



Caring & Sharing Center For Independent Living, Inc. (CASCIL)

**Empowering People with Disabilities
Serving Pinellas and Pasco Counties**

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OUR CORE SERVICES

Information and referral -- CASCIL maintains comprehensive information on availability in the community of existing housing; transportation; employment opportunities; rosters of persons available to serve as personal care attendants, interpreters for hearing impaired people; etc.

Independent living skills training -- CASCIL provides training courses to help people with disabilities gain skills that enable them to live more independently. Courses may include using various public transportation systems; managing a personal budget; dealing with insensitive and discriminatory behavior by members of the general public; grant writing for individuals; and other subjects.

Peer mentoring -- CASCIL offers a service in which a person with a disability can work with other people who have disabilities and who are living independently in the community. The objective is to explore options and to solve problems that sometimes occur for people with disabilities. For example, making adjustments to a newly acquired disability, experiencing changes in living arrangements, or learning to use community services more effectively.



Advocacy --CASCIL provides two types of advocacy: (1) consumer advocacy, which involves center staff working with persons with disabilities to obtain needed support services from other agencies in the community, and, (2) systems advocacy, which involves center staff, board members, and volunteers initiating activities to make changes in the community that can make it easier for all persons with disabilities to live more independently with greater self-determination.



*Caring & Sharing
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Work with Me!



What is WORK With Me?

Work With Me is a grant funded project to assist people with disabilities to find and maintain employment and increase their independence. **This is a free program for people with disabilities who want to work – either part-time or full-time.** You'll be assisted to find and maintain an appropriate job using your skills, interests and abilities.

Pre-employment services

Through collaboration with a certified rehabilitation counselor, consumers identify a job that is a “good fit”. This includes an assessment of your achievements, aptitudes, skills, interests, work-related behaviors, work history, transferable skills, labor market information and information related to your disabling condition provided through medical records and personal interviews.

With assistance, research appropriate jobs and find out if you have the skills needed.

- Learn how to find “the hidden market”.
- Learn interviewing tips and techniques.
- Learn the common pitfalls to avoid when creating a resume.
- Learn if, how, and/or when to disclose you have a disability.
- Discover community resources to assist you.
- Use the computer lab to refresh your computer skills.

Employment services

Assistance finding a job after identifying your targeted employment goal.

On-going communication with employers to ensure accommodations if needed.

Short-term job coaching if needed.

Your Commitment

In order to be accepted into the program you must agree to the following:

Attend employability skills training and job club for a period of 30-90 days prior to being placed in a job.

Spend at least 15 hours per week in job search activities.

Periodic contact after job placement to update records for a period of two years.

Grant information

Caring & Sharing, along with four other Florida Centers for Independent Living (CILs), successfully acquired a Projects With Industry (PWI) U.S. Department of Education grant. The Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living (FACIL) was the catalyst and chief grant writer.

The purpose of the grant is to place persons with disabilities into competitive employment. It is a collaborative effort that engages persons with disabilities, small, medium, and large private sector businesses, Workforce Development, the Division of Vocation Rehabilitation, legislators, organized labor and other interested parties. This Project will increase the employment of persons with disabilities through education and training for employers and people with disabilities; and through advocacy and relationship building that result in lasting change in the perception of what persons with disabilities can accomplish.

Home Modifications

CASCIL's modifications program helps people with disabilities address their home accessibility needs. Through partnerships with local government housing agencies, housing-focused nonprofits, volunteer, and other groups, CASCIL provides information on available programs, and in many cases assists consumers to navigate the application process. CASCIL also provides limited direct assistance for those with no other options—providing bathroom grab bar installation, for instance, or assisting mobile home residents with access modifications (mobile homes do not qualify for most government programs).



CASCIL is also an official partner of Pinellas County Community Development and administers its Independent Living Program. This grant is available to residents of many areas of the county, to help pay for ramps, bathroom and other modifications and special equipment for homeowners and renters meeting certain income and home value qualifications. View program criteria at www.pinellascounty.org

Specialized equipment for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing is available free of charge per the same county fund that pays for home modifications. Visual alarm systems, light emitting door knockers, vibrating alarms have been accessed by CASCIL consumers.

