



For Immediate Release: July 11, 2019

RCIL ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW YORK

The Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc. (RCIL), in collaboration with Disability Rights New York (DRNY), is offering free community voter education and registration events in honor of National Disability Voter Registration Week. These events mark the anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which occurred on July 26, 1990.

National Disability Voter Registration Week (officially July 15th-July 19th) promotes community involvement and civic participation across the country with a focus on registering individuals with disabilities to vote.

RCIL and DRNY are coordinating voter education presentations and voter registration drives in Utica, Amsterdam and Herkimer. DRNY will be delivering the voter education presentations and providing resources to help organize the registration drives.

The presentations will cover several topics including the State's new early voting reforms, important information voters with disabilities need to know and tips for obtaining transportation to the polls.

The dates and times of the voter education presentations and registration drives are as follows;

Amsterdam

Wednesday, July 17th, 10:00am
1290 Riverfront Center, Amsterdam

Herkimer

Thursday, July 25th, 10:00am
245 N Main Street, Herkimer (Frank J. Basloe Library)

Utica

Wednesday, July 31st, 10:00am
1607 Genesee Street Utica (Dorothy Smith Center for Advocacy)

The Montgomery County Office for Aging, Inc and NY Connects also partnered with RCIL in coordinating the voter education presentation and registration drive in Amsterdam.

Volunteers will staff all locations to assist anyone who is interested in registering to vote. All three voter education presentations are open to the public and media.

Nearly 60 million people in the United States live with a disability making individuals with disabilities the largest minority group in the country.

Approximately 6 million people with disabilities voted in the November 2016 elections. If people with disabilities voted at the same rate as people without disabilities, who have the same demographic characteristics, there would be 2.2 million more voters.

Anyone interested in attending one of the presentations should RSVP by e-mailing Kelsie Zuercher at kzuercher@rcil.com and include their name, which presentation they would like to attend and if they require any reasonable accommodation.

RCIL CEO Zvia McCormick stated, “As a civil rights organization, fostering and encouraging civic engagement by individuals with disabilities is the foundation of RCIL’s mission. RCIL is proud to work with Disability Rights New York, and all our partners, to increase voter registration in our communities.”

DRNY Executive Director Tim Clune stated, “DRNY is delighted to work with RCIL to promote voter participation across New York State.

More information about National Disability Voter Registration Week and RCIL can be found at <https://www.rcil.com/>, including career opportunities and the services available to you and your family.

###

DRNY is the designated independent non-profit Protection & Advocacy System empowered by Congress to investigate allegations of abuse and neglect and provide legal and non-legal advocacy services to people with disabilities in New York State. The Protection & Advocacy System was created by Congress as a direct result of the horrific conditions that were uncovered in the 1970's at New York's Willowbrook State School.

###

DRNY is supported at taxpayer expense by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities; Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration; U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration; and, the Social Security Administration. This press release does not represent the views, positions or policies of, or the endorsements by, any of these federal agencies.

RESOURCE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING, INC.

www.rcil.com

▣ UTICA

409 COLUMBIA ST
PO BOX 210
UTICA, NY 13503
VOICE 315.797.4642
FAX 315.797.4747

▣ THE DOROTHY SMITH

CENTER FOR ADVOCACY
1607 GENESEE ST
PO BOX 210
UTICA, NY 13503
VOICE 315.624.2554
FAX 315.624.2579

▣ AMSTERDAM

347 WEST MAIN ST
AMSTERDAM, NY 12010
VOICE 518.842.3561
FAX 518.842.0905

▣ HERKIMER

STEUBEN CENTER
401 EAST GERMAN ST
HERKIMER, NY 13350
VOICE 315.866.7245
FAX 315.866.7280

▣ WATERTOWN

146L ARSENAL ST, SUITE 10A
WATERTOWN, NY 13601
VOICE 315.785.9440
FAX 315.786.1205