



Independence and Dignity



Disability Resource Center 2011 Annual Report

625 Highway 231

Panama city, Florida 32405

Www.drcpc.org

Leading the DRC Into the Future

The DRC's mission is to promote Independent Living for and by individuals with disabilities; to enable them to take control of their lives; to make decisions about themselves and their future; to ensure that the necessary support services are available to enable them to be active participants in their communities; and to prevent unnecessary institutionalization. The DRC provides four core services: Advocacy, Independent Living Skills training, Information and Referral, Peer Support. The DRC provides a host of other programs and services that are tailored to address our unique local needs.

This past year has been another year of tremendous accomplishments for the DRC. The DRC hosted a fundraiser in the community that were very successful in getting the name of the organization out and networking with the business community, not to mention the extra proceeds that were generated for the organization. Our four year Strategic Long Range Area Plan is on target.

The DRC continues to conduct Building Accessibility reviews to ensure businesses are compliant with the ADA.

Our contract with the Florida Telecommunication Relay, inc. (FTRI) is slowly expanding to provide phones to the hearing impaired and Deaf communities that we serve. This funding expansion has allowed us to continue our Deaf Services program.

The Nursing Home Transition program continues to transition people back into the community and out of institutions.

Despite the budget cuts to the organization the consumers served continues to increase.

We still have a long way to go, but we have made tremendous progress towards attaining our goal of Independence and Dignity.



Robert Cox, MHRM
Executive Director



2011 DRC Highlights

CONSUMER, COMMUNITY & PROGRAM SERVICES

- 279 consumers received DRC services, a 21% increase over last year
- We have also made 439 referrals in the community for 264.25 hours.
- The DRC also had 11 ramps built for consumers over the last year
- Deaf Services program is expanding its fee for service program for ASL interpreters.
- Nursing Home Transition program was funded full time to generate funds that will sustain the program into the future in an effort to keep the consumer independent in their home.
- The DRC also provided 718 amplified phones to the Hard of Hearing, Deaf and Speech Impaired Floridians through the Florida Telecommunication Relay, Inc program.

GRANTS

Small grants from the Community Service Foundation, Women's Club of Panama City

In 2003 the Florida Legislature established the Bikers Care Specialty License Plate. Five organizations receive the revenue from the specialty tag. The Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living is one of the 5 recipients. Florida Statute 320.08068 contains the following language regarding FACIL's use of the revenue. "Twenty percent to the Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living to be used to leverage additional funding and new sources of revenue for the centers for independent living in this state. "



EXPANSION

Increased staff from 6 to 7 employees

Expanded the Nursing Home Transition Program

SPECIAL EVENTS

Annual fundraiser

21st anniversary of the ADA with Proclamations from the Bay County Commission, Panama City Commission and the Panama City Beach Commission.

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4 Core Services

DRC provides 4 Core Services

To all persons with a disability.

Independent Living Skills Training

Focuses on persons with disabilities so they can function in the community and remain independent with their disability. Topics can include cooking, budgeting, transportation, housing issues, assistive technology, Social Security Benefits, transportation issues, to voting rights and social skills training.

Information and Referral

Provides assistance to other organizations and people with disabilities. This information and referral system allows people with disabilities to obtain the correct information and a referral to the needed service provider.

Peer Support

Is simply a network of persons with disabilities helping and supporting other persons with disabilities.

Advocacy

The DRC assists consumers in areas of self-advocacy and systems advocacy, educating consumers and the community regarding roles and responsibilities under the ADA. Educating consumers about the rights of persons with disabilities, assisting individuals in learning laws to self-advocate, and working within the system to bring about change. Part of this education process is informing consumers about the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 as amended. Over the years the DRC has tailored the services that are provided to the needs of the disability community in our area.



Programs and Services

Building Accessibility

This program provides walkthrough and evaluations of buildings to ensure that they are compliant with the ADA and accessible to persons with disabilities. This is a win for the businesses in the community to be compliant with the ADA and which provide goods and services to the disabled community. It is also a win for the disabled community so they can access more places.

Deaf Services

The Deaf Services Program assist individual who are Deaf or hard of hearing to maintain their rights to equal access, opportunities in employment, education, communication, recreation, community services and making choices in daily living activities.

Educational Library

DRC has over 100 books and videos about various disabilities ready to be checked out by our consumers

Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc (FTRI)

The DRC is currently distributing FTRI specialized telephones at absolutely no-charge, to individuals in need and are either hard of hearing, Deaf/Blind and Speech Impaired.

