



Center for Independent Living of Northwest Florida, Inc.

[Visit us at www.cil-drc.org](http://www.cil-drc.org)

[Link to PDF version here.](#)



A Poem on Covid-19: Our Homes

I don't think it's self-isolation.
I think it's self-discovery.
Discovering that you have all you need:
Family to pray for.
Friends to miss.
Faith to hold on to.

Maybe we've had happiness all along.
So let's spend some time alone.
The beauty of the world right now
is within all of our homes.

Written by Ahmad Abdallah

In this update:

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IL Network Statement of Solidarity

As a network we feel responsible to advocate for people of color, a community who historically and continuously fights discrimination. We take this vow of support and solidarity against social injustice, systemic racism and police brutality.

“I wish I could say that racism and prejudice were only distant memories. We must dissent from the indifference. We must dissent from the apathy. We must dissent from the fear, the hatred and the mistrust...We must dissent because America can do better, because America has no choice but to do better.” Thurgood Marshall (U.S. Supreme Court Justice, 1967-1991)



[IL Network Statement of Solidarity](#)



AHCA Seeking Public Comments on Extension of Medicaid Managed Care Waiver

The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) is seeking authority to extend its current Medicaid Managed Medical Assistance (MMA) waiver through June 30, 2024. AHCA will hold two webinars to receive public comments on the MMA waiver extension.

You can [view the Extension Request here.](#)

[AHCA MMA Waiver Extension Request Webinar
Wednesday, June 17, 2020 from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.](#)

CILDRC Updates:

Our team has returned to the office and we continue to practice [CDC guidelines](#) and physical distancing by providing services by appointment only.

We ask that when an appointment is made that if you have any COVID-19 symptoms or are not feeling well that you stay home and contact us via phone. For all who come to the office for your appointment you will have an infrared temperature taken, you will need to wear masks and gloves and you will be asked some screening questions in order to enter our building.

The CIL Team continues to also reach out by telephone to assess and fulfill consumer unmet needs. We have been able to assist many individuals with connection to food, equipment and/or a listening ear.

While attending to our COVID-19 check ins with the community, we had a conversation with a consumer who needed new assistive technology. She has experienced increased visual difficulties from Stargardt's Disease. She was able to come to the Center for an appointment in our parking lot. She had a demonstration of two products from our FFAST program. She chose to borrow a medium sized screen to enlarge images to help improve her access to printed materials. The Center is here for a variety of supports to help you meet your goals for independence.

New challenges of COVID-19 occur everyday. If you are experiencing new urgent or ongoing matters that you want to attend to, please contact us ASAP. You can reply to this email or call us at 850-595-5566. We will do what we can to help support you in the direction(s) you wish to navigate for solution(s).

(If we haven't reached you yet and you don't feel you need to connect with CILDRC directly, please reply to this email and type "I AM OKAY" in the body.)



LGBTQ+ and the Disability Communities

According to the Movement Advancement Project "LGBT people are more likely to have a disability than the general population. For example, in a survey of more than 26,000 transgender people, 39% reported having a disability. And one in three lesbians and one in three bisexual women report having a disability in a population-based survey in Washington." [Continue Reading](#)

As more Pride events continue to unfold this month, please keep accessibility in mind so everyone can enjoy celebrating their identity.

[Infographic transcript](#)

Upcoming Community Events

- **Crip Camp Impact Campaign:** Have community building right in your own home. Every Sunday at 2 pm PST/5 pm EST from May 17th to August 30th for one and a half hours each. Register or find out more information at [Crip Camp](#).
- Watch this year's AAIDD media award winning film, "Hearts of Glass," as a catalyst for conversation about employment and inclusion. Attendees will have access to stream the film from Friday, June 19, 7 pm ET to Friday, June 26, 7 pm ET. [Learn more at aaidd!](#)
- [Registration is open!](#) The First Annual Stanford Conference on Disability in Healthcare will take place as an interactive webinar on June 20, 2020 from 8 AM to 2:30 PM. You are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions.
- The 22nd Annual Family Cafe Featuring the Governor's Summit on Disabilities in June 2020. Find out more through [Family Cafe Orlando](#).
- NAMI Mental Health Peer Support Groups - On ZOOM. For dates and times [visit this link](#) to register or find out more about this free event.
- Online Group Psychological Health Promotion Program for Women with Spinal Cord Injury. [Find out if you are eligible today!](#)

