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*Happy Holidays from your friends at Tripil*

On Thursday, December 6, 2012, TRIPIL members shared in the holiday spirit at our annual membership party. Thanks to the efforts of Ron Foil and his family the event was hosted at The Candlelight Room in Washington. The day was filled with amazing food, games, giveaways, music, good friends, and holiday cheer.

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VISIT US AT [TRIPIL.COM](http://TRIPIL.COM)



## Fair Housing Act

TRIPIL is currently working with Southwest PA Legal Aid Services on Fair Housing Act initiatives. One of our primary efforts is the recruitment of individuals, particularly people with disabilities, who may be interested in becoming trained on the Fair Housing Act and pose as paid testers under a



concept upheld by the US Supreme Court to investigate possible discrimination in housing. This could mean posing as a potential consumer trying to find housing while looking for possible discriminatory practices.

Becoming a tester is a paid volunteer position that covers expenses and provides a small per diem. At the moment, testers are only being recruited in Washington County.

TRIPIL is also involved in a Protection and Enforcement Initiative (PEI). This involves Intake and Referral of possible situations of housing discrimination to the Legal Aid Society for possible legal action or HUD resolution.

Under this initiative, our newest focus is to review residential housing developments built in the last two years and determine if the construction complies with Fair Housing Act accessibility and adaptability.

In addition, TRIPIL also does educational presentations in Washington, Greene, Fayette, and Westmoreland counties about rights and remedies under the act.

If you are interested in becoming a tester, or are aware of possible violations covered by these initiatives, you can contact John Lorence, Civil Rights Specialist, at 724-223-5115 Ext. 109, or [jljr@tripil.com](mailto:jljr@tripil.com). We are looking to recruit and train TRIPIL consumers to be watch dogs for Fair Housing!

## Assistive Technology

Come to TRIPIL and see the newly updated display of AT at the Lending Library! Feel free to come and explore.

We have items that can be used for Computer Access, Augmentative Communication, Environmental Control, Education, Hard of Hearing, House/ Personal Items, Self Help, Telephones, and more.

You can choose the device you would like to try during a loan period to determine if the item will meet your needs at no cost to you!

Call Shannon at x171 to set up an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome as well to browse the Library.



## Free Computer Classes!



TRIPIL offers free computer classes. Classes **are for all skill levels. If you think you don't** know anything about computers, you might surprise yourself. Come join us! Classes are **held at TRIPIL's Washington office every** Wednesday from 10am-12pm.

If you have any questions or have a group of people who would be interested in taking classes and are unable to travel to TRIPIL, please contact Ed Pahula at 724.223.5115 Ext. 113

## The People have Spoken!

This past year was a year of change for consumers who receive consumer or what is sometimes called participant directed attendant care services. Some providers stopped offering services and new providers were not paying attendants for months at a time. On November 5, 2012, the state announced that 22,800 people who are receiving services were going to have to switch to a new out of state company, Public Partnerships, LLC for financial management services. On December 7, 2012, a judge shut down Christian Financial Management, an interim FMS provider.



Frustration, panic, and confusion do not even begin to describe what people are going through. Despite efforts from Public Partnerships to make the transition as easy as possible, people have had issues with consumers not receiving their information packets, incorrect employer and employee numbers, no timesheets, website timesheets not being submitted, no answers to questions from phone calls or email, and busy signals when faxing.

Public Partnerships made an effort to host conference calls to address issues, but did not take into account the number of people who needed **answers and was unable to answer people's questions. People were irate** and angry and demanded answers. Individuals who hosted the call either did not have the information or were unable to address it due to confidentiality.

**Situations like these endanger people's lives. We need to continue to call, fax and email. Please share your story! Silence is acceptance and Public Partnerships LLC. and the PA Office of Long Term Living need to hear from you. Let's share our stories. Martin Luther King changed a nation with a speech; we can change our lives and the lives of 22,800 people with our stories.**

## Speak to your Legislator

During 2013, TRIPIL will continue to visit with local legislators in Washington, Fayette, and Greene counties. Visiting legislators allows us to educate them on how changes in healthcare, attendant care, and other programs and laws that affect our independence.



