



# THE MARIN INDEPENDENT

## “The State of the People”



Sacramento, CA (1-14-09) - As Governor Schwarzenegger prepared to report on the State of the State, California's families declared that "the State of the People" is increasingly grim with a record number of Californians having lost their jobs and health care and their homes. California educators, students, health care workers, seniors and people with disabilities said more state budget cuts are exactly the wrong prescription after they've suffered the consequences of more than \$16 billion in state budget cuts to critical services over the last 3 years.

"California families are here to report what you won't hear from the Governor tomorrow: budget cuts over the last three years have deeply wounded our families' health and well-being, diminished our children's opportunity for the future, and damaged our economy." said Evan LeVang, Director, Independent Living Resource Center of Northern California.

Californians who have personally been affected by budget cuts detailed the severe consequences that the cuts, including \$10 billion in cuts already this year,

have had on California families who have already been hit hard by the nation's economic meltdown.

"Californians with disabilities have been saying for years, that cuts to Medi-Cal and SSI/SSP threaten the quality of our lives. After years of suffering through these cuts, the Governor's proposed decimation of In-Home Supportive Services now threatens to endanger our lives. That is why we are challenging every legislator and the Governor to spend some time with their constituents who rely on homecare services.

The theme is: Take Our Dare: Show You Care! Following this news conference, we will be delivering letters to the Governor and every legislator inviting them to take part in this program," said Herb Meyer, a disabled senior from Marin County who relies on In-Home Supportive Services to live his life independently and in his own home.

Jeannette Sansenbach, a third-grade teacher in the Folsom-Cordova Unified School District said, "Due to budget cuts, the size of my class increased from 20 to 32 students this year.

State of the People (cont.)

It's nearly impossible to give the students the attention they deserve, and need to succeed. The increased class sizes not only affect my ability to help the students in crucial subjects like writing and math, but, as a result, I've also had to eliminate the art program my students loved. We just don't have the time or the space anymore. I can't imagine what another round of budget cuts will do to my students."



Marin CIL Board President and IHSS Coalition Member, Herb Meyer.

"Although the state's economy has made my desire to graduate from a CSU so difficult, I know that students just starting out have it even worse," said Whitney Thompson a student at Fresno State University.

"For the first time in

its history, the CSU is turning away tens of thousands of students who are eligible to go to college but who are being denied access because of budget cuts. The CSU has said it simply can't afford to enroll all of the state's qualified students. I'm afraid that many of my friends who have completed their community college work will never be able to attend a CSU."

At the January 14th news conference, speakers said that in the midst of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, more budget cuts are absolutely the worst thing the State could do; more cuts mean higher unemployment, a deeper, longer recession, and fewer safety net services for families who are struggling to survive.

Budget cuts totaling \$16 billion over the last three years have already had severe consequences for the people of California. And the Governor's proposed 09-10 budget would further harm California families and our economy with an additional \$17 billion in cuts to schools, health care, home care, and state services.

The group assembled for "State of the People" said the only way to protect California families and cushion our fragile economy from the consequences of further budget cuts is to adopt new, permanent revenues that fund essential services without further burdening low-and middle income families.

For Immediate Release: Article Contributor- Mike Roth January 14, 2009



Francis Gracechild, Director of Resources for Independent Living, Sacramento.

**\*Budget Update\***

- Over 100 legislators were visited during the event. Five legislators committed to taking the IHSS Challenge on the spot! Including Assembly Member Jared Huffman.
- To date state legislators and the governor have not agreed on a budget. It is critical that stakeholders affected by proposed cuts contact their legislators as soon as possible.

- According to the State Controller's Office website, the state will delay payments for 30 days for following programs.

-SSI/SSP to Aged, Blind and Disabled- \$188 million.

-Regional Developmental Centers that provide services for people with Developmental disabilities- \$280 million.

-CalWorks (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families for Basic Needs, Includes Specific Welfare-to-Work Requirements, Provides Supportive Services such as Childcare)- \$114 million

**Action Alert**

Interested in voicing concerns on proposed cuts to state services for people with disabilities? Sign up for CFILC's Action Alerts:

[www.cfilc.org](http://www.cfilc.org) and click on "Take Action" and/or

Contact the following Legislative Leaders:

Senate President, Darrell Steinberg (D) (916) 651-4006

Majority Leader, Senator Dean Florez (D) (916) 651-4016

Minority Leader, Senator Dave Cogdill (R) (916) 651-4014

House Speaker, Karen Bass (D) (916) 319-2047

Minority Floor Leader, Michael Villines (R) (916) 319-2029

Senator Mark Leno (D) (916) 651-4003

Assemblymember Jared Huffman (D) (916) 319-2006

For more information please contact Rocky.

**"Either You're In or You're in the Way"**

Noah and Logan Miller are local Marin twins who have overcome tremendous personal obstacles in their lives to achieve their goals. Pre-orders of their first book can be purchased by visiting [www.inorintheway.com](http://www.inorintheway.com). Join the Twins and the entire Marin Community in celebrating their inspirational story at AT&T Park! Check out their website for more details!

# The Advocate



## Reasonable Accommodations – Service Animals

Because of the numerous calls we receive each year regarding ADA and service animals, we are offering this guide to try and answer your questions. Tenants frequently are fearful of losing their homes because the landlord may find out that there is a service dog living with them when the tenant signed a lease with a “no pets” clause in it.

