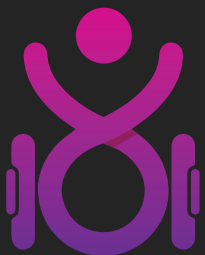


THECIL PROGRESS
**ANNUAL
REPORT
2019**



T H E C I L

OUR MISSION

The Center for Independent Living (The CIL) provides advocacy and services that increase awareness, collaboration, and opportunity among people with disabilities and the community at large.

The CIL raises the expectations that those with disabilities have for themselves and their futures and provides people with skills, knowledge, and resources that empower them to help eliminate damaging and stereotypical notions of disability and fulfill their personal responsibility to strive toward realizing their full human potential.



A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

I'd like to extend my sincere thanks for the generous support we received in 2019. The theme of our most recent fiscal year was progress, and because of your assistance we made plenty of it. The support we receive from the community has a direct impact on our capacity to serve the community, and individual contributions played a key role this past year in empowering our staff and our consumers to advance access, opportunity, and well-being and to turn aspirations into achievements.

In 2019, our residential access program more than doubled in size and began taking on projects in Oakland for the first time since the program was founded more than 30 years ago, and this newly expanded capacity translated not only into more projects, but also into more challenging and complex projects. We continue to build ramps and lifts as we have done for decades, and this past year we installed our first pulley track system to assist a quadriplegic consumer get from his bedroom to his bathroom independently. We're serving more people, and we're able to serve them even more comprehensively than in the past, which is possible in large part by the willingness of community members to invest in our work.

We've experienced much success with our youth programming this past year, developing robust curricula that emphasize outcomes and not just output. In our second year of the Elevate and Accelerate

programs, we've conducted engaging, rigorous workshops and secured placements for numerous job-seeking youths. By partnering with some of the Bay's most innovative companies -- like Salesforce, Logitech, and Pinterest -- we continue to ensure that people with disabilities have opportunities to realize their full potential and lay the groundwork for a lifetime of success.

With your support (and a grant from the Craig H. Nielsen Foundation), TheCIL is in the process of acquiring an adaptive van to pilot our own driving school, which will also be equipped with a vehicular simulator for driving instruction and practice before hitting the road. We strive to continue providing consumers with visionary resources and cutting-edge technologies as we propel into a new decade, ahead of the curve on innovation and ever-changing alternatives.

In 2020, TheCIL is poised to deliver revitalized programming, fresh opportunities, and expansive resources for the disability community. We recently hired a full-time bilingual specialist to increase our outreach to Spanish speakers, partnered with Lyft, Uber, and Airbnb to improve barriers to access with user-friendly services, and provided disability awareness training to the entire Alameda County library staff.

Your partnership with us has been instrumental as TheCIL continues our mission and legacy to provide service, advocacy, and opportunities for the disability community and the community at large. Together, we have cultivated an integrated community that elevates our dreams beyond any perceptions of what is possible with a disability. Thank you again, and we hope to make greater progress with you into the future.

Yours truly,



STUART JAMES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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WHO WE SERVE

