

Silicon Valley Independent Living Center
A disability justice organization that creates fully inclusive communities



Photos by Tom Olin

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**SVILC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SARAH TRIANO, TO BE KEYNOTE SPEAKER & PERFORMER
AT ASSOCIATION OF PROGRAMS FOR RURAL INDEPENDENT LIVING CONFERENCE**

National Conference Addresses Issues of Disability Community, Independent Living, and Advocacy

SAN JOSE — Sarah Triano, SVILC Executive Director, is honored to be giving a keynote presentation at The National Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) 2011 Youth Pre-Conference, as well as a krip-hop performance at the main Conference. The APRIL Conference, in its 17th year, is being held Oct. 15-17 in Anchorage, Alaska with over 300 representatives from centers located throughout the nation and world. It provides an opportunity to discuss issues impacting rural centers for independent living and the disability community as a whole. This year's theme is "It Takes a Seat at the Table to Make a Stand (how to avoid being devoured by the political process)."

Triano has been asked to speak about her personal experience with disability, and about her experience conducting disability advocacy and activism on a local, state, and national level. Triano will also be giving three krip-hop performances that have, in recent years, earned her the stage name of R.E.D for Rapping ED.

Of particular focus for APRIL is fostering a strong youth leadership advocacy network. As their website states, "APRIL continues an ambitious and beneficial collaboration with rural youth with disabilities, recognizing that the young people of our country are our true leaders." Triano is enthusiastic to share the accomplishments of SVILC's youth leaders, particularly those who worked with CFILC's Yo! Disabled and Proud program to get the second week in October designated as Disability History Week in California.

SVILC has also published its Leadership Curriculum for Youth with Disabilities for use by ILCs, schoolteachers and community leaders. Eight local teachers are using the lessons in their classes this week, and their experiences will be shared in a Disability History Week Celebration at SVILC on Wed. Oct. 26, 2011. For more information go to www.svilc.org.

APRIL is a national grassroots, consumer controlled, nonprofit membership organization consisting of centers for independent living, their satellites and branch offices, statewide independent living councils, other organizations and individuals concerned with the independent living issues of people with disabilities living in rural America.

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