

MetroWest Center for Independent Living, Inc.

April

April has been shocking. We extend our deepest compassion toward all of the victims of the marathon bombings, as well as their families and friends.

Meanwhile, it's still budget time. We ask everyone to please contact their legislators regarding the IL Funding Amendment and the Salary Reserve Amendment (see below)... the sooner the better. These votes can take place at any minute.

from Paul W. Spooner,
Executive Director of MWCIL



Hiroyuki Yamamoto of Japan won the Wheelchair race with a time of 1 hour 25 minutes 32 seconds! This photo was taken around the 16 mile marker where he was in the lead.



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Donations

If you appreciate MWCIL and the support it provides you, please consider a gift of any amount. By showing your appreciation and giving back, MWCIL can provide more services for the community. We thank you! Go to [MWCIL Webpage](#) or click on the Donate button.

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All online gifts are tax deductible. *We couldn't carry out our important mission without you!*

ADAPT Action - In Progress Today!

ADAPT Action in Washington D.C.
April 21 - April 24

Hundreds of ADAPT activists are protesting in Washington D.C. this week. They have released a [Platform for Disability Rights Change at the White House](#). First on the list is developing legislation to end Medicaid's institutional bias.

More than 3 dozen disability rights activists were arrested near the White House on Monday, April 22. 200 demonstrators with ADAPT are seeking a

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meeting with the Obama administration for inadequate attention to community living. "The group says that President Barack Obama has done too little to ensure that people with disabilities are able to access services in their communities rather than being relegated to nursing homes."

Read the story by Michelle Diamant at DisabilityScoop.com.

Today (Tuesday, April 23), ADAPT activists convinced HUD to release the Olmstead Letter on May 27. Here is a link to the [housing demand](#). You can follow the action via their [Twitter](#). Boston Center for Independent Living sent several people to Washington to participate.



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Alzheimer's 2013: A Time for Hope

A growing number of individuals, families and caregivers wake up every day struggling to cope with the challenges of Alzheimer's disease. Currently there are an estimated five and half million Americans living with Alzheimer's and that number is increasing dramatically as our population ages.

Recent years have seen tremendous advances in Alzheimer's research. During this morning program, Dr. Robert Stern, a nationally recognized expert in the field of dementia treatment and research, will discuss the most recent research developments and new methods in providing and caring for people living with the disease.

Attend this FREE educational program (Raffle & Continental Breakfast included). Senior support experts will also be on hand to provide information about local resources for families.

When:

Saturday, April 27th 9:30 am - 12 noon

Where:

Heritage Assisted Living, 747 Water Street, Framingham, MA

Keynote Speaker:

Robert A. Stern, PhD, is Associate Professor of Neurology at BU School of Medicine and serves as Director of BU's Alzheimer's Disease Center. He is an expert in Alzheimer's research, diagnosis and clinical care and appears regularly on local and national news programs.

Contact:

Amy, 508-665-5364 (at Heritage Assisted Living).

Please call to register by April 22nd.

Download the [flyer](#).

Budget Amendment

Representative Ellen Story (Amherst) has filed an amendment to the budget in support of Independent Living.

Amendment #377 to H.3400
Independent Living Centers

Representatives Story of Amherst, Ayers of Quincy, Balsler of Newton, Brady of Brockton, Dykema of Holliston, Farley-Bouvier of Pittsfield, Fresolo of Worcester, Garballey of Arlington, Gregoire of Marlborough, Hecht of Watertown, Heroux of Attleboro, Madden of Nantucket, O'Day of West Boylston, Sannicandro of Ashland, Scibak of South Hadley and Walsh of Framingham moves to amend the bill in section 2, in line item 4120-4000, by striking out the figures "\$13,099,883" and inserting in place thereof the figures "\$8,313,930";

and, by inserting after line item 4120-4001, the following item:-

4120-4002 For Independent Living Assistance Services \$5,885,953



Please ask your representative to support this amendment.

[Download the fact sheet](#) about Independent Living.

National Fair Housing Month

April is National Fair Housing Month. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) has launched a national media campaign to educate the public about the Fair Housing Act.

One print ad features a woman in a wheelchair with a service animal, drawing attention to persons with disabilities who often



face housing discrimination.

The Fair Housing Act was passed in 1968, and makes it illegal to discriminate in the sale or rental of housing based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, familial status or disability. Anyone who experiences discrimination should call HUD's housing discrimination hotline (1-800-669-9777), contact a local fair housing agency, or visit HUD's fair housing Web site: www.HUD.gov/fairhousing.

In addition to addressing discrimination in sales and rentals, HUD also "takes on discrimination against people with disabilities in mortgage lending".

"The Fair Housing Act prohibits lenders from requiring extra income documentation from people with disabilities when their receipt of certain benefits already demonstrates a fixed income that is likely to continue. The Fair Housing Act further prohibits lenders from inquiring about the nature or severity of a disability."

Read more about mortgage lending discrimination against people with disabilities in the [Disability Blog](#).

Caring Force Rally

Several MWCIL staffers attended the Caring Force Rally at the State House on April 9. The event was very well attended by service providers, consumers, advocates and legislators. Speakers included Michael Weeks of the Providers Council, State Senate President Therese Murray, State Senator Karen Spilka, State Rep Ruth Balsler, State Rep David Linsky, Scott Harshbarger and more. Consumers and caregivers spoke about their personal situations, and how a Salary Reserve increase would benefit everyone.



Shortly after the rally, Representative David Linsky filed a Salary Reserve amendment. Please ask your representative to support Amendment 462 to help service providers.



2013 Boston Marathon

We would like to congratulate the many wheelchair and handcycle racers who participated in the marathon. Visit our [photo gallery](#) for pictures of several of the racers. Amazing accomplishments.

Pictured below are Ernst Van Dyk (right) of South Africa and Kota Hokinoue (left) of Japan at around the 16 mile marker. Apparently they stayed like this the whole way with Van Dyk finishing in 2nd place with a time of 1:27:12, and Hokinoue in 3rd with a time of 1:27:13! Yikes!



Employment News

Following Walgreen's lead, Lowes is now actively recruiting people with disabilities at least for their distribution center in Florida. Modifications are being developed as needed. Read the whole story at [Forbes.com](#) by Judy Owen who is the founder and chief operating officer of Opportunity Works, Inc., a full service staffing company focused on recruiting people with disabilities.

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