- **Research Opportunity:** To understand how young people with disabilities experience the transition to adulthood. [Find out if you are eligible today!](#)

Social Conversations



June 18th, 2020 at 12:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

[Register Here](#)

We need your help completing an important survey about your experience during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The survey is completely anonymous and should take about 15 – 30 minutes to complete. The purpose of this study is to investigate issues related to quality of life, stress, healthcare access, and community access during the Covid-19 pandemic for individuals with a disability.

This research is IRB/ethics approved through Stockton University in NJ. We anticipate the results of this study will be published. Thank you for your assistance!

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Kerri Sowers at Kerri.Sowers@stockton.edu or (609) 652-4418.

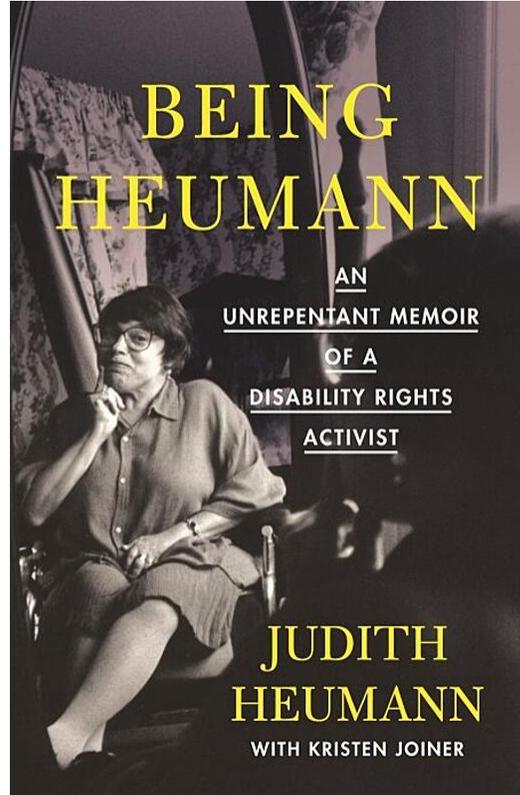
[Take Our Survey!](#)

Calling all disability activists and allies!

Easterseals is hosting a Disability Revolution Book Club with some very special guests, and we'd love for you to be a part of the discussion!

It's virtual and it's free – so everyone can attend. They will be discussing “Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist.” And the best part: Co-author and internationally recognized disability rights activist Judy Heumann will be there!

Be a part of the conversation and [sign up to attend our lively discussion on Wednesday, June 17 at 7 p.m. ET.](#)



Vacation Rentals are Open in the Panhandle!

Governor Ron DeSantis has approved the regulations put in place for rental properties in our four counties. Learn more about the specific regulations by visiting [Florida Politics](#).

Updated information about COVID-19 by county is available by clicking a graphic below.



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2020

Want to help people with disabilities live fuller,
more meaningful lives in the community?
Funding is presently needed to purchase
wheelchairs, bath benches, walkers and other
durable medical equipment.

**YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!
DONATE TODAY!**

You may contribute online by clicking the "Donate"
button below or you may mail a check to:
CIL Disability Resource Center
3600 North Pace Boulevard
Pensacola, FL 32505

[Donate](#)

Center for Independent Living of Northwest Florida, Inc. (FEIN: 59-2288751) dba CIL Disability Resource Center, is a registered charity in the State of Florida, Registration Number CH130. A copy of the Official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.
1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352), www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com

SUPPORTED BY:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
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**United Way
of West Florida**

Certified Partner Agency

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32505, www.cil-drc.org, 850-595-5566

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