



The Parable of the Donkey

By: Becky McGinnis

Many thanks to Lynn Jarman, Executive Director of LINC in Swansea, who gave me permission to swipe the theme of their recent annual banquet for this article. Thank you, Lynn.

There is a fable about a faithful donkey who fell into a well. After trying to figure out how to get the donkey out of the well, the master finally realized he had no way to do it, and that his best option was to just bury the donkey. So shovelful by shovelful, he threw dirt on the donkey, knowing that eventually the donkey would suffocate.

After a long day of shoveling, when the donkey should have been completely buried in dirt, the donkey emerged from the well - the resourceful donkey had refused to be buried, but used the growing pile of dirt to stand a little higher in the well, until he reached the top and stepped out onto solid ground.

JACIL has been among the many agencies in the State who, like the donkey, have fallen into the well of budget cuts, late payments, furlough days and threats of closure.

But we are working hard to be as resourceful as that donkey. With every shovelful of bad news, we're working hard to shake it off, and climb up on the threats that would bury us. JACIL

has a strong and knowledgeable staff with a "can do" attitude, a supportive Board of Directors, and the much-appreciated support of the community.

We are not quite sure how deep this well is, but we will keep working our way to the top.

As the dirt comes faster, we will keep scrambling harder to stay on top of the

heap until we can emerge from our "well" in triumph.

QUICK FACTS:

- JACIL is a strong agency
- JACIL has suffered budget cuts
- JACIL staff still work together
- JACIL will continue to be strong and help consumers
- Call JACIL!
- We can help!



Accessibility through JACIL's accessible ramps program

One major way JACIL promotes accessibility for people with disabilities is through a program to fund construction of accessible ramps.

In 2011 alone, JACIL has provided financing for the building of 12 ramps at residences within our four-county service area. There are already three additional ramp projects waiting to be completed in the near future.

A majority of these ramps were built by members of the Jacksonville Ambucs club who provide expert, volunteer labor as a public service. When the Ambucs are unavailable we have been able to employ professional contractors to erect the structures.

People facing a permanent mobility disability contact the JACIL office. We then conduct an assessment to determine eligibility for grant assistance. This process also includes inspection and measuring of the grounds where the ramp is to be located.



The Jacksonville Ambucs service club construct a ramp on the east side of Jacksonville.

Our accessible ramp program will be continuing in 2012. Anyone interested in learning more about this process or interested in having a ramp built is encouraged to contact Roger at (217) 245-8371 (voice/tty).

A few of the ramps JACIL helped provide during 2011:



Internet group offers forum for free vision aids

By: Dan Thompson

Sight Exchange is a mailing list group sponsored by Yahoo.com where people can give away blindness-related items.

Donors are only permitted to charge for shipping, which is often unnecessary since many blindness-related items can be legally sent at no charge.

The Sight Exchange group is open to all who want to give and receive items that serve the needs of people who are blind, low vision or visually impaired. Whether it's a mobility device, cane, talking clock, book or computer, members are encouraged to post it. Or maybe you're looking to acquire something yourself. Individuals and non-profit groups are all welcome to participate!

There are several stipulations for people using this service:

- Everything posted must be free, legal, and appropriate.
- Everyone must begin by offering an item before requesting an item.
- Mail items via "Free Matter for the Blind or Visually Impaired" whenever possible.

Ideas for your first offer:

- Children's toys or learning resources in braille that have been outgrown.
- Audio books.
- Assistive technology or devices no longer in use.
- Braille books

When you join you will receive e-mails explaining the basics of the group and how to get started. Please be sure to read each carefully.

