2010 Annual Report
Mission

To provide and promote opportunities that empower people with disabilities to achieve their potential.

Vision

The full inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of community life.
HISTORY

In 1946, the local Community Chest (now called United Way of Allen County) asked the Social Planning Council to conduct a study to determine if services for the blind should be carried out by a part-time Community Chest employee, be merged or coordinated with other existing community services, or if a new non-profit corporation to serve people who are blind was needed in the community.

The Social Planning Council completed its study in 1948 and recommended that a new non-profit agency for the blind be started. The Council also recommended that an interim committee be established to set up the new agency. This committee, known as the Allen County Committee for the Blind, was established in 1948. This interim group brought Helen Keller to Fort Wayne in 1949 to challenge the community to address the needs of the blind, and to assist the Committee with its first fund raising effort. The first two-year budget was $15,000. The Allen County League for the Blind, Inc. (ACLB) was established as a corporation on October 17, 1950 to provide educational, employment, and rehabilitation services for people who were blind, began operations in February 1951, and obtained its non-profit, 501(c)(3) status in July 1951.

The agency was instrumental in the passage of a 1955 state law that required public schools to provide educational services for children who were blind, deaf, mentally retarded, and epileptic. In 1958, the agency rejected the concept of sheltered employment for the blind and started a program to place these individuals in community based competitive jobs.

The League operated as a completely self-contained organization until 1961. From 1961 to 1981 it was administered by the Community Coordinating Council. During this 20 year period, the League maintained its non-profit corporate status and was governed by its own Board of Directors. In 1981, the agency re-established its independence through a federal grant to become the first Center for Independent Living in Indiana and separated ties with the Community Coordinating Council.

This event had a major impact on the agency’s philosophy and operations. The League established a commitment to “consumer control” and put this commitment in action by requiring that the majority of its staff and Board members be qualified people with disabilities. A new organizational emphasis was also placed on addressing systemic barriers that people with disabilities encounter as they seek to be included in community life. In 1994, the organization’s name was changed to the League for the Blind & Disabled, Inc. to better reflect the Center’s service to all people with severe disabilities and to reflect service availability to people with disabilities outside of Allen County.

In 2006, DeafLink was acquired from AWS and was established as the only non-profit sign language interpreting and case coordination provider in Northeast Indiana. In 2009, the In-Home Care Division was created to help people receive the homemaking and attendant care services they need in order to remain in their own home and community.

Today, the League for the Blind & Disabled, Inc. continues its tradition as a direct service provider and advocate through commitment to its mission to provide and promote opportunities that empower people with disabilities to achieve their potential. Services are provided to all people with significant or severe disabilities and communities in 11 counties in Northeast Indiana.
VALUES, BELIEFS AND ACTIONS

At the League for the Blind & Disabled, we:

Value people with disabilities and,

Believe that people with disabilities are the true experts in issues that affect their lives.

Therefore, in all of our interactions, we respect people with disabilities as service consumers instead of as patients or clients who need to be “fixed,” “rehabilitated” or cared for by providers.

Value consumer control and,

Believe that people with disabilities are entitled to control over the decisions that affect their lives.

Therefore, consumers provide the direction for the League services that they receive, constitute the majority of the League’s Board of Directors and staff, and are encouraged to participate in other decision making bodies that are relevant to their issues.

Value equal opportunity and,

Believe that all people should have the opportunity to use their strengths and abilities to achieve their potential.

Therefore, we work at individual and systemic levels to promote equal access to opportunities in society that people with disabilities need to achieve their potential.

Value diversity of thought and ideas and,

Believe that this diversity stimulates innovation, creativity, knowledge, and understanding that makes the League a more effective organization.

Therefore, we actively work to include people from diverse backgrounds and cultures in the League’s Board of Directors, staff, and consumer service population in order to have access to the widest possible range of thoughts and ideas.

Value the community and,

Believe that we have a responsibility to contribute to the overall quality of life in the community.

Therefore, we share our knowledge, expertise, and physical facilities with others for the betterment of the community.

Value quality and,

Believe that consumers, funders and communities in which we operate are entitled to nothing less than our best efforts.