CASCIL—Wrightway Equipment Services Program

April 1, 2009 CASCIL will team with WrightWay Consulting, Inc. to improve our Equipment Services. Timely and safe are the guiding words of this service that looks at the needs of the consumer, the resources available and how quickly the necessary equipment can be provided.

CASCIL offers equipment on loan to its consumers. Inventory and demand will dictate what is available at any given time. Examples of such mobility/adaptive aids include wheelchairs, canes, walkers, etc.



Inventory depends on what people or organizations donate to CASCIL. More sophisticated equipment such as scooters, electric wheelchairs, scooter lifts/wheel chairs lifts are given to consumers who are on our durable equipment need list. Consumers on this list also benefit from the same CASCIL funds that pay for home modifications.

In the House



All the answers, connections, expertise, and access you need is 'In The House' at CASCIL. We have opened our doors to welcome local, state, and national entities who can help our mission, "Empowering People with Disabilities."

To better connect consumers to the services and resources necessary to accomplish their goals related to independent living, CASCIL is hosting representatives from agencies like the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Division of Blind Services, Medicaid and

others on a regular schedule.

Relationships are vital to CASCIL consumers and employee team members so invitations have been extended to a growing list of resource partners. We have encouraged them to be accessible to consumers and to CASCIL's employee team to hear concerns, provide valuable information and handle applications, face to face. These invitations have also been presented to other nonprofit organizations and consumer groups to give consumers direct access to all the community resources and their peers as possible.

Ask your CASCIL Independent Living Facilitator about an appointment with the resource you need.

Toy Lending Library



The FAAST Central Regional Center located at Tampa General Rehabilitation Center in Tampa, has added Caring & Sharing Center for Independent Living (CASCIL) as a Satellite Center for their Adapted Toy Lending Library.

This program allows children with disabilities an opportunity to experience inclusive play activities and gain exposure to Assistive Technology in a fun new way.

It also allows parents and non-profit agencies the chance to "try out" these toys, to find out which ones best suit a child's interests and needs. It can provide parents and professionals

the chance to see how a child reacts to the toys and, if appropriate, make a more informed purchase decision if they decide to buy.

How it Works

A one-year membership fee will enable a family or non-profit agency the opportunity to use the Adapted Toy Lending Library on an unlimited basis for a full year. Toys, and switches that operate toys, can be borrowed on a 30 day trial basis. Two toys, plus any needed switches, can be borrowed on a 30 day trial basis. One month renewal is possible if there is no one waiting for the equipment.

The fee for families is \$15; the fee for non-profit agencies is \$40. These fees will be used to help maintain and expand the program.

The Accessibility Department

Are you being treated differently than an individual WITHOUT a disability? Are you a business needing to know what to do to become ADA compliant? Call our Accessibility Coordinator, Angel Watson at extension 229! Her extensive knowledge of civil rights laws will get you the help you need.

Offering:

- Surveys (fee for service) Detailed and accurate
- Classes (fee for service) Codes to Etiquette
- Technical assistance on the ADA (donations accepted)
- Florida Statutes-human rights, civil rights, anything specific to Florida
- Fair Housing Act-Equal access in housing-from applications to living
- American's with Disabilities Act-Title I=Employment, Title II=Government Services/ Transportation, Title III=Privately owned facilities, Title IV=Telecommunications, Title V=General Provisions
- Florida Building Code-ramps to hotel rooms
- Transportation-eligibility to parking spaces
- Civil Rights-Equal access regardless of race, color, creed, disability, age
- Recreational facilities-boat docks, parks, cruise lines, playgrounds, golf courses etc.
- Employment-Employees and Employers
- Section 508-Electronic & Information Technology Accessibility for the federal government
- Section 504-Law protecting against discrimination in federally funded facilities
- UFAS-Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards=Accessibility standards law predating ADA
- Air Carriers Act-equal access when flying
- Information on Tax credits and Tax deductions for removal of architectural barriers!

