
NEWS

CONTACT: ELIZABETH WILKINSON
(602) 957-8881

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 27, 2009

DARREL CHRISTENSON JOINS HOUSING SUB-COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL COUNCIL ON INDEPENDENT LIVING

Arizona Bridge to Independent Living (ABIL), Arizona's largest center for independent living serving people with disabilities, is pleased to announce that Darrel Christenson has been appointed to the housing sub-committee of the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL).

Within the housing sub-committee, Christenson will serve as part of the visitability work group, which focuses on legislation that will guarantee that all newly constructed, federally assisted, single family houses and town houses meet minimum standards of accessibility.

Christenson currently serves as director of community integration for ABIL, where he oversees programs such as independent living skills training, home modifications, information and referrals and independent living services to individuals with disabilities in Valley rehabilitation centers and nursing homes.

“Darrel is an incredible asset to our team here at ABIL,” said Phil Pangrazio, executive director of ABIL. “We know he has a lot to offer the NCIL and will use this national appointment to continue to do great things for persons with disabilities.”

Christenson earned bachelor's degrees in both psychology and sociology from Mankato State University in Minnesota. He also earned his master's degree in guidance and counseling from the University of Wisconsin – Stout.

A Minnesota native, Christenson currently resides in North Phoenix.

The National Council on Independent Living is the longest-running national cross-disability, grassroots organization run by and for people with disabilities. Founded in 1982, NCIL represents thousands of organizations and individuals including: Centers for Independent Living (CILs), Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILCs), individuals with disabilities, and other organizations that advocate for the human and civil rights of people with disabilities throughout the United States.

Arizona Bridge to Independent Living offers and promotes programs designed to empower people with disabilities to take personal responsibility so that they may achieve or continue independent lifestyles within the community. The independent living philosophy states that people with disabilities should have the same civil rights, options, and control over choices in their own lives as do people without disabilities. ABIL is located at 5025 E. Washington St. Ste. 200, Phoenix, AZ 85034, www.abil.org, 602-256-2245.