Therefore, we hold ourselves accountable for providing quality programs and services, managing our resources in a fiscally responsible manner, and reflecting this commitment to quality in action and appearance.
PROGRAMS & SERVICES

1. INDIVIDUAL & SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY SERVICES

Advocacy is conducted by all staff members and is what truly separates Centers for Independent Living from other programs for people with disabilities. Individual advocacy services assists people with disabilities exercise their basic rights and responsibilities and teaches personal advocacy skills. The League also works at local, state, and national levels to ensure that needed supports are available and that discriminatory practices and barriers to independent living are removed.

2. INFORMATION & REFERRAL SERVICES

Information and referral (I&R) services are provided by all staff members. The basic purpose behind the provision of these services is to ensure that information relating to rights, options, issues and resources are available to any individual, organization, or business in need of these services. Staffed by a full time I&R Coordinator, the program maintains an internet based set of local, state, and national disability related information, sponsors distance learning opportunities, and conducts information research activities for individuals, organizations, and business.

3. INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS TRAINING

This program provides daily living skills instruction to consumers, including home and personal management, as well as communication skills training. These are often the skills needed by individuals to remain in their home after the on-set of a disabling condition.

4. PEER SUPPORT SERVICES

This program is designed to promote personal independence for people with disabilities by providing opportunities for them to meet experienced mentors with a similar disabilities or experiences. The purpose of the service is to provide practical, real life solutions to everyday problems encountered as a result of a new disability. This program also includes peer support group activities.

5. ORIENTATION & MOBILITY TRAINING (O&M)

The purpose of O&M is to provide consumers with the skills needed to travel independently. Services include white cane travel training and public transportation travel training.

6. ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT SERVICES

The Adaptive Equipment Program maintains an inventory of independent living aids and adaptive technology used to provide equipment demonstration and loaner services for consumers and the community at large. This type of equipment often enables people with disabilities to perform personal, work, recreational, and social functions that would otherwise not be possible. Individuals can also acquire some items through the League at no cost, prorate cost or at the League’s cost, depending on their ability to pay.

7. YOUTH SERVICES

This year round service to children, youth, and their family members was established in 1995 as an expansion of the League’s Summer Youth Program. It emphasizes integrating children and youth with severe disabilities into existing age appropriate, community based summer programs with individualized support from League staff members. It also includes advocacy training and assistance, parent support services, youth peer support opportunities, and adult/youth mentoring services.
8. BRAILLE SERVICES

The League produces materials in braille using a computerized braille printing system. Braille materials are produced on a fee for service basis for government and private sector organizations.

9. SENIOR BLIND SERVICES

This program provides daily living skills training, adaptive equipment, orientation, and mobility instruction (travel training), and other independent living services (individual advocacy, peer support, information, and referral assistance, services to family members and followup services) to people age 55 and above who are blind or visually impaired. The purpose of the program is to help these consumers maintain a high quality of life and live independently in their own homes and communities.

10. VOLUNTEER SERVICES

This program recruits and coordinates community volunteers to provide group meeting transportation, reader services, home visits, pre-school vision services, recreational services, adaptive equipment services, and office support at the League. Over 200 volunteers donate more than 6,000 hours per year to the community through the League.

11. DEAFLINK

DeafLink is a program of the League that provides sign language interpreting and case coordination services for people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing throughout northeast Indiana. Interpreting services are provided on a fee-for-service basis by an on-staff and private contract interpreters. Fees are paid by businesses, government entities and other third party payers who need assistance in communicating with people who are Deaf.

12. AGRABILITY PROGRAM

Through a partnership with Breaking New Ground at Purdue University in West Lafayette in 2008, the League provides case coordination services, conducts outreach, and provides public education services for people with disabilities in agriculture and communities in rural areas.

13. IN-HOME CARE

In-Home Care is the League’s newest service and includes homemaker, attendant care, and respite care services. These services are provided in the residential setting of those served and enable consumers to stay in their homes and community. This is a fee-for-service program.

14. COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

The League provides large and small meeting rooms at no cost to organizations that make positive contributions to the quality of life for all citizens. Meeting rooms are scheduled on a first come, first serve basis.
Provided in-depth services to 621 consumers, for an increase of 8% as compared to FY 2009. Of those who received services and responded to an agency evaluation survey:

- 96% reported that they maintained or increased their independence
- 62% reported gaining more control over the decisions that affect their lives
- 58% reported maintained or increased participation in community life
- 67% of all personal goals established by consumers were achieved

72% of active consumers and I&R consumers gained access to previously unavailable transportation, health care, and/or adaptive equipment.