According to Fair Housing Laws and the Americans with Disabilities Act it is a reasonable accommodation for a tenant to have a service animal living with them. A service animal is not considered to be a pet. A landlord may not charge more for the privilege of having a service animal or to have a larger deposit than paid by any other tenant.

Businesses and organizations that serve the public must allow people with disabilities to bring service animals into all facilities where customers are normally allowed to go. The federal law applies to all business open to the public including restaurants, hotels, taxis, grocery and department stores, hospitals and other medical offices, theaters, health clubs, parks and zoos.

### \*Youth Outreach Update\*

The Disability Youth Advisory Committee (DYAC) will be developing a countywide strategy to reach out to youth in our local High Schools and Colleges. The 1<sup>st</sup> DYAC meeting will be hosted by MCIL and facilitated by Eddie Rea, Statewide Youth Organizer at the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers. Eddie is an emerging young leader who is also an alumnus of the Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities. The meeting will be held on February 6<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5pm, at the Marin Center for Independent Living. Please RSVP if you are interested in participating in future committee meetings.

Interested in going to the 2009 Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities? Applications are online until Feb 27th!

Visit: [www.youthleadership.kintera.org](http://www.youthleadership.kintera.org).

California Foundation for Independent Living has launched Youth Organizing (YO) Disabled and Proud. Check out this exciting new statewide youth project: [www.yodisabledproud.org](http://www.yodisabledproud.org)

For information on advocacy contact Phil at ext. 19 or Rocky at ext. 13.

## Kathleen's Corner



I am absolutely thrilled to announce that the Marin Center for Independent Living has established an *Auxiliary Board*. This Volunteer Board was given life through the wonderful folks who attended our First Annual Fundraiser, Angels by the Bay, last October. The *Auxiliary Board* is currently made up of dynamic and dedicated individuals who look forward to representing MCIL's mission through active and innovative community engagement.

Please join me in warmly welcoming the following individuals to *MCIL's Auxiliary Board*:

Alexis Franczak	Dina Balatti, Bella Celebrations
Judy Georgiou	Janet Bosnich, HR Consulting Services
Meg Matan	Lauren Hull, Soiree Events & Creative Design
Elizabeth Matan Parks	Linda Lippstreu, Union Bank
Judy Miller	Lidia Pringle, Journalist
Lisa Pennington, Estate Sale Consultant	Isobel Wiener, Sotheby's Int. Realty
Elizabeth Stanners	

### Yoga for Charity

Saturday, March 14 at Noon – A Special Baptiste Inspired Charity Yoga Class will be held at Gold's Gym, Corte Madera. Please join us for this 90 minute class taught by renowned Yoga Master, Sherri Baptiste with Tim Lenheim. A recommended \$20 minimum donation will be collected at the door with all proceeds to benefit MCIL programs. The class will be limited to the first 36 students so come early.

During this special session, you'll experience Sherri Baptiste's classic breath based flow with Tim Lenheim as they give postural adjustments to the participants. In this guided class you'll practice traditional time-tested Hatha Yoga postures held in accurate alignment, giving full range of motion of muscles, bones and joints, as well as learning to develop and control a deeper breathing pattern.

Class will be energetic and active yet suited to all levels of personal fitness. You will learn to work within whatever level of proficiency you bring. Seniors and Care Givers are a group that will especially benefit from Sherri's Yoga teachings.

About Sherri: Sherri is the author of *Yoga with Weights for Dummies*, daughter of the American Yoga and physical culture pioneers Walt and Magana Baptiste, she has been associated with yoga since she took her first babysteps or assumed her first lotus position, whichever came first. Sherri's way of teaching is accessible to everyone. Sherri offers depth, renewal, results and inspiration. Visit her at: [www.powerofyoga.com](http://www.powerofyoga.com)

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Nonprofit Organization  
US Paid Permit No. 416  
San Rafael, CA

*Save the Date for MCIL's 30th Anniversary Gala, Angels by the Bay on Friday Oct 16th, 2009 at the Corinthian Yacht Club*

**Marin Center for Independent Living**

**Offers the following services:**

- ◆ Assistive Technology
- ◆ Benefits Counseling (SSI, SSDI, etc.)
- ◆ Breast Cancer Benefits Counseling
- ◆ Housing Assistance
- ◆ Home Modifications
- ◆ Independent Living Skills Training
- ◆ Individual Advocacy
- ◆ Information and Referral
- ◆ Medical Equipment
- ◆ Nursing Home Transition Assistance
- ◆ Peer Support Groups
- ◆ Personal Assistant Registry
- ◆ Systems Advocacy/Community Organizing

**PEER SUPPORT GROUP**

**FRIDAYS 2:00-3:30 PM**

**TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY GROUP**

**TUESDAYS 5:30-7:00 PM**

**We would like to thank the following funders and donors for their ongoing support:**

Andrea Fox Fund	Marin Community Foundation
Division of Aging	Pacific ADA Center
Five Bridges Foundation	Safeway Foundation
George H. Sandy Foundation	Susan G. Komen Foundation
Headlands Foundation	To Celebrate Life Breast Cancer Fnd
Irene S. Scully Family Foundation	Union Bank of California
Kaiser Permanente	van Loben Sels/Rembe Rock Fnd

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