HURRICANE WARNING:

Pinellas County: Anyone who wants to receive transportation when it is time to evacuate because of a hurricane or other emergency needs to register for the Pinellas county evacuation assistance program. (even if you receive td service)

There are several different ways to register:
www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/Local.htm and clicking on the Special Needs Form link, then fill out the form and send it to 400 S. Fort Harrison Ave. Room #111 Clearwater, FL 33765
Call Pinellas County Emergency Management at (727) 464-3800

Pasco County: Call Pasco Emergency Operation Center, Emergency Manager at (727) 847-8137, SNAP Program
Call or go to the Administration Office of any Main Fire Department and ask about registering in the Evacuation Assistance Program.



Paths to Advocacy

CASCIL places a great deal of emphasis on advocacy. First is the Team members supporting the individual advocacy of our consumers. Each team member provides training materials, and models advocacy skills and strategies to consumers. Examples include: how to get certified as a Paratransit rider, protect oneself from an unjust landlord, or work through the complexities of the Medicaid/Medicare or Social Security programs.

Trends identified become CASCIL's systems advocacy targets. These seek changes in policy and law which are discriminatory to people with disabilities. Examples include regulations that force persons with disabilities to live in nursing homes, accessible voting, transportation, education, healthcare, and many other areas have been positively affected by CASCIL's advocacy work. Work that has gained CASCIL a positive reputation as a change agent the local, state and national levels and for its artful facilitation of compromise

and accomplishment of its advocacy goals. Consumers having individual advocacy issues can talk to any team member about getting support for their efforts. CASCIL's systemic advocacy efforts are led by Public Liaison Doug Towne and can be contacted at ext 341 to discuss potential systemic advocacy issues.



Independent Living Skills Workshops



- Budget/Financial Management
- Grant Writing for Individuals
- Self-Advocacy
- ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)

Please contact our office for further information and registration

Our Mission, Vision & Values

Mission Statement

“Empowering People with Disabilities” is CASCIL’s mission. It is a mission that includes advocacy, information, mentoring, training, transition and beyond to truly empower.

Respect, choice and change are at the center of empowerment. Every individual is encouraged to embrace empowerment and understand that it may mean a new way of looking at things and making them happen.

Fiscal, operational, advocacy and human resource policies reflect support for empowerment as agents of choice and change. All policies must advance the mission, eliminate barriers and foster inclusion.

Vision Statement

CASCIL’s vision is vibrant, global, sophisticated and far reaching for itself and the community. CASCIL embodies superior fiscal, technological, human, and systemic resources that provide flexibility and innovative solutions in a challenging world.

As a center for independent living, CASCIL has a vision of people with disabilities caring and sharing with and for themselves, each other, and the community at large. CASCIL is today’s catalyst for tomorrow’s accessible community.

Values and Beliefs Statement

Respect, Choice & Change are the values of CASCIL as an organization.

Respect for the choices and changes that consumer’s desire must be supported with guidance, reality and resources. Respect by all for the organization must be at the core of discourse and decision.

Choice, is at the center of CASCIL. It inspires the vision, mission and values while empowering all those involved.

Change is an imperative for independent living. It guides and fuels our growth, commitment, and service to the community.

The core value of CASCIL is independent living which means living, working and playing as you choose.

CASCIL is sponsored in part by the Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the U.S. Dept. of Education Rehabilitation Services Administration, Pinellas Community Foundation, Publix Supermarkets Foundation, Pinellas County Human Services, Pinellas County Community Development, City of St. Petersburg, Christopher Reeve Foundation, Volunteer Florida, Baylor University, Walmart and private contributors. Donations by cash, check or credit card to Caring & Sharing are welcome and tax deductible.



Contact Us at

727-539-7550

Then Dial the Following Extensions...

Angela Bennett	Office Manager	238
Jesse Broeker	Information Facilitator	221
David Bush	Warehouse Manager	
Michael Cook	Executive Director	222
John D'Aiello	Clerk	
Joe DiDomenico	Director of Independent Living Services	223
Kim Furrow	Director of Employment Services	234
Mark Haney	Housing Facilitator	227
Kathy Lentz	Quality Assignment Monitor	228
Amanda Sklar	Independent Living Facilitator	230
Mary Twohey	Program Director	223
Angel Watson	Accessibility Coordinator	229

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**We're on the web!!
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