

REACH

Resource Centers on Independent Living

**You have the Ability to REACH Success
with the Right Resources**



Emphasizing Abilities, Not Disabilities!

**We are REACHING the North Central Texas Area
with offices located in**

- FORT WORTH • DALLAS
- DENTON • PLANO

REACH of Dallas

8625 King George, Suite 210, Dallas, Texas 75235-2275

(214) 630-4796, (214) 630-6390 Fax

E-mail: reachdallas@reachcils.org

REACH of Fort Worth

1000 Macon Street, Suite 200

Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4527

(817) 870-9082, (817) 877-1622 Fax

E-mail: reachftw@reachcils.org

REACH of Denton

405 S. Elm Street, Suite 202, Denton, Texas 76201-6066

(940) 383-1062, (940) 383-2742 Fax

E-mail: reachden@reachcils.org

REACH of Plano

720 E. Park Blvd. Suite 104, Plano, Texas 75074-8844

(972) 398-1111, (972) 398-9649 Fax

E-mail: reachplano@reachcils.org

The following pages in this booklet
reflect services provided only at the
REACH of Dallas
Resource Center on
Independent Living.

To learn more about
specific services provided in

Fort Worth,

Denton, or

Plano

please contact the other centers
listed in the information provided
at the left.

STAFF ROSTER

Charlotte A. Stewart - Executive Director:

Responsible for the overall administration of the REACH organization, including its four projects, the REACH Resource Centers on Independent Living in Fort Worth, Dallas, Denton and Plano.

Kevan Johnson - Employment Consultant:

Responsible for vocational assistance which includes job skills training, job search assistance, job development activities, advocacy assistance, placement assistance, and ADA technical assistance.

James Moore - Office Clerk:

Responsible for miscellaneous clerical duties, handling information and referral requests, and coordinating the professional clothing closet.

Kiowanda Jasso - Information & Referral Spec./Records Mgr.:

Responsible for handling I&R requests, maintaining the consumer service records and database, coordinating the loaner assistive equipment/technology program, and assisting with youth transition services.

Paula Margeson - Grant Writer/Youth Outreach Coordinator:

Responsible for researching fund opportunities and grant writing tasks and coordinating the youth transition service program.

Mavis Ravin - Community Living/Relocation Specialist:

Responsible for assisting nursing home residents prepare for and move into the community and coordinating skills training sessions.

Chris Bowman - Information Technology Specialist:

Responsible for coordinating efforts to enhance REACH's overall operations through the development and implementation of various technology initiatives and social media endeavors.

Harvey Spears - Outreach, Advocacy & ILS Training Specialist:

Responsible for conducting outreach, networking with other organizations, conducting individual and systems advocacy, and coordinate independent living skills training sessions.

Janet Wilkinson - Housing Resource Specialist:

Responsible for identifying existing North Texas housing options and creating a database of this information, advocating for the housing needs of people with disabilities, and networking with other entities that are developing housing options.

Janie Peachee - Administrative Assistant:

Responsible for providing administrative support to the Executive Director and other staff as needed.



REACH of Dallas offers the following services:

- Information and Referral
- Peer Counseling/Peer Support
- Independent Living Skills Training on various topics including basic computer skills and budgeting & money management
- Advocacy Assistance and Training
- Home By Choice - Nursing Home to Community Living Relocation Assistance
- Youth Outreach and Transition Assistance
- Weekly Group Adjustment to Disability Training Sessions
- Training on and Technical Assistance in complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Advice and Training on the removal of architectural and attitudinal barriers that people with disabilities encounter
- Community Education on disability-related topics
- Social/Recreational Activities
- Weekly Advocacy Group Meetings
- Assistive Equipment/Technology Loan - manual and scooter-type wheelchairs
- Free Durable Medical Equipment when available - canes, walkers, crutches, shower chairs, and bedside commodes
- Employment Assistance - dressing for success, resume writing assistance, job search skills training, & job placement assistance & free business clothing (as available)
- Information on accessible, affordable and safe housing options
- DART Reduced Fare Pass letters for people with disabilities who meet DART's requirements.

Home By Choice (HBC) Project Nursing Home to Community Living Relocation Assistance

REACH works in partnership with the Area Agency on Aging of North Central Texas and the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services to provide relocation services for eligible nursing facility residents who want to transition into the community.

REACH of Dallas employees work with other community support providers to offer this much needed service to individuals who have the desire and ability to transition back into the community.

The HBC program provides assistance in accessing:

- DADS Community Care Services
- Housing resources
- Grants to help pay for moving expenses, rent and utility deposits, household items, and other related expenses
- Information on living in the community with suitable supports and community resources
- Case management

If you need more detailed information about this program, please contact Mavis Ravin @ 214-630-4796.



Youth Support Group

Are you prepared to go to
college or enter the workforce?

Are you a teenager with a disability who has
dreams and goals for life after graduation?

REACH of Dallas and the TX Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services are networking with high schools to assist youth with disabilities transition from adolescence to adult roles.

Assistance includes training on building self esteem, improving self advocacy skills, assertiveness techniques, improving communication/interpersonal and social skills.

Activities include field trips, group meetings, social/recreational activities, and presentations by guest speakers

The group is open to youth with disabilities

Helping teens with disabilities
REACH For Independence

If you need more information about the youth support group and/or the youth summer IL academies, contact Paula Margeson or Kiowanda Jasso @ 214-630-4796.



