# **The Linda Gonzales Award for Outstanding Rural Youth**

The 15th Annual Linda Gonzales Award for Outstanding Rural Youth will be presented to an outstanding rural youth during the 28th Annual APRIL Conference on Friday, October 14th, 2022 in Orlando, Florida.

# Who is Linda Gonzales?

Linda began her career in Independent Living working at New Vistas CIL in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Later, through her work as a consultant, she began her life with APRIL. Linda built bridges throughout the IL Community. She has worked closely with ILRU, University of Montana and University of Kansas, just to name a few. Linda grew the APRIL Organization to the successful entity we all benefit from today. For more than 20 years, Linda was the matriarch of a diverse family of members that span this entire country. When Linda approached Kent State University to implement an intern program at the APRIL office – the APRIL Youth Movement was born.

# APRIL Currently

Today, APRIL has adopted 2 youth board positions into the organizational By-Laws; formed the APRIL Youth Steering Committee; recently hired a Youth Coordinator and holds APRIL Youth Pre-Conferences and Youth oriented tracts at the Annual Conferences; APRIL was a recipient of Christopher Reeves Foundation grant to bring youth to the APRIL Conference in 2006. APRIL will continue to recruit, mentor, promote and enable youth to become the future advocates and leaders of the Independent Living Movement.

It is a great honor to give this award to recognize and celebrate Linda’s many contributions to the youth movement and Independent Living.

# This Year’s Winner

This year's winner will receive $1000 **\*\**towards registration and room nights with balance remaining paid by check\*\**** along with a beautifully engraved award. Here is your chance to nominate one of your outstanding youth and recognize their contribution to rural independent living and the youth movement within IL. Please complete the attached nomination form by **August 19, 2022** and return it, via email, fax or mail to:

APRIL

11324 Arcade Dr., Suite 9 Little Rock, AR 72212

501-753-3406 fax OR eellis@april-rural.org

# **The Linda Gonzales Award for Outstanding Rural Youth**

# **Nomination Form**

Name of Nominee:

CIL or SILC Name (if applicable):

Address:

City:       State:       Zip:

Telephone:       Fax:

Email:

Reason for Nomination (Use additional pages as needed):

Name of Nominator:

Center/Organization:

Telephone:       Fax:

**Nomination forms must be postmarked or received by August 19, 2022.**

# **Guiding Principles:**

Please consider the following Guiding Principles as you make your nomination and explain your reasons for nominating this particular person/organization.

* CIL / SILC is a Member of APRIL
* Directly assisted youth with disabilities living in Rural America
* Exhibited a steadfast commitment to the improvement and growth of the Independent Living mission and philosophy;
* Demonstrated the ability to bridge gaps and/or build strong partnerships among those concerned with improving / strengthening the Independent Living and Youth movement;
* Demonstrated the commitment to improve access to Independent Living by all people eligible;
* Demonstrated a commitment to broaden their own knowledge base and improve their ability to contribute to the cause;
* Demonstrated a commitment to implement new and innovative ideas and/or projects in the Independent Living world; and
* Promotes pride and action in the rural disability community.