### Representative Pam Snyder

January 28, 2013 9am  
County Office Building  
2nd floor Conference Room  
Waynesburg, PA 15370

For more information about representative Snyder visit [pahouse.com/Snyder](http://pahouse.com/Snyder)

### Hon. Deberah Kula

February 15, 2013  
10:00am-11:00am  
1251 University Drive  
Dunbar, PA 15431



For more information about Representative Kula visit:  
[pahouse.com/Kula](http://pahouse.com/Kula)

If you wish to attend a legislative visit or for more information, call 724-223-5115. If you live in the following districts, please join us.

## Membership Holiday Party!

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Upon entering the hall members were provided a ticket entering them into the door prize raffle. Every 15 minutes another number was drawn and thanks to the donors there were nearly enough gifts for everyone to leave with something in hand.



Also, there was the opportunity to enter into both the grab bag and the 50/50 drawing. While the gift giving was happening, the food was put out and what a fantastic spread it was. After everyone ate, the gift giving continued while music was played. Eventually though, the music began to wind down and the last gifts were given. The party began to disperse and we bid each other farewell and happy holidays.

TRIPIL would like to thank all of our consumers, members, sponsors, and volunteers. It is because of all of you that we are able to share in a special holiday tradition while continuing to advocate for independent living.

**Special Thanks for the donations from:** Splasher's, Red Robin, Texas Roadhouse, Nail Studio II, Garfield's, Arby's, Panera Bread, TGI Friday's, Carnegie Science Center, Phipps Conservatory, Carnegie Museum, Storybook Florist, Moe's, Red Lobster, Outback Steakhouse, Crispy Cream, Game day Gear, Washington Square Flower Shop, Special Occasions, Matt Berwick, Tom Matthews, Red Carpet Mini Golf, Bob Loar, Sr., Popcorn Willy's, Hallmark, Victoria's Secret, Bon Ton, Ponderosa, Pet Smart, Bath and Body Works.

FOR ADDITIONAL PHOTOS FROM THE HOLIDAY PARTY VISIT:  
[Facebook.com/TriCountyPatriotsforIndependentLiving](https://www.facebook.com/TriCountyPatriotsforIndependentLiving)



## Accessible Dreams Wins Award!

Our Grace Avenue home in Canonsburg won a Pennsylvania State award at the 2012 Homes Within Reach Conference from the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania. It was presented to the Washington County Board of Commissioners and the

Redevelopment Authority of the County of Washington on December 4, 2012 in Harrisburg, PA. Collectively, we were recognized for changing communities and lives "By supporting affordable, accessible housing development in their community." This resulted in a new accessible home for a family in Washington County that was developed by Accessible Dreams. Over 1,000 attendees heard about how wonderful an example it was for the County to team with an organization like Accessible Dreams. Executive Director, William McGowen, said, "Recognizing the need for accessible housing was not enough, we needed a partner to make it happen. Our success was due to the partnership."

## TRIPIL Announces a New Board of Directors

On November 28, 2012, TRIPIL announced a new board of directors. We want to welcome them and we sincerely look forward to the work that they are going to do for all of us. The new board consists of:

**Florence M. Moffit (Chairperson), Lois Godlewski (Vice Chairperson), Tom Matthews (Treasurer), Karen Jurczak (Secretary), Jeffrey N. Lauderbaugh, Dolores J. Clark, Bob Milan, Michael Poye, Darlene Wolford, Mohi H. AIDin, Mary E. Patrick, Jim Lee, Kate Blaker, Kim Gibson.**

# TRIPIL Wellness

## New Years Resolutions

As the new year begins, many people **make a New Year's resolution**. One of the most popular resolutions is to get fit or lose weight. Here at TRIPIL, the Wellness Program wants to help you reach your goals. We offer personal training sessions with an ACSM certified personal trainer.



