



A LETTER FROM OUR LEADERS

It has been a great privilege to serve as Chair of The Center for Independent Living (TheCIL) board for the past three years. While we all come from very different backgrounds and experiences, the glue that binds our board members together is a deep passion for the community that we serve and the belief that neither physical barriers nor attitudinal ones should stand in the way of living a fully integrated and independent life.

Much like our organization as a whole, the board has been going through a period of transition these past several years. We have said goodbye to some long standing board members, and welcomed new ones who are eager to volunteer their time and talents to support our incredibly dedicated staff, carry out our fiscal responsibilities, and advance TheCIL's mission.

On behalf of the entire board, I thank each and everyone of you for your continued support and shared belief in our mission and values. The CIL's work to positively impact the lives of people with disabilities would not be possible without you.

Melissa ann Male

Melissa Male Board Chair

Board of Directors

Caleb van Docto, *Vice Chair*Eric Broque, *Treasurer*Joan Leon, *Secretary*Lily Colby
Owen Kent
Mary Lee Vance

This has been a wonderful year for the TheCIL, we opened a new office in Alameda, had more than 500 members participate in our programing and answered nearly 8,000 disability related questions for members of the community. Our residential access program modified more than 40 homes in and around Berkeley and we hope, with your help, to expand that program into Oakland in the coming year. We launched an initiative to help youth transition beyond high school, kicked started our lifestyles division, launched our assistive technology internet video series Power On, and won a grant to expand our Living well program into our Spanish speaking Fruitvale office.

But 2017 has also proved to be a challenging year for the disability community nationwide. Recent protections for people with pre-existing conditions in the health insurance market have come under attack, support programs for people with disabilities are being chipped away at, and our federal government is currently considering restricting our ability to vindicate rights protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Prominent organizations like the National Center for Independent Living, Adapt, and Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund are on the front line of these issues, and other agencies like TheCIL are doing their part within their missions to encourage people with disabilities to become self-advocates and move forward in achieving their goals.

We believe that TheCIL's greatest strength, our greatest potential for helping to advance the cause of people with disabilities in general, is in creating communities of people who actively want to participate in the world around them, who aspire to achieve, to the best of their ability. It's important work, because it's hard sometimes for people to see the unimaginable. And too many in society simply can't see the value in those with disabilities. So we need to show them.

Sincerely,

Stúart S. James

Executive Director



TheCIL supports and empowers people who aspire to achive beyond the boundaries of expectations others have placed on them.

ABOUT THE CIL

Founded in 1972 TheCIL is the oldest Independent Living Center in the country and the model for more than 400 centers around the world. TheCIL has offices in Alameda, Oakland, and Berkeley and provides services to 8 cities in the East Bay Area.

www.thecil.org



RE-INTRODUCING THE INDEPENDENT

TheCIL Advocacy and Social Change Blog

Previously the Center for Independent Living released a weekly mailed newsletter to members, friends, and partners containing updates about the organization. In 2017 we have revitalized The Independent and moved it onto an online platform allowing us to expand both on our content and audience. In this way we can now invite the community at large, both in the Bay Area and across the United States, to join us in our conversations about disability. Our online blog features articles, information, and op-eds hand selected by our CIL Advocacy committee about current events and headlines that give voice to the disability community. We use this space to educate and inform readers about current issues impacting the disability community, as well as share information about opportunities to participate in civic engagement and self-advocacy.

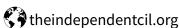






Connect with us online!





2017 HIGHLIGHTS AT THE CIL



1st Ed Roberts Award presented on January 23rd Ed Roberts Day, a California State holiday.

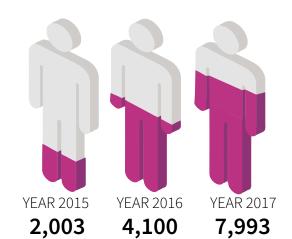


Ed Roberts was featured as Google's Doodle on January 23, 2017.

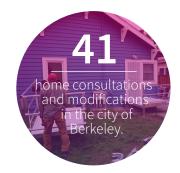




The Oakland Unified School District recognized **TheCIL's dedicated service** to students of OUSD Young Adult Program.



58 % **increase** in the number of people benefiting from TheCIL services from 2016.