Youth Summer IL Academies

5 fun-filled days learning various independent living skills. Learning by doing.



Cooking - The group will decide on a menu and then cook their own lunches.



Games - The group will learn life lessons through game playing.



Learn how to navigate DFW on the DART public transit system.



Fun filled day trips to bowl and swim.



DART Rules for Determining Eligibility
for a Reduced Fare Pass

1. Certified legally blind, or
2. Certified deaf or profoundly hard of hearing, or
3. Certified to be non-ambulatory without assistance or mechanical aid, or
4. Certified to qualify for at least 80% disability allowance through the VA (service connected only), or
5. Certified for Social Security Disability Income (SSDI), or
7. Certified mentally retarded, or
8. Certified as having a seizure disorder

REACH of Dallas is required by DART to obtain a copy of your:

- A. TX driver's license or TX ID or Medicare card, and
- B. Name, address, & telephone Number, and
- C. Proof of eligibility, either:
 - 1) Doctor's letter, or
 - 2) Medicare card, (if over 65) or
 - 3) SSDI award letter, or
 - 4) VA card, or
 - 5) Medical record, and

a release letter from the applicant asking REACH to submit their medical information to DART for the purpose of obtaining a reduced fare pass.

To apply for a Dart Reduced Fare Pass ID,
contact Janie Peachee @ 214-630-4796.

Information and Referral

If you are a person with a disability, a family member of a person with a disability, or a professional working with a person with a disability and need help in finding community resources such as emergency financial assistance, shelter, food, transportation, medical care, clothing, and/or legal services, contact REACH of Dallas @ 214-630-4796 for assistance.

You can visit the REACH website (www.reachcils.org) which contains information of interest to people with disabilities.

The REACH quarterly newsletter, *REACHing Out*, always has numerous articles that will interest people with people disabilities. Many of the articles are submitted and/or written by people with disabilities. Companies that offer products of interest to people with disabilities advertise in the newsletter on a periodic basis.

The ADA

The Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in:

- Public & private sector employment
- Services rendered through state and local governmental entities
- Places of public accommodations, i.e. restaurants, theaters, stores & hotels
- Public & private transportation services
- Telecommunication services for people who are deaf, hearing or speech impaired

Assistive Technology/Equipment Loan Program

The equipment loan program at REACH of Dallas offers scooters and manual wheelchairs on a temporary loan basis to people with mobility impairments.

The wheelchairs and scooters are loaned out on a first come, first served basis.

Items to bring when you borrow equipment:

- \$25.00 fee that is refunded when the scooter/wheelchair is returned in good working condition
- A vehicle equipped to safely transport the wheelchair or scooter.
- A picture ID (driver's license or TX ID card)

If you need more information about this program, please contact Kiowanda Jasso @ 214-630-4796.



Durable Medical Equipment

REACH of Dallas periodically receives donations of durable medical equipment and supplies. Items donated include canes, walkers, crutches, shower chairs, bedside commodes, and adult diapers. These items are given free of charge on a first come, first served basis. If you have an equipment need, contact Kiowanda Jasso @ 214-630-4796 to see if we can help.



Adjustment to Disability Training

Every Tuesday from 1:30-3:00PM, REACH of Dallas offers an adjustment to disability group training session led by a licensed counselor who has several disabilities. The group discusses many different issues that affect the lives of people with disabilities and learns techniques and tips for dealing with depression, grief, pain, etc.

To sign up to participate in these free sessions,
Contact Kiowanda Jasso @ 214-630-4796.

Peer Counseling/Peer Support

If you need to talk with someone who understands the issues you deal with as a person with a disability, there is someone here at REACH of Dallas who is ready to listen. Call Harvey Spears @ 214-630-4796.

Employment Assistance

Do you need help in composing a resume, practicing your interviewing skills, filling-out an employment application, dressing professionally for an interview, conducting an Internet job search, improving your self esteem, and/or finding a job? If your answer is "yes" to any of these questions, the REACH of Dallas employment services program can help you.

For more information about the employment services program, please contact Kevan Johnson @ 214-630-4796

If you need professional clothing for a job interview, visit the REACH of Dallas clothing closet. Many sizes of men and women's clothing is available free of charge. Contact James Moore @ 214-630-4796 to schedule a visit to the clothing closet housed at the center.



Disability Awareness/Sensitivity Training

Training on the Americans with Disability Act, disability etiquette, how to interact with people with disabilities, information on different disabilities, etc. is available. Contact Harvey Spears @ 214-630-4796 to schedule a training session for any size group.

Housing Information

REACH of Dallas offers assistance to people with disabilities looking for affordable, safe, and/or accessible housing. Do you want to rent an apartment, buy a house, move into an assisted living facility, or find a group home? To find out what housing options are available in North Texas, contact Janet Wilkinson @ 214-630-4796.



Advocacy Assistance

Do you want to learn how to advocate for yourself? Do you need help in applying for benefits? Have you been discriminated against on the job? Do you need help in filing an appeal because you were denied services? Contact Harvey Spears @ 214-630-4796 for help with your advocacy issues.

Independent Living Skills Training

Training classes are offered on a weekly basis on a variety of topics including basic computer skills, money management & budgeting, using the Internet, how to send e-mail messages, and personal safety. If you want to participate in the skills classes or have a topic to recommend for a class, contact Harvey Spears or Mavis Ravin @ 214-630-4796.



