Vinson, DARS Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, the employer panel included: Suddenlink, Walgreens, VME Process, Micrologics, and Brookshires. In addition, employees and community leaders who themselves have various disabilities participated in a panel discussion along with an active question and answer exchange with attendees. Facilitated by Billie Holloway, ETCIL Board President, this panel included: Mike Richardson Jarvin Dorsey, Casey Reneau, Michelle Boyd and David Gary.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT EVENT

On July 26th, ETCIL recognized the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act by hosting an informative day of presentations on topics including employment, housing, legal matters, transportation and more. Approximately 80 attendees enjoyed engaging speakers with DARS, Workforce Solutions of East Texas, Texas Low Income Housing Information Svc., Advocacy, Inc., Texas Dept. of Transportation and the Texas Council on Developmental Disabilities.

(Pictured at left: Rachel McClure /Texas Association of Centers for Independent Living Coordinator; Laura Mattheis / ETCIL Executive Director; Belinda Carlton/Texas Council on Developmental Disabilities)



ETCIL PROGRAMS

Resource Advocacy

Throughout 13 East Texas counties, if you need help applying for SSI / SSDI or could benefit from financial resource advocacy and/or representative payee services call Joy Willadsen, Resource Advocate.

Home by Choice Relocation Program

Transitional assistance for nursing facility residents is available through our Home by Choice relocation program which services 23 counties. For more information, contact Kandee Franklin, ETCIL Relocation Specialist.

Independent Living Skills Training & Information and Referral

Training is available for people with disabilities for either personal or vocational purposes. The center has Assistive Technology for persons with a variety of disabilities. In addition, money management, cooking, remedial reading, social skills and more can be learned. Individualized or group training is offered for youth and adults. Also, ETCIL staff can provide information and referrals for the wide range of disability concerns. Services available throughout 13 East Texas counties. Contact Patrician Perkins, Independent Living Skills Coordinator or Aida Luna, Disability Information Specialist.

Hearing Loss Resource Specialist Program

Funded by the DARS Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, ETCIL's Hearing Loss Resource Specialist educates individuals about hearing loss and other specialized services. This program covers a 23 county area. For information, to make an individual appointment, or for a group presentation, please call Michael Wilcox.

Sign Language Interpreting Program

Thanks to the Deaf community and our clients throughout 23 East Texas counties for entrusting and choosing ETCIL to confidentially facilitate their important communications related to medical, legal, business, educational and personal matters. We are privileged to serve you and honored to refer the area's finest professional sign language interpreters. Student mentoring opportunities are available. Call Cheryl Sloan, Sign Language Administrator, for more information.

For more information on any of these programs or to set up a consultation or presentation, please call.

Employees Honored for 5+ Years of Service

Employees surpassing 5 years of service with ETCIL were recently honored and presented with certificates of appreciation. Honored employees were:
Joy Willadsen, Helen Thornton, and Kandee Franklin.



Moving On To New Endeavor

We bid farewell to Helen Thornton, as she left ETCIL to accept a position closer to home in Athens, TX. We wish Helen the best of luck, knowing she will continue to positively impact the lives of many people!



ETCIL Welcomes New Employees & Board Members



Pictured from left are: Aida Luna, Disability Information Specialist; Gayle Speegle, Outreach Coordinator (Longview Office); Jenny Melchor, Administrative Assistant; Astric Rogers, AmeriCorps Member; Victoria Tiscareno, Receptionist.
New Board Members: Daphne Smith and Judie Moffett (Not pictured)

Phone: (903) 581-7542

E-Mail: etcil@etcil.org

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Recent Classes & Events



ETCIL recently offered cooking classes that incorporated skills necessary for independent living. Directed by Patrician Perkins, ETCIL's Independent Living Skills Coordinator, these classes included special outings to local grocery stores, focusing on preparing meals from start to finish. Also incorporated into the classes are etiquette and safety tips. ETCIL geared up for upcoming classes with a social event on October 29th, for new students and their families. At this social, students and families enjoyed food, games, and spending time getting acquainted. ETCIL hosted an event on November 4th called Creative Careers, highlighting creative skills that can result in supplemental income for people with disabilities. Activities represented included painting, jewelry-making, woodworking, performing arts and other creative forms of expression. VSA Arts of Texas (Vision Strength Access, Arts for All) also presented a program for attendees. If you have interest in volunteering to help teach in an area of your expertise, please call Patrician Perkins.



Independent Living Class Schedule

Classes began on November 8th, but registration is ongoing*. One-on-one consumer trainings are by appointment.

Monday	9:00-10:30 11:00-12:30	Reading (<i>Except first Monday of each month</i>) Studying of Texas Driver's Handbook
Tuesday	10:00-11:30 11:30-12:30 12:30- 2:00	Money Management Lunch Computer Applications
Wednesday	9:00-10:30 11:00-12:30	Reading Studying of Texas Driver's Handbook
Thursday	9:30-10:30 11:00-12:30 1:00- 3:30 1:00- 2:30	Money Management Studying of Texas Driver's Handbook Cooking (<i>Every other Thursday only</i>) Classroom Instructions

*Schedule valid through the end of the year.
Office will be closed Nov. 25-26 and Dec. 27—31st

Congratulations to our Graduates!

ETCIL would like to say congratulations to our recent graduates of Independent Living Skills classes offered during the summer of 2010. These individuals worked very hard to complete these courses and enjoyed special outings and fun group activities as well.





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Board of Directors

Billie Holloway, President
LaJuan Scott, Vice-President
Jud DeMott, Treasurer

Debbie Bryan, Secretary
Judie Moffett (New Director)
Daphne Smith (New Director)

Personnel

Laura Mattheis, Executive Director
Kandee Franklin, Relocation Specialist
Michael Wilcox, Hearing Loss Resource Specialist
Cheryl Sloan, Sign Language Administrator
Joy Willadsen, Resource Advocate
Suzan Chapman, Relocation Administrative Assistant
Gayle Speegle, Outreach Coordinator (Longview Office)

Brett Nelson, Finance & Development Manager
Patrician Perkins, Independent Living Coordinator
Aida Luna, Disability Information Specialist
Jenny Melchor, Administrative Assistant
Victoria Tiscareno, Receptionist
Astric Rogers, AmeriCorps Member
Martin Mubiana, S.F.A. Social Work Intern

According to the RSA grant, 51% of the Board are required to be people with significant disabilities and 51% of the staff are to be persons with disabilities.

ETCIL is a community based non-profit organization which accepts tax-deductible charitable donations.

This newsletter was developed under grants from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) / Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA): \$277,648 and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds of \$54,950 (2010-11); however, the contents do not necessarily represent the policies of the Department of ED / RSA and should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. The overall operational budget of ETCIL programs is approximately \$1,000,000; therefore, the remainder of our financial support comes from state grants, collaborative agreements, fee for service programs, and other contributors.