You can also consult with your trainer for tips and advice that might help you reach your goals.

## Secondary Conditions?



Are you dealing with any **SECONDARY CONDITIONS**? This includes symptoms like depression, hypertension, pain, pressure sores, weight gain, fatigue, deconditioning, social isolation or spasticity and contractures. Here at TRIPIL's Wellness Program we want to help. We know that many of these secondary conditions can be prevented,

managed or maintained and we would like to assist you in managing these conditions.

## Wellness Schedule

- ◇ Wellness Mondays: 1 - 3pm
- ◇ Reach for the Sky Cardio/Light Exercise: Tuesday/Thursday 4 - 4:30pm
- ◇ Wellness Wednesdays: 1 - 3pm
- ◇ Relaxation Stress Reduction: Fridays 4 - 4:30pm

For more information contact Ray Pittman at [Rayp@Tripil.com](mailto:Rayp@Tripil.com) or 724.223.5115

## The Results are In!

On Tuesday, November 6, 2012, TRIPIL randomly selected and surveyed 46 polling place sites in Washington, Fayette and Greene Counties. Surveys were done with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Survey of Polling Place Accessibility for the Elderly and Persons with a Disability Survey. Polling place sites are put in one of four groups: 1) Accessibility, 2) Accessible requires using an alternate route, 3) Accessible with Modifications, and 4) Inaccessible.

The results are in! Nineteen were accessible, five were accessible with an alternate route, eighteen were accessible with modifications, and 4 were inaccessible.

We need to hear from you. Did you vote? Do you have issues with **needing or getting a photo ID? Do you need assistance to see if you're registered to vote or just get overwhelmed with voting rules?** Voting is your right! Please share your story. If you have questions or for information on voting or questions about your photo ID visit <http://www.tripil.com/main/community/advocacy/votekit>



TRIPIL plans to continue to survey polling place sites during the year. If you are interested in surveying a polling place site or have a site that has questionable accessibility to people with disabilities, or for additional information/questions, please call 724-223-5115.



## New Staff Member: Mindy Woodyard

My name is Mindy Woodyard and I am the newest member of the TRIPIL team. I started on December 3, 2012 as the new NHT IL Specialist for Washington County. Not only am I new to TRIPIL, **I'm also new to PA. I moved here in May and** currently live in Eighty Four with my boyfriend and

2 dogs. I am originally from Southeast Ohio but moved to St. Clairsville, Ohio right out of college to work as a Case Manager for Southeast Inc. Once I moved to PA I changed jobs and began working for Behavioral Dynamics as a TSS and I still work there part-time. I am excited to be working for TRIPIL and feel very comfortable here. All my co-workers are very nice and have made me feel welcome.

# Social Media

TRIPIL knows that one of the greatest assets of our organization are its people. Members and volunteers work together to achieve common goals together. We live in a time where technology is becoming less scary and more friendly; social media is a big part in getting the word out to you, our people at an instant. We are working to get everyone involved with the growth of our social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter! Look for daily updates at the addresses below:

**[www.tripil.com](http://www.tripil.com)**

**[Twitter.com/tripilyouth](https://twitter.com/tripilyouth)**

**[Twitter.com/TRIPILpatriots](https://twitter.com/TRIPILpatriots)**

**[Face.com/TriCountyPatriotsforIndependentLiving](https://www.facebook.com/TriCountyPatriotsforIndependentLiving)**

# Upcoming Events

- ◇ Legislative Visit with Representative Daley-1/24/2013 2-3pm Location: Center in the Woods 130 Woodland Court, Brownsville, PA 15417
- ◇ 2013 Ski Event - 1/27/2013 - Location: Hidden Valley Ski Resort Contact Three Rivers Adaptive Sports 412-848-8896
- ◇ 30th Annual HOPE Network Ski Classic 1/28/2013-1/30/2013 For more information contact Angela Long at 814-341-9301
- ◇ **"The Best Years of our Lives" film screening** - 1/29/2013 1-4pm Location: TRIPIL, 69 East Beau St, Washington, PA 15301
- ◇ Legislative Visit with Representative Snyder - 1/28/2013 9am-10am Location: 93 E. High Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370
- ◇ Computer Class - Every Wednesday 10am-12pm Location: TRIPIL, 69 East Beau Street, Washington, PA
- ◇ TRIPIL Crown Night at the Races - 2/4/2013 3pm-7pm Location: South Strabane Social Hall 172 Oak Spring Rd, Washington, PA 15301
- ◇ **Valentine's Day Concert Featuring Bob Podish** - 2/14/2013 11am-2pm Location: TRIPIL, 69 East Beau Street, Washington, PA 15301
- ◇ Youth Peer Support Group - 2/20/2013 4pm-5pm Location: TRIPIL, 69 East Beau Street, Washington, PA 15301
- ◇ Traumatic Brain Injury Peer Support Group - 2/20/2013 5-7pm Location: TRIPIL, 69 East Beau Street, Washington, PA 15301
- ◇ Bars Ski Mash - 2/21/2013 - 2/22/2013 Location: Liberty Mountain Contact: Pam Lehnert @ 410-332-5629
- ◇ Youth Bowling - 2/23/2013 11am Location: Meadows Lanes - RSVP to Matt Berwick by February 15th. 724-223-5115 EXT. 179

# Upcoming Events

- ◇ Traumatic Brain Injury Training by Angela Gorman of the Red Cross  
2/25/2013 - 10am-1pm Location: 69 East Beau Street Washington, PA
- ◇ Emergency Resources for Veterans: Informational Meeting 2/28/2013  
1pm-3pm - Location: TRIPIL, 69 East Beau St, Washington, PA 15301
- ◇ Presentation by Suicide Prevention Coordinator of Allegheny County  
3/11/2013 11am-12:30PM Location: TRIPIL, 69 East Beau Street  
Washington, PA 15301
- ◇ 2013 Ski Event - 3/16/2013 - Location: Hidden Valley Ski Resort  
Contact Three Rivers Adaptive Sports 412-848-8896
- ◇ Presentation by Military Chaplin about Service Support Systems for  
Veterans - 3/21/2013 10am-11:30pm Location: TRIPIL, 69 East Beau  
Street, Washington, PA 15301
- ◇ 27th Annual National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic  
3/30/2012 - 4/6/2013 Location: Snowmass, CO.
- ◇ 2013 Ski Events - 2/2, 2/16, 2/23, 3/2, 3/10, 3/16 - Location: Hidden  
Valley Ski Resort. Contact Three Rivers Adaptive Sports 412-848-8896

For more information on any of the above events visit [TRIPIL.com](http://TRIPIL.com) or  
[Facebook.com/TriCountyPatriotsforIndependentLiving](https://www.facebook.com/TriCountyPatriotsforIndependentLiving)



**2013 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**Date of Application:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Fee: (Check all that apply)** Regular Member: \$2.00 \_\_\_\_

**For additional levels of membership please contact us.**

**Please fill out the following information if you are a new member or if your information has changed in the last year**

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please circle all that apply:**

- I am a new Member
- I am a Veteran
- I would like to learn about voting
- I am interested in Accessible Housing
- I would like to know more about Assistive Technology
- I would like to learn more about the youth program
- I would like to be involved in TRIPIL's Capital Campaign
- I am renewing my membership
- I would like to volunteer
- I am interested in Attendant Care
- I am interested in Public Access

**Please check if it applies to you:**

- I would like to opt out of the mailing list \_\_\_\_\_
- I would like to opt out of mailings and receive information through my email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Who referred you to becoming a member?: \_\_\_\_\_

**69 East Beau Street, Washington PA 15301**



**TRI COUNTY PATRIOTS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING AFFIRMS  
LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

69 East Beau Street, Washington, PA 15301  
724.223.5115 Tripil@Tripil.com

Washington, PA 15301  
69 East Beau Street

Tri-County Patriots for Independent Living



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