BERKELEY

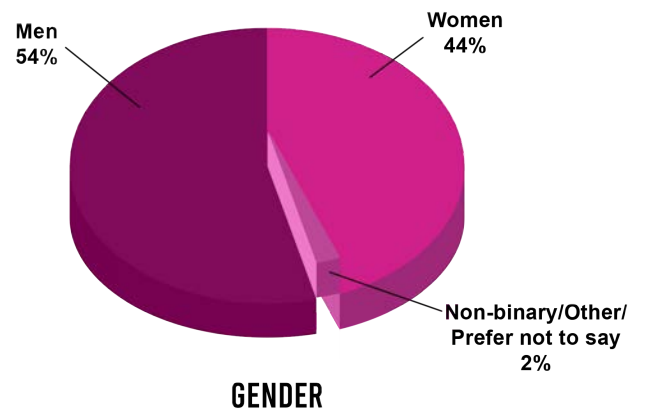
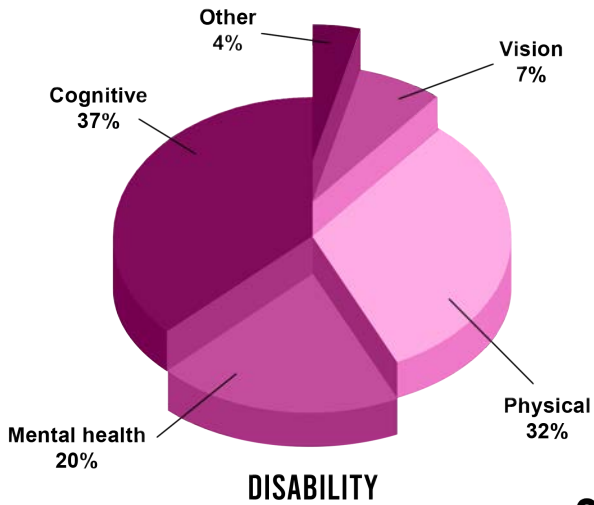
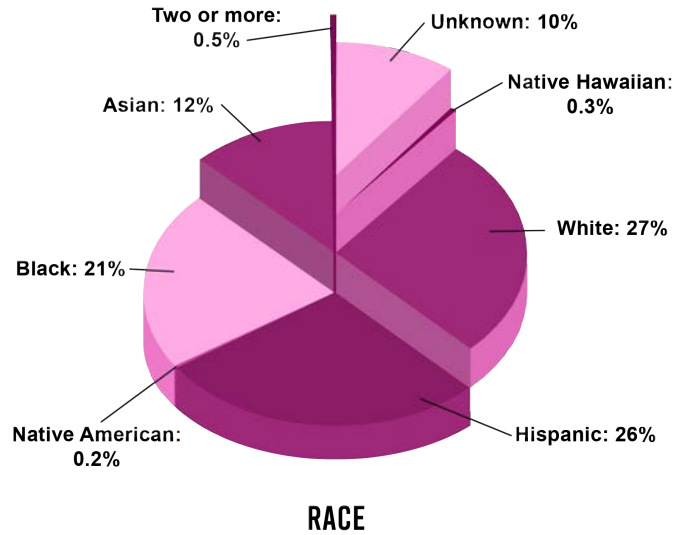
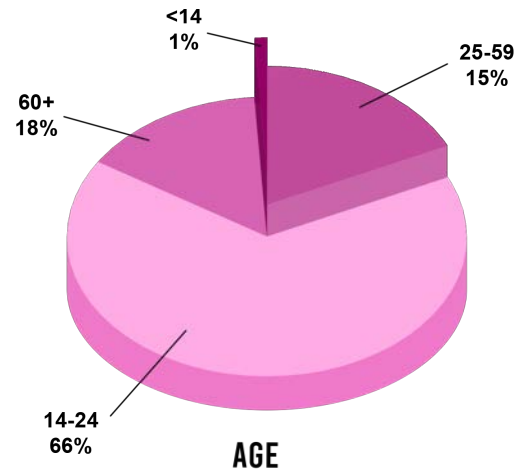
3075 Adeline Street, Suite 100
Berkeley, CA. 94703

ALAMEDA

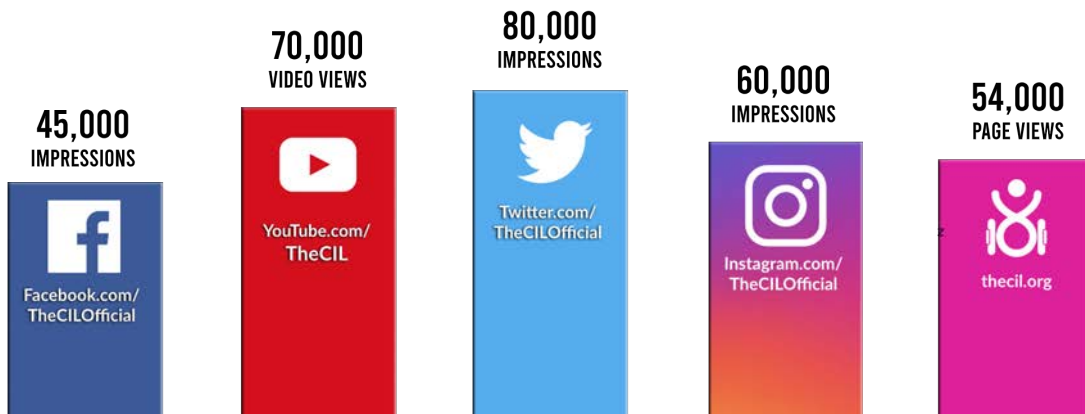
2490 Mariner Square Loop, Suite 210
Alameda, CA. 94501