Engaged in 101 community capacity building activities. Examples of community capacity building activities include:

- Established a joint committee of Deaf consumers, advocates, and law enforcement professionals to identify problem areas and potential solutions relating to communication issues.
- Continued work with Back Home in Indiana to improve access to accessible and affordable housing for people with disabilities through the Housing Authority.
- Participated in an expo to demonstrate equipment and resources for the blind and visually impaired
- Conducted disability awareness trainings at five schools.
- Completed an accessibility study on the Steuben County Fairgrounds to increase public awareness of people with disabilities in rural areas.

Provided free meeting room space for 150 non-League events for groups working to improve the community.

Facilitated 10 support groups, with 5 of those groups meeting in outlying counties.

Collaborated for the second year on a Deaf smoke alarm project with the Fort Wayne Fire Department, Fort Wayne Housing & Urban Development, and Delta Gamma Chapter of Psi Iota Xi. There were 129 families that received alarms, an increase of 706% over FY 2009.

Hosted the second Southside Pride Block party. Attendance was 600, with school supplies provided to 166 children, and 325 pounds of food collected for Community Harvest Food Bank.

The In-Home Care division provided services to 61 consumers in its second year, for an increase of 27% as compared to FY 2009. The program has 2 full-time staff, 45 part-time staff, and is licensed in 27 Indiana counties.

Volunteers donated 6,115 hours of service in FY 2010. The value of these volunteer hours based on the Bureau of Labor 2009 statistics is $17.61 per hour, which is a donated value of $107,685.15.
Continued to promote quality programs by supporting 44 different training activities for staff members. Examples include:

- Medicaid in Indiana workshop
- Interpreting in a mental health setting
- Back Home in Indiana housing training

In the third year of transition/diversion efforts, 27 consumers (for an increase of 65% over FY 2009) were helped out of, or kept out of, institutions for a taxpayer savings of $1,269,945 (for an increased savings of $946,105 over FY 2009).

Anne Palmer received the 2010 Frank Celerik Sight Service Award from the Fort Wayne Central Lions Club.

In FY 2010, 53% of the members of the Board of Directors were people with disabilities, and 20% of the Board members were individuals from racial minority groups.

In FY 2010, 67% of the League staff members were people with disabilities, and 41% of the staff members were individuals from racial minority groups.

Worked with the NE Indiana Disability Advocacy Coalition to develop an area ADA Report Card as part of the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Hosted the “Write A Will” event sponsored by the Planned Giving Council in November 2009.

Developed a new video about the League which premiered December 3, 2009.

The DeafLink division of the League started a new Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) service.

Created a new Disability Information Site web page – www.disabilityinfosite.com - in order to improve access to disability related information and referral assistance for people with severe disabilities and the community at large.

DeafLink, in cooperation with a Deaf student at IPFW, developed an “Understanding Deaf Culture Sensitivity” PowerPoint and training video for training hospital staff members.

Led a state committee that developed a Center for Independent Living funding formula in Indiana and created Indiana’s first vision for serving all counties in Indiana.

Continued our involvement with the statewide Back Home in Indiana project. Locally, this project is working with the Housing Authority to obtain more section 8 housing vouchers that people with disabilities can use to get affordable, accessible housing. The project is also applying legal pressure to state agencies and local nursing homes to help people return to their homes.
The League provides services to any person with disabilities who wants and needs to build his or her individual foundation of strength and independence. During 2010, League program highlights included:

**Adaptive Equipment Services** maintained an inventory of independent living aids and adaptive technology to provide equipment demonstration, loaner, and acquisition services. The program helped 225 people find the equipment they needed to be more independent, an increase of 69% over FY 2009.

The League’s Adaptive Equipment Program is designed to address the equipment needs of people with disabilities. It is the only program of its kind in northeast Indiana, and provides equipment services to all people with severe disabilities regardless of age, disability, or their ability to pay for the service. The purpose of the program is to help these individuals acquire specialized equipment that they need to be more independent and self-sufficient.

**Advocacy Services** efforts promoted the full inclusion of people with disabilities into all aspects of community life. In FY 2010, the League helped 132 individuals with advocacy issues. The program advocated for 12 systems improvements to increase the availability and quality of community based programs and equal access and/or options for people with significant disabilities. Some of the advocacy activities from this year include:

- Helped a consumer learn to navigate the Social Security and Medicaid systems. She learned how to speak up for what she needs, and now is helping others in similar circumstances.

