

## 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

## ETCIL Receives State Award



The board members and staff of ETCIL are honored to have been nominated by East Texas community partners with the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services including Division for Rehab Services and Division for Blind Services and Workforce Solutions of East Texas for a state recognition award given by the Texas State Independent Living Council. ETCIL was chosen from among peer

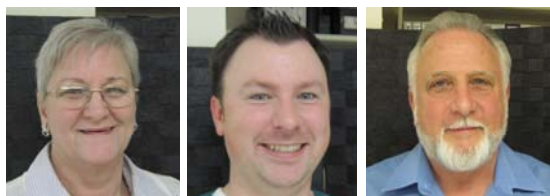
organizations throughout the state, and was presented with the Exceptional Contribution by a Center for Independent Living award at the Texas Statewide Independent Living Conference in Austin on Monday, March 4, 2013. The award recognizes outstanding achievement in independent living for, or by, people with disabilities. Per Executive Director, Laura Mattheis: *"It is an honor to serve the people of East Texas, and we greatly appreciate the collaborative partnerships which continue to be developed, allowing us to realize our collective mission of reducing barriers to independence for the 1 in 5 East Texans who have a disability of some kind. We are so fortunate to be a part of this East Texas community which genuinely cares for all citizens."*

## Announcing the East Texas Disabilities Services Network

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities recently awarded ETCIL a grant which will help establish and strengthen partnerships in the community toward enhancing the lives of people with developmental disabilities. Consequently, the East Texas Disabilities Services Network (ETDSN) is being formed to develop a strategic plan toward improving community services for people with disabilities. Collaborative partner, The Circle of Ten, and others including individuals with developmental disabilities, their family members, mental health authorities, agencies, educators and medical, vocational and transportation providers are involved, and additional network partners are welcome. The network will primarily focus on persons who are at risk of institutional placement and who live in Smith, Wood, Van Zandt, Cherokee, Henderson, and Rusk Counties.



## New ETCIL Board Members



We welcome new board members: Marty Allen, employed with the Texas Department of Transportation; David Keown, a PT/OT with Hanger Prosthetics and Orthotics, and Bill Niederhofer, Owner/Operator of Lone Star Handicap Vans.

Thank you to all of our board members!

# ETCIL PROGRAMS

## Resource Advocacy

Throughout 13 East Texas counties, if you or someone you know needs 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 serves 19 counties. For more information, contact Kandee Franklin or Suzan Chapman, ETCIL Relocation Specialists.

## Independent Living Skills , Peer Mentoring & Information and Referral

Consumer-driven individualized or group training is available for persons with disabilities for either personal development or vocational purposes. The center has assistive technology for a variety of disabilities. Money management, cooking, reading, social skills, and transportation guidance are taught at our Tyler location or off site in Longview. Contact Patrician Perkins, IL Skills Trainer/Coordinator. ETCIL also provides information and referrals for a wide range of disability concerns, as well as peer mentoring opportunities. Call Sherlon Spurling, Disability 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 appointment, or for a group presentation, please call Michael Wilcox.

## Sign Language Interpreting Program

Thank you to the Deaf community, the professional interpreters and our clients throughout 23 East Texas counties for entrusting and choosing ETCIL through the years, to confidentially facilitate their important communications related to medical, legal, business, educational and personal matters. Call KyeRon Milbrandt, Sign Language Program Coordinator.



## Hearing Loss Success Story



## Volunteers Needed

Deborah Castleman was a store manager when Michael Wilcox, the Hearing Loss Specialist for ETCIL, met her. She was having difficulties in her job related to hearing loss, causing her to encourage her employees to answer the phone for her. When she worked with customers, she would at times need to ask them to repeat themselves, which added difficulty and frustration in communicating. Michael met with her, and discussed her hearing loss and helped her to understand the difference in hearing aids. She was directed to DARS, and she now has new hearing aids and assistive devices. She was also informed about the Certificate of Deafness Tuition Waiver, applied and was approved, and is now pursuing her dreams. Deborah shares: *"I love my new hearing aids! At 44, I am back in school and loving it. The receiver device works wonderful. My teachers wear the device and I can hear them through my hearing aids. I am so excited, and I love my new life! Thank you for all your help and support. School is always something I had a passion for, and I am going for it!"*

Congratulations to Deborah!