OAKLAND

1470 Fruitvale Ave
Oakland, CA 94601



2019 REACH



FINANCIALS

REVENUE 2018 - 2019

CONTRIBUTIONS

Individuals: 120,493

Organizations + Foundations:
470

Businesses: 7,635

In Kind: 60,000

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

188,598

GRANTS

Government: 1,891,048

Foundation: 48,985

Endowment: 354,663

Fee for Service: 22,930

Other Revenue: 5,090

TOTAL GRANTS: 2,322,716

TOTAL REVENUE: 2,511,314

EXPENSES

Program: 1,766,278

General and Administration:
564,184

Fundraising: 158,886

TOTAL EXPENSES: 2,489,348



2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

Our biggest year yet in providing services and referrals to consumers

JANUARY

TheCIL honored Gerald Baptiste, Ted Dienstfrey, and the Honorable Thelton E. Henderson at the 3rd annual Ed Roberts Awards (read more p. 11).



FEBRUARY

TheCIL hosted a Disability In the Workplace Panel Discussion at Cal State University, East Bay, featuring people with disabilities from the workforce, including TheCIL Executive Director Stuart James. The panel discussed how a disability can be considered an asset in the workplace.

MARCH

TheCIL's Assistive Technology Specialist, Jeshua Aveno, brought some swagger to Ed Roberts Campus at D-AT-E Night, a seminar designed to teach students with visual impairments how to get ready for a date by using apps and other assistive tech tools. Using assistive devices and techniques, the students learned to select a meeting location, prepare an appropriate outfit, pay for a meal, and more.



APRIL

TheCIL hosted Momentum Expo 2019 on Saturday, April 27 at the Ed Roberts Campus where attendees learned from speakers, exhibitors, and assistive tech companies how to get out, get moving and actively explore their community.

MAY

TheCIL's Youth Transitions Class traveled to Oakland's City Hall for a meeting with Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, where they discussed issues like homelessness housing and education.





T H E C I L



JUNE

TheCIL's Catherine Callahan hosted a multi-day seminar at Cal State University East Bay, with a focus on how to gain competitive employment. Students with disabilities at CSUEB learned how to apply for jobs, build relationships in the workplace, and even had professional headshots taken for their LinkedIn profiles.

JULY

TheCIL hosted a seminar for tips on preparing food if you have a disability. 'Let's Eat' was hosted by TheCIL's Assistive Technology Coordinator, Jeshua Aveno, and covered tips and tricks for cooking with a disability.



AUGUST

TheCIL sponsored wheelchair athletes who pushed and handcycled in the 5K or 10K races at the Alameda Running Festival.

SEPTEMBER

TheCIL launched Aspire Magazine, a publication dedicated to disability-related topics in the San Francisco Bay Area. Learn more at thecil.org/Aspire.



OCTOBER

TheCIL's entire staff traveled to Fremont to give a Disability Awareness Training to Alameda County library staff on how to accommodate and interact with people with disabilities.

PROGRESS THROUGH RESIDENTIAL ACCESS

JULIA'S STORY

MARGIE: I'm Margie Cochran, the Residential Access Coordinator for the Center for Independent Living in Berkeley. So, with this particular job, we collaborated with the Berkeley Firefighters' union, which began when Evan Lane, one of the Berkeley Firefighters, called me.