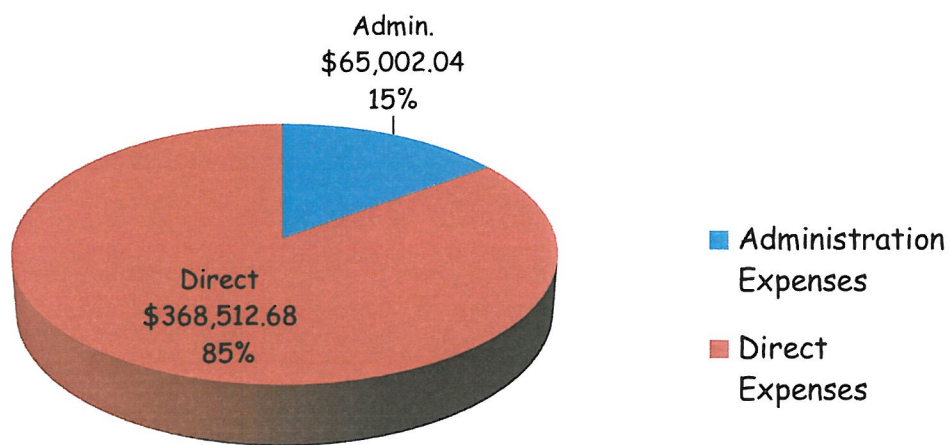
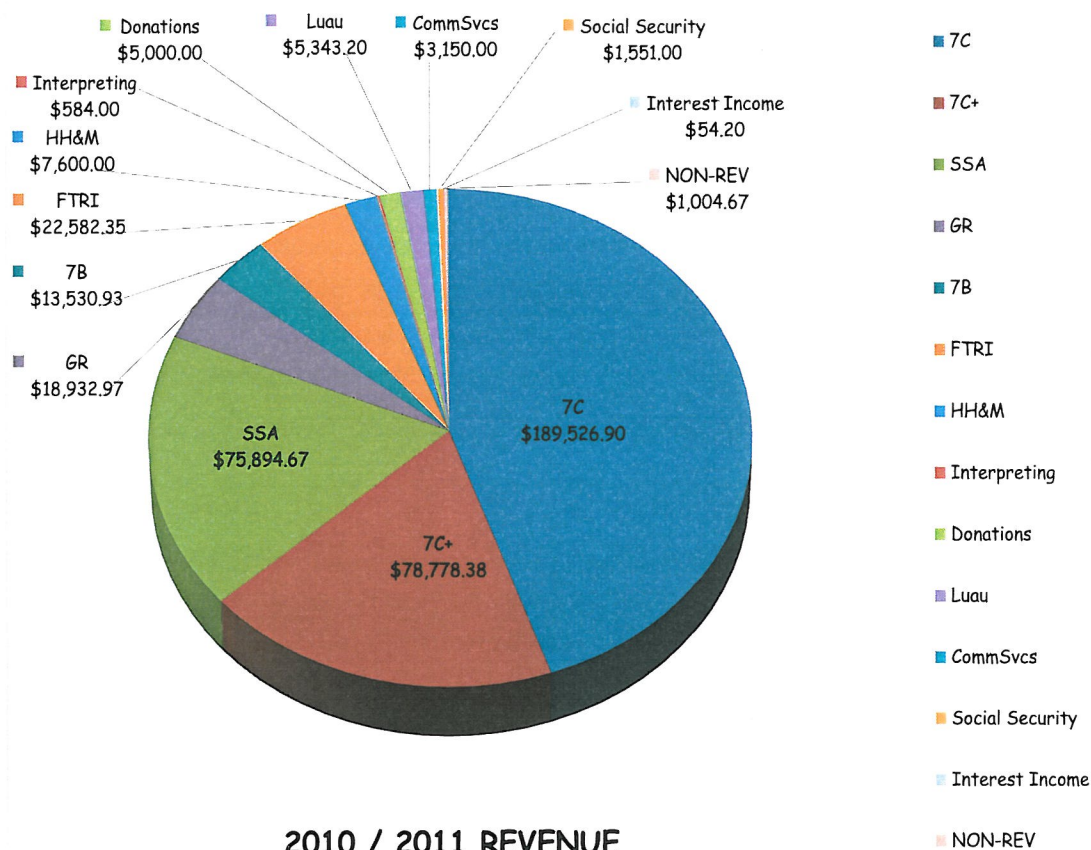
Nursing Home Transition

The DRC is working with DCF, AHCA, and the Department of Elders Affairs to transition people out of Nursing Homes and back into the community. This program will let people live in the community independently and save the state of Florida much needed revenue.

Loan Locker

This program allows consumers to borrow equipment such as wheelchairs, quad canes or portable ramps to make any event or routine handicap accessible.

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