- Four local building projects that did not comply with accessibility requirements were identified. Results were given to the appropriate individuals. Three buildings now comply and the fourth has a readily achievable plan in place.

**Agrability** is a partnership with Breaking New Ground at Purdue University in West Lafayette. The program provides information, education and outreach activities for agricultural workers and members of rural communities. In FY 2010, 17.2% of those served by the League were from rural areas.

**Braille Services** produced 41,606 pages of Braille materials on a fee-for-service basis for government and private sector organizations in 27 different states in FY 2010.
Community Support Services provided free meeting space at the League for organizations that make positive contributions to the quality of community life. In FY 2010, there were 150 non-League events that utilized free meeting space.

DeafLink is the only non-profit sign language interpreting and case coordination provider in Northeast Indiana. Sign language and interpreting services were provided for 177 consumers in FY 2010, an increase of 3% compared to FY 2009. Case coordination services were provided for 36 consumers. DeafLink staff have provided many community public education awareness activities including:

- Collaboration with 4 community organizations to install Deaf smoke alarms in the homes of 129 Deaf families.
- Developed a Deaf culture training video for hospitals.

Independent Living Skills Training provided daily living skills instruction, including home and personal management as well as communication skills training to 195 consumers. Emphasis was placed on consumers living independently in their own homes rather than an institution. The program assisted:

- 27 consumers were helped out of or kept out of institutions for a taxpayer savings of $1,269,945.

Information and Referral Services responded to 2,200 inquiries and provided these individuals, organizations, and businesses with the information they needed regarding disability-related rights, options, and issues.

In-Home Care served consumers for the second year as the League’s newest and fastest growing division. The staff provided homemaker, attendant care, and respite care services to 61 consumers in their own residence. This represented an increase of 27% as compared to FY 2009. This fee-for-service program provides services in the home to enable consumers to stay in their home and community.

Orientation & Mobility Training helped equip 64 individuals with the skills they needed to travel independently, including white cane travel training and public transportation travel training. This was an increase of 25% over FY 2009.
**Peer Support Services** served 24 consumers through individual peer support services and worked with 348 consumers and family members through 10 support groups. The support groups focus on topics of interest to participants such as guide dog presentation, eye diseases and treatment, low vision equipment demonstrations and includes time for socialization.

**Senior Blind Services** provided daily living skills training, adaptive equipment, and other independent living services to 118 blind or visually impaired people age 55 and above.

**Volunteer Services** recruited and coordinated 161 volunteers to provide support group meeting transportation, adaptive equipment services, reader service and office support. In **FY 2010**, our dedicated volunteers:

- Donated 6,115 hours of service to the League
- Value of these 6,115 hours at $17.61 per hour = $1,269,945 (Bureau of Labor 2009 statistics)
- Conducted pre-school vision screenings for 613 children.

Anne Palmer received the 2010 Frank Celerik Sight Service Award from the Fort Wayne Central Lions Club.

**Youth Services** provided parent advocacy training, family and peer networking opportunities, and advocacy assistance for young people with disabilities. Through the year, 206 youth were served by the program.

A key component of the Youth Services program is to place young people with significant disabilities in inclusive, age appropriate, community based programs of their choosing. The Youth Services coordinators gave staff training and/or provided individualized technical assistance to community based organizations so that youth with disabilities could participate in inclusive summer camps with other youth in the area. The League connected **67 boys and girls** to **11 different community involvement opportunities**, like Drum Set Camp, Science Central, MASTer Camp, Zoo Camp, and McCracken Basketball Camp to name a few.
LEAGUE FOR THE BLIND AND DISABLED, INC.
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2010
WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNRESTRICTED</td>
<td>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVERNMENT GRANTS</td>
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<td>UNITED WAY</td>
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<td>CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTS</td>
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<td>PROGRAM FEES AND SUPPLY SALES</td>
<td>595,929</td>
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<td>INVESTMENT INCOME (NET OF TRUSTEE FEES OF $21,575 AND $17,863)</td>
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<td>UNREALIZED GAINS</td>
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<td>OTHER REVENUES</td>
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<td>CHANGE IN BENEFICIAL INTEREST IN PERPETUAL TRUST</td>
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<td>NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS</td>
<td>143,703</td>
<td>(143,703)</td>
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<td>TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT</td>
<td>$ 1,857,952</td>
<td>$ 384,019</td>
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EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES:
CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING | $ 1,402,498 | $ 0 | $ 0 | $ 0 | $ 1,402,498 | $ 1,268,041 |
SUPPORTING SERVICES:
MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL | $ 131,792 | $ 0 | $ 0 | $ 0 | $ 131,792 | $ 98,993 |
FUND RAISING | 33,933 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 33,933 | 11,460 |
| TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES | $ 165,725 | $ 0 | $ 0 | $ 0 | $ 165,725 | $ 110,453 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | $ 1,568,223 | $ 0 | $ 0 | $ 0 | $ 1,568,223 | $ 1,378,494 |
| INCREASE IN NET ASSETS | $ 289,729 | $ 384,019 | $ 6,260 | $ 680,008 | $ 177,545 |
| NET ASSETS – BEGINNING (RESTATED) | 3,919,651 | 639,021 | 586,927 | 5,145,599 | 4,968,054 |
| NET ASSETS - ENDING | $ 4,209,380 | $ 1,023,040 | $ 593,187 | $ 5,825,607 | $ 5,145,599 |
LEAGUE FOR THE BLIND & DISABLED STAFF MEMBERS

