Board Members

Front Row
Kevin
Bill
Vernitia

Back Row
Kim
Rosemary
Bridgette
Tracey
Dave
Katherine
Robbie
Who We Are
We are the Center for Independent Living that serves the Metro Atlanta Area. We provide services to people in the following counties: Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton and Rockdale.

Our Mission
disABILITY LINK is an organization led by and for people with disabilities and promotes choice and full participation in community life.

Board Of Directors
Board Chair – Dave Zilles
Vice Chair – Bill Nabors
Treasurer – Kevin Stringfellow
Secretary – Rosemary Graham

General Members
Bridgette Suttle
Robbie Huff
Tracey Stokes
Vernitia Shannon
Katherine Seelman
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Provided Information and Referral Services to over 4,400 people</th>
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<td>Supported 7 youth to attend national conferences</td>
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<td>Worked with 54 individuals to relocate from an institution</td>
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<td>Provided peer support certification and refresher training to over 60 people throughout Georgia</td>
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<td>Provided Vocational and Employment Services to over 80 individuals</td>
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<td>Participated in “Get out the Vote” project assisting over 100 individuals to register</td>
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Staff

Executive Director – Kim Gibson
Finance Director – Larry Brown
Assistant Director – Ken Mitchell
Disability Rights & Program Director – Linda Pogue
Employment & Training Program Manager – Fran Durbin
Nursing Home Transition Program Manager – Renee Shakir
Lead ILS & Housing Manager – Margo Waters
Finance & Administration Manager – Kristal Southern
Independent Care Waiver Program (ICWP) Case Manager – Katie Johnson
Community Living & ICWP Case Manager – Indira Paul
Staff (cont)

Executive Secretary/Independent Living Specialist – Juanita Anderson
ICWP Case Manager/Employment Specialist – Katrina Parsons
Health & Wellness/Resource Specialist – Travis Evans
Volunteer & Administrative Specialist – James Turner
Administrative Support & Resource Intern – Carl Teem
Employment & Training Specialist – Michelle Watkins
Social Media Intern – William Daniels
Youth Independent Living Specialist – Meg Scalise
Office and I&R Lead Intern – Darnell Johnson
Assistive Technology/Deaf-Blind Independent Living Specialist – Emily Shaw
The year was full of advocacy, from motivating consumers to vote, to combating negative portrayals of people with disabilities.
We were proud to host many classes, activities and trainings in our office and to have the support of our elected officials.
## FY 2017 Accomplishments

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<th>Provided support for people with disabilities during the hurricane</th>
<th>Increased by 50% the amount of classes, events and activities hosted</th>
<th>We partner with APRIL and University of Montana in the Healthy Community Living Project (HCL)</th>
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<td>We use the Access Video Interpreting app &amp; zoom conferences to add to our equal accessibility options</td>
<td>Successfully trained 8 Interns/apprentices into permanent jobs</td>
<td>Participated in disability diversity &amp; intersectionality research study with ILRU</td>
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disABILITY LINK serves twelve counties in the Metro Atlanta Area. We serve populations that range from young adults to senior citizens. We work to ensure that people with disabilities are in charge of their lives regardless of age or location in the region.
Consumers Served

Consumers are from a variety of cultural and disability backgrounds. We are always expanding our consumer base and increasing the diversity to ensure that all people in our area can receive services in the most accessible environment possible.
Success Story #1

A consumer reported he was feeling on top of the world in 2007 because he had graduated from college, he knew he wanted to make a difference and had job offers in law enforcement and subsequently joined the Atlanta Police Department. Not long afterwards the consumer became extremely sick that resulted in the amputation of both his legs above the knees. The consumer’s home was not fully accessible, as it sits on a hill he was not able to access his own backyard. The consumer researched organizations who could help people “get back their lives” and he came across disABILITY LINK. Through disABILITY LINK he was able to successfully apply for a grant to build a wheelchair vertical lift. In 2017, he was finally able to access his own backyard without assistance and play with his children, and not just watch his kids from a distance. He and his family are enjoying the backyard together and, most importantly, he says he can play with his children. He says he loves to see them happy; to the kids he is their daddy, not a person with a disability.
A consumer wanted to move out of the nursing home and back into the community. The consumer had been homeless prior to living in the nursing home and a major barrier for him was having a felony from when he was much younger. The Independent Living Specialist assisted him with different issues, such as, gaining a payee, obtaining a social security card and looking for accessible housing. During the process, he also received peer support from a volunteer peer supporter who had similar experiences. Both the Independent Living Specialist and the peer supporter provided support and training on advocacy. After advocating to the Property Manager he was provided an apartment with guidelines on conduct. He is currently living independently in the apartment and says he is loving every minute of his new life, cannot believe how things worked out for him and considers the assistance he received a true blessing. He is planning to go back to school and starting his own business.
Our Community Partners

- AARP
- Abilities, Inc.
- ADA Legacy project
- AMS vans
- Aging And Disability Resource Center
- AT&T
- Atlanta Housing Authority
- Atlanta Regional Commission
- National ADAPT
- Blue Heron Preserve
- Brain Injury Peer Visitor Association
- Brain & Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund
- The CDC
- Center For Financial Independence And Innovation
- Center For Leadership In Disability
- Center For The Visually Impaired
- Decatur Business Association
- DeKalb Chamber Of Commerce
- DeKalb Rape Crisis Center
- Disability Law & Policy Network
- Disability Resource Group
- Disabled American Veterans
- Dress for Success
- EEOC
- FEMA
- Frazer Center
- Georgia Advocacy Office
- Georgia Council For The Blind
- Georgia DHS
- Georgia Department Of Labor
- Georgia Pacific
Our Community Partners

- GA Council on Developmental Disabilities
- GA Department of Community Affairs
- GA Department Of Rehabilitation Services
- GLASS Library
- GA Mental Health Consumer Network
- Georgia Transplant Foundation
- GVRA
- Institute On Human Development And Disability at UGA
- Kroger
- Metro Fair Georgia
- MARTA
- Metropolitan Employment Network Of Atlanta
- National Association Of Blind Veterans
- National Federation of the Blind of GA
- Pedestrians Educating Drivers
- People First Of Georgia
- RESPECT Institute
- Shepherd Center
- Social Security Administration
- St. Jude's Recovery Center
- The Georgia Department Of Community Health
- The Georgia Statewide Independent Living Council
- Toastmasters International
- Tools For Life
- United Way Of Greater Atlanta
- University of Kansas
- University of Montana
- View Point
- Workforce Development
We are excited to announce that all of our classes held by disABILITY LINK are available through zoom.

Join by going to zoom.us and click on join meeting.
Meeting ID is 404-687-8890