EVAN: So, several months ago, we got a call for a medical emergency at a home around the corner from our firehouse. It was for a teenage girl with abdominal pain, which is a pretty standard call that we get. It was clear this particular patient had been dealing with some pretty significant medical issues for a long time. You know it's a huge part of what we do is getting people where they need to go, and in this particular incident, it was clear that access was a problem, both into the house and out of it.

MARGIE: There was a ramp, but it was too steep. And it was hard, or really not possible for her to negotiate herself.

EVAN: I contacted the director of the Berkeley Fire Fighter Random Acts, the BFRA, and said, you know, hey, we've got a project that we really need to work on, especially given the fact that this family is our neighbor, right around the firehouse. And, they said, you know, we really should work with TheCIL on this.

MARGIE: So, in this case, we decided a lift was the best. It would get Julia up to the front porch and in her front door.

EVAN: So, I worked it out with Margie. They were going to be able to supply the lift the supplies that we needed, a contractor, and the Berkeley Fire Fighters Association was going to be able to supply the manual labor.



TWO BERKELEY FIREFIGHTERS DIG IN JULIA'S YARD

MARGIE: And the firefighters were great. They showed up one morning, just full of vim and vigor, and they went to work, digging away. They just dug out all the dirt, took out the plants that were in the way, and prepared the ground for the concrete pad that was to be poured. So, it was a wonderful, wonderful day working with them. I look forward to many more collaborations with them.

JULIA: Knowing that we were getting the lift, but waiting for it was the hardest part, because I knew that my life was about to get quite a bit easier going out. So then, once the lift was installed, I asked my dad if I could use it that day, just to try it out, and it was so great.

GEORGE: We're so thrilled and excited at this wonderful gift from these two organizations. My father was a leading person under Governor Pat Brown in the 1960s, and his field was services for the developmentally disabled. He told me about a new organization, the Center for Independent Living, and so my association with them goes back as our family's association goes back, about forty-five years, and I was impressed at that time by some things my dad told me about TheCIL. One is, he said, they're not looking at themselves as passive victims of their disability, or of society. They understand that disabled people have rights, and rights under international law, as well as federal law. But those rights will only be actualized if they stand up for themselves, and create those opportunities, in partnership with community members and progressive governments. And to this day, I understand that's what TheCIL is about.

JULIA: So, thank you to everybody who participated in this, and donated, and volunteered time. So, thank you, so much.



JULIA TESTING HER LIFT

PROGRESS THROUGH CORE SERVICES

JOSE'S STORY

HUONG: How were things before getting involved with TheCIL?

JOSE: I was in a really tough situation. I'd just finished my outpatient treatment and was going to therapy but my insurance ran out. Washington State Division of child support then garnished my disability checks and I didn't have the means to support myself. I was homeless and, because of past decisions, had a DUI on my record, so I couldn't own or drive a car, and that really limited my mobility options.

HUONG: Yeah, that's tough.

JOSE: Yeah, the mental health difficulties and trying to make sense of the unfairness of the process, and not having the means to support myself was really hard. Meeting Geoff was a godsend.

HUONG: How did you find out about TheCIL and Geoff?

JOSE: He used to visit Bay Area Community Services over in Pleasanton where I used to live. He gave me good advice when all kinds of barriers blocked me from receiving pro bono legal support - he gave me specific advice with tangible options about the Working Disabled program and ways that I could get back on my feet. I received valuable advice from Thomas and Jenny as well.

HUONG: Did you always want to go back to school?

JOSE: I met with Geoff in my early stages of being released from the hospital, when I was trying to make some sense of life where I was. I was taking baby steps, and Geoff's guidance helped me sort out how to work without jeopardizing my disability check. I had to make sure I still had income for my kids. Since I was diagnosed with a permanent disability, Geoff helped me navigate how I'm able to get survivor benefits with social security. I'd been working with him on sorting out the basic necessities for about a year, and I went from being in the hospital to working in housekeeping and then to horticulture at a plant nursery. In the hospital I felt like I had much more potential to give humanity, myself, and my kids. I didn't wanna be seen as somebody that had no redeeming values, so that's the context in which I contacted Geoff. Then I met with Stuart at your office in Alameda, and he sat with me for over an hour just hearing my life and perspective. He gave me the most useful bit of life advice, which was that I didn't need to be wearing my disability on my sleeves, and that it doesn't define me.