INDEPENDENT LIVING & DEAFLINK STAFF

Sylvia Adams    Adaptive Equipment Coordinator
Juanita DeLeon    In-Home Care Director
Nancy Gasparini    Independent Living Director
Nancy Gerding    Braille Services Coordinator
Cheryl Gillespie    Community Relations/Grants Director
Lindsey Grogg    Staff Interpreter
Beverly Harding    Advocacy Coordinator
Gabriel Harris    In-Home Care Scheduler
Mike Hines    Agrability Case Coordinator
Pat Howard    Information & Referral Coordinator
Wendy James    Orientation & Mobility Specialist
JJ Johnston    DeafLink Case Coordinator
Glenda Kendle    Office Manager
Jill Lehman    Staff Interpreter
Sharon Lengacher    Bookkeeping & Braille Services Assistant
Laura Lindsay    Independent Living Skills Coordinator
Annie Moorman    Janitor/Maintenance Technician
Hilary Myers    Interpreter Scheduler
David A. Nelson, CRC    President/CEO
Carlos Parra    Driver/Assistant
Diana Roach    Special Events Director
Patrick Robinson    Administrative Assistant
Linda Scribner    Senior Blind Services Coordinator
Kevin Showalter    Youth Services Coordinator
Garth Sponseller    DeafLink Director
Carmen Terrell    Youth Services Coordinator
Mark Williams    Volunteer Coordinator

IN-HOME CARE STAFF MEMBERS

Christin Abernathy
Nora Anzaldua
Veronica Arduermly
Valarie Barragan
Ashley Barrett
Lisa Bright
Janice Clingerman
Doris Colby
Vicki Garcia
Robin Govan
Miranda Greer
Jennifer Hunter
María James
Tiffany Jimenez
Lidia Lawrence
Dan’nae Lewis
Telly Lewis
Delores Mata
Dolores Medina
Heladia Montes
Tiara Moorman
Kabala Mvovashi
Elizabeth Mvovashi
Dora Rivera
Vonda Ruhr
Erin Sack
Lisa Thomas
Brittanie Townes
Endelia Vargus
Martha Villarreal
Morrison Warwick
LEAGUE FOR THE BLIND & DISABLED BOARD MEMBERS

Back row L to R: Frank Moore, Eric Ellet, Jeff Sprinkle, Mike McKay, Nathan Strange, John Guingrich
Middle row L to R: Natalie Eggeman, Frances Ganaway, Susana Worth, Lisa Poole
Front row L to R: Randy Collins, David Strater

2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Frances Ganaway, Chair
Susana Worth, Vice Chair
Frank Moore, Secretary
Jeff Sprinkle, Treasurer
Mike McKay, AIA, Immediate Past Chair

Randy Collins
Natalie Eggeman
Eric Ellet
John Guingrich
Karl LaPan
Thomas S. Locke, Esq.
Frank N. Moore
Lisa Poole
Nathan Strange
David Strater
Serving people with disabilities in the following counties in Northeast Indiana:

Adams
Allen
DeKalb
Huntington
Jay
Kosciusko
LaGrange
Noble
Steuben
Wells
Whitley

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Fort Wayne, IN  46861
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