**Are you a retired teacher, or do you have a passion to help others learn?**

**Volunteering at ETCIL with Independent Living Skills Classes in Tyler or Longview is a great way to fulfill your desire to help others! We are seeking volunteers to help on a weekly basis or with our week-long Summer Youth Fun Days in Tyler and Longview in June & July.**

**If you would like to volunteer, please call:**

**Cassie Nipp—Tyler Outreach Coordinator  
903/581-7542**

**Karen Holt—Longview Outreach Coordinator  
903/241-6021**



# Youth Days



ETCIL is offering **Summer Youth Fun Days** in both Gregg and Smith Counties for youth with disabilities ages 16-24. Activities will include cooking, resume writing and job preparedness, interview skills, fun games, self-awareness and public transportation education. Lunch with peers and special outings will also be enjoyed.

**Gregg County: June 24—28 9:30am-3:30pm**  
 D.O.R.S Youth Transition Center  
 507 N. 4th St. Longview

**Smith County: July 8-12 9:30am-3:30pm**  
 ETCIL / Tyler

We also are offering **Summer Fun Days for Adults**

**Ages 25 and Up: July 15th-19th**, from 9:30 am-3:30 pm

Location: ETCIL, 4713 Troup Hwy. Tyler

**For more information about these offerings or to register, please contact Patrician at 903-581-7542.**



## Americans with Disabilities Act Success Stories:

**Progressive Approaches  
 Yielding Positive Results**

**An Informative Seminar for:**

Business Owners, Medical Community Professionals, Agency Representatives, Education Officials, Concerned Citizens including Persons with Disabilities or anyone interested in East Texas ADA Success Stories

**July 25th—Longview 8:30am—noon**  
 Workforce Solutions of East Texas  
 2430 S. High St. in Longview

**July 26th—Tyler 8:30—noon**  
 ETCIL  
 4713 Troup Hwy in Tyler

To register, request special accommodations or for inquiries, contact ETCIL at 903-581-7542, [etcil@etcil.org](mailto:etcil@etcil.org) or visit our website at [www.etcil.org](http://www.etcil.org).

# "Spring of Knowledge"



**May 17, 2013**  
**9:00 am ~ 1:00 pm**  
**ETCIL Offices**  
**4713 Troup Hwy ~ Tyler**

Contact Patrician Perkins at 903/581-7542 or [pperkins@etcil.org](mailto:pperkins@etcil.org)

## Monthly Meetings

### A.I.M. GROUP

*An information sharing group to encourage greater independence in the lives of people with disabilities*

**Awareness \* Information \* Motivation**

**3rd Tuesday of Each Month noon—1:00pm**  
**The ARC of Gregg County— Downtown Coffee Shop**  
**107 E. Tyler St. in Longview**

*Monthly speakers present on disability related topics with the opportunity to exchange information and collaborate with one another toward breaking down the barriers faced by persons with disabilities.*

Call Karen Holt (Outreach Coordinator) at 903/241-6021 or email [kholt@etcil.org](mailto:kholt@etcil.org) for more information

### M.O.V.E GROUP

**Mobility \* Opportunity \* Vocation \* Encouragement**

*The M.O.V.E. Support Group is a diverse disability support group for persons with mobility impairment.*

**4th Tuesday of Each Month noon— 1:00 pm**  
**ETCIL / Tyler**

*Bring a sack lunch and join in group discussions, listening to guest speakers or just to enjoy an opportunity to socialize.*

Call Sherlon Spurling at ETCIL or email [sspurling@etcil.org](mailto:sspurling@etcil.org) for more information.





4713 Troup Hwy.

Tyler, Texas 75703

### 2013-2014 Board of Directors

Billie Holloway  
David Keown  
Marty Allen  
Bill Niederhofer

Debbie Bryan  
Judie Moffett  
Daphne Smith  
Sondra Petties

### Personnel

Laura Mattheis, Executive Director  
Joy Willadsen, Resource Advocate  
Kandee Franklin, Relocation Specialist  
Suzan Chapman, Relocation Specialist  
Deborah Walker, Relocation Assistant  
KyeRon Milbrandt, Sign Language Program Coordinator  
Michael Wilcox, Hearing Loss Resource Specialist

Brett Nelson, Accounting & Computer Specialist  
Patrician Perkins, Independent Living Skills Trainer  
Sherlon Spurling, Disability Specialist  
Courtney Smith, Administrative Assistant  
Dagmar Bortz, Executive Assistant  
Charlene Woodruff, Receptionist  
Karen Holt, Outreach Coordinator (Longview Area)  
Cassie Nipp, Outreach Coordinator (Tyler Area)

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.***

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