

Dear APRIL Members/Community Partners/Supporters/Friends:

The Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) will be hosting the 21st Annual National Conference on Rural Independent Living on October 16th through the 19th, in Virginia Beach, Virginia. To precede its annual conference, APRIL is hosting an annual youth conference on October 16th and 17th. This year’s theme for the youth conference is “Saved by the ADA.” The youth conference will focus on how to make change step by step. Participants will discuss the process of influencing change in their individual communities. They will also learn how to create change assertively for themselves and discover new allies to help them along their way. The conference will provide multiple opportunities to learn from seasoned advocates who have successfully made change step-by-step for our nation.

We are asking your help in sponsoring our youth conference. APRIL is one of the few national level organizations that promotes active involvement of youth with disabilities and dedicates an entire pre-conference track to youth during their annual conference. Each year, a diverse group of youth who are involved in the Independent Living/Disability Rights Movement from across the nation gather and share knowledge, experiences, and build community. Depending upon the chosen theme, a variety of topics are discussed, including disability pride and culture, Independent Living/Disability Rights History and Philosophy, leadership development and advocacy, and current issues affecting youth with disabilities in rural areas.

We are very proud that our pre-conference is 100% youth-run. Our Youth Steering Committee decides everything whether it is the conference agenda, the guest speakers, the workshop topics, or group activities and social events. Success occurs when dedicated youth work together to bring new youth into the Independent Living Movement, it is peer support at its finest.

Many interested youth conference attendees face a challenge when considering coming to the conference due to budgetary constraints, not every youth has a CIL to support them. We need your support to continue our efforts to reach out and get rural youth with disabilities involved. Your contribution will help many rural youth with disabilities attend this year’s youth conference, as well as the APRIL main conference. They will have the opportunity to become a part of a larger community, culture, and gain role models and support to help them open doors. Since our first APRIL youth conference in Minneapolis in 2004, our youth attendance numbers have multiplied to about nine times that first trial run, and the youth steering committee has turned over leadership as youth leaders move into other leadership roles in the disability community. Please help us to share these experiences and opportunities with more youth.

Consider sponsoring a youth to attend the conference, providing a general youth sponsorship, or making a financial contribution towards youth conference expenses, t-shirts, etc. Any amount that you can donate is helpful to the success of our youth conference, as well as an opportunity for you to get your name in our program as a sponsor and a chance to offer a youth roots in the disability community to grow as the leaders we need for tomorrow. If you would like to support the youth conference this year, please fill out the attached form and send it in with your contribution by August 15, 2015. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, and we look forward to your support.

Sincerely,

APRIL Youth Steering Committee:

Chair - Matt Berwick - Three Rivers Center for Independent Living, Pittsburgh, PA

Co-chair - Sukhwa Glick - disABILITY LINK: The Center for Rights & Resources, Tucker, GA

Secretary – Nellie Placencia- Alliance of Disability Advocates, Raleigh, NC

YOUTH CONFERENCE SUPPORTER FORM

At the 21st Annual National Conference on Rural Independent Living

October 16th-19th, 2015 Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront Virginia Beach, Virginia

\* Sponsorship puts your individual or organization’s name in the conference program.

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*Option 1:*

Yes, I want to donate a youth scholarship:

\_\_\_ $3,000

\_\_\_ $1,500

\_\_\_ $1,000

\_\_\_ $500

\_\_\_ $300

\_\_\_ $100  
  
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*Option 2:*

Yes, I want to be a food/break sponsor for the youth conference:

\_\_ Break Co-sponsor $150

\_\_ Break Sponsor $300

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*Option 3:*

Yes, I want to be a t-shirt sponsor for the youth conference:

\_\_ T-shirts Co-Sponsor $150

\_\_ T-shirts Sponsor $300

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 *Option 4:*

Yes, I want to make a general donation to the youth conference in the amount of:

$ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
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*Payment option 1:*

Enclosed is a check for $ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ payable to APRIL.

RETURN PAYMENT TO: APRIL

11324 Arcade Dr., Ste. 9

Little Rock, AR 72212

Elissa Ellis, Director of Operations

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*Payment Option 2:*

Please bill using purchase order number (attach purpose order): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Billing information:

Name/Title \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Fax/E-mail \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*If your main address is different from a billing address, please write down in the space below.

Name/Title \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Fax/E-mail \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living is a Non-profit, Tax-Exempt Organization under Section 501(c)(3) of The Internal Revenue Code and all contributions are tax-deductible.

For more questions, please contact Elissa Ellis, Director of Operations and Conference Coordinator, at april-elissa@sbcglobal.net, 501-753-3400 (phone), or 501-753-3406 (Fax)