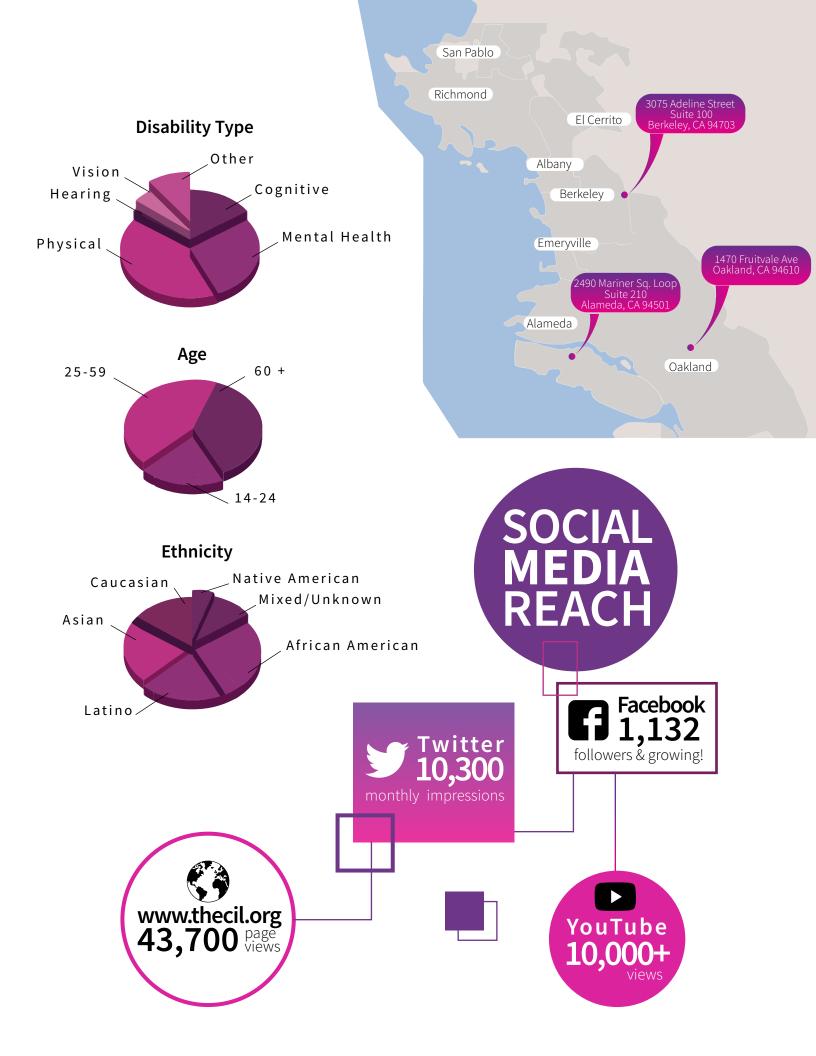
TheCIL won **Top Bike Team 2017** at the annual "Bike for the Parks" Community Ride in support of the Alameda Recreation and Parks Department.













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City of Berkeley

City of Oakland

Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Regional Center of the East Bay

WAYS TO

GET INVOLVED









For more information on how to invest in the future of TheCIL, please visit www.thecil.org/donate

CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY



On January 23rd, the official California State holiday for Ed Roberts, TheCIL hosted its first annual Ed Roberts Day Award Celebration in honor of former Senator Loni Hancock and former City of Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates with the artichoke award. The award is emblematic of Ed Roberts response to his doctor who told him that he would be a vegetable for the rest of his life: "If I'm a vegetable, I'll be an artichoke, prickly on the outside, with a big heart in the middle."

We honored our 2017 Ed Roberts artichoke awardees because they, like Ed Roberts, are individuals whohave made major contributions to the success of the independent living movement. Tom and Loni's support during TheCIL's early years and and their unwavering commitment to the promise of Independent Living are a big part of why we've made the great progress.

Special thanks to MC Joni Breves, award presenter Judy Heumann, and our sponsors: Panoramic Interests, Golden Gate Fields, Jim Fousekis, Supervisor Keith Carson, City of Oakland, Lifelong Medical Care, and Jenine and Weldon Rucker.



Special guest Serena Williams came to show her support at the Bay Club SF Tennis. The CIL led an all inclusive wheelchair tennis clinic in collaboration with Invacare and the SF Veterans Affairs.

All the way for Midway Shelter! On the 4th of July, TheCIL staff members joined city of Alameda Mayor Trish Herrera Spencer in a 5K in support of the Midway Shelter.





ANNUAL REPORT