JOSE RIERA

I knew I was capable of more than what my doctor said, so we looked into my options and found a PhD in language, literacy, and technology program at Washington State that didn't require a Master's degree.

HUONG: So this all happened in the last six months [from the date of the interview].

JOSE: Yeah. The chronology of how I was destitute, settling for a \$12/hr job where I had to bike 11 miles each way from home to work, which many social services saw as a success, and putting the effort in to get out of my situation. I just felt like there was something else for me.

HUONG: Right. I'm so glad it worked out.

JOSE: So many Bay Area organizations, like Bay Area Community Services, Bay Area Legal Aid, La Familia, have helped me so much. I've been able to slowly reconnect with my daughters, get my driving privileges restored, and get more than a part time job. Social services were all telling me to aim for one thing, but I knew what I was capable of.

Stuart, Thomas, and Geoff encouraged me to believe in myself and look beyond what I was being told. Stuart told me to erase the mentality I'd been fed. That's the kind of support I got from TheCIL, you know it was not only life-changing but fulfilling in an emotional and spiritual way. It's not about what happened to me, it's about what drives me. I was always treated like a professional, not somebody whose in need. TheCIL is so different from other social services that I've been privileged to receive.

So it's not just my story, but a community story.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

50K+

Christopher & Dana Reeve
Foundation
Raymond Lifchez

10K+

Berkeley Pilgrimage Foundation
Koret Foundation
Ruth Arnhold Endowment Fund

5K+

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1K+

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Jeanine & Guy Saperstein
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Doreen Sing
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Rae Victor

100+

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Cat Cabalo
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Caltrans
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Metropolitan Transportation
Commission
Regional Center of the East Bay
US Department of Health
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On January 23rd, 2019, we celebrated Ed Roberts Day with our annual awards gala. Hosted at the University Club atop Cal Memorial Stadium, we honored a few individuals for outstanding achievement in the promotion of disability rights and independent living. Our 2019 theme was “Empowering Lives,” and we recognized The Honorable Thelton E. Henderson, Gerald Baptiste, and Ted Dienstfrey.

Ed Roberts Award winner Hon. Thelton E. Henderson came to Berkeley in the 50s and became the first African American to serve as an attorney with the US Dept. of Justice’s Civil Rights Division, serving as a federal judge from 1980 until 2017. He is widely recognized for his work in reforming California’s mammoth prison system, and given the high rate of disabilities amongst imprisoned people, his prison reform is a huge step for disability justice.

Gerald Baptiste, former Deputy Director at TheCIL, was chosen for the Lifetime Achievement Award. After becoming blind in 1964 and spending years navigating through the resources available for people with visual impairments, he wanted to help others increase their independence. He made a lasting impact on TheCIL by laying the groundwork for a culturally competent approach towards programming, outreach, and advocacy.

TheCIL presented Ted Dienstfrey with the Special Recognition Award to honor his contributions to TheCIL and independent living in the Bay Area. His financial acumen has positioned him well for community development projects, and he helped TheCIL enjoy a period of economic stability through his guidance on endowment development and funding efforts.

We had a beautiful night of presentations, dining, and community. Thank you to our sponsors: The Koret Foundation, Lyft, Barbara Bass Bakar, Panoramic Interests, Berkeley Haas, Francis Ford Coppola, The Shupin, Herman, and Leonard Families, Disability Rights Advocates, Lifelong Medical Care, Equal Justice Society, and AC Transit.



HONORABLE THELTON E. HENDERSON



GERALD BAPTISTE



TED DIENSTFREY



T H E C I L

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