The list is worldwide and benefits people in many countries. To join, send a blank e-mail to: [sightexchange-subscribe @yahoogroups.com](mailto:sightexchange-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Read about the list here:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sightexchange>

QUICK FACTS:

- Free exchange for Blind/low-vision
- Donate items online
- Exchange items on line
- All donations must be free
- Free technology or braille books
- Donate and share!
- Sign up at:
[sightexchange-subscribe @yahoogroups.com](mailto:sightexchange-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)



Jacksonville Area Center for Independent Living

DIAMOND RING RAFFLE

Ladies 14k white gold with 14k yellow gold trim diamond ring, containing .10ct single round diamond, with European Shank. Replacement Insurance Value \$1,206.00

Donated by: **Kevin & Carolyn Denney**
Precious Jewelers

DRAWING TO BE HELD AT JACIL'S FESTA JACILIANA III
SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2012

Tickets \$20.00 (Only 125 to be sold) - Need not be present to win

Next ASL I & II Classes to start in January

JACIL will resume American Sign Language classes in January.

Level I focuses on basic ASL signs, word order and common functional usage of ASL. The class includes making introductions, exchanging information, talking about family and activities and includes discussion of characteristics of the Deaf community and Deaf Culture.

ASL I for people over age 17 will be offered at JACIL starting January 18 and ending March 7. Classes will be held on Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7:45 p.m with Patty Jo Flatt as instructor.

An ASL I class for young people ages 12-17 will be taught on Saturdays. Susan Nolls will be the instructor.

The Level II class on Tuesday evenings will build on signs and concepts learned in ASL I, including how to use numbers in money, age and time, describing physical features, giving directions, and the use of personal and possessive pronouns. Classes will begin on January 17 or 24 and conclude March 6 or 13. The sessions will run from 5:15 to 6:45 p.m. and be taught by



Paul Pyers. The location for these classes is still being finalized.

The fee for each eight-class session is \$35. The student workbook/DVD may be purchased at the first class for \$25. The same book is used for both levels so ASL II students do not need to purchase a new one.

Preregistration is required and class size is limited. Please call the Jacksonville Area Center for Independent Living at 217-245-8371 (voice/tty) for more information and to register for one of the classes.

This class is supported in part through federal ARRA stimulus funds.

JACIL Personal Assistant Orientation January 18

One of the of the key areas in which JACIL assists our consumers is through our Personal Assistant Management program and the orientation workshop we provide for prospective personal assistants.

Personal assistants work directly for people with disabilities to ensure daily needs are met. The duties to be performed and work hours are set by the consumer (who is the employer) in cooperation with the personal assistant.

Our next Personal Assistant Orientation course will take place in JACIL's Jacksonville office on Wednesday, January 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required. There is no cost for this workshop.

Once Orientation has been completed, applicants can be referred to a person with disabilities who is seeking a personal assistant through the Illinois Department of Human Services.

Anyone wishing to attend the next orientation course should call JACIL at 217-245-8371 (voice/tty) to pre-register.

CITIZENS ADVOCATING FOR REAL EQUALITY Legislative Advocacy Training

Learn how our local, state and federal governments work and how to advocate for yourself and for others.

- ✓ MUST be a registered voter
- ✓ Tuesday Nights in Jacksonville, starting January 24
- ✓ Ten sessions, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
- ✓ ASL interpreter available
- ✓ Call Cyndy at JACIL to register at (217) 245-8371 (voice/tty)

A packed house enjoys JACIL'S annual Christmas gathering

A full house of merrymakers packed our conference room for JACIL's annual Christmas Party on December 14.

A wide variety of holiday treats and beverages were prepared and served by members of the JACIL staff.

The event included games, contests and a lot of great holiday food!

Kathy Price called the picks for a hotly-contested round of Accessible Bingo that produced a room full of winners.

Susan Nolls led the room in a spirited rendition of *Feliz Navidad* and gave a *Dancing With the Stars*-worthy performance with help from back-up hoofers Lori Neill and Barb Whewell.

Here are a few photographs taken during the festivities.





DAN THOMPSON'S TECHNOLOGY TIPS

The Overeager Mouse Highlights Too Much Text

Frequently, in a Word document, you need to highlight some text that extends past the viewing area. Sometimes, when clicking and dragging with a mouse and the section you want to select goes beyond the bottom of the screen, the highlighted portion just ZOOMS past the point where the portion you wanted to copy ends. Then you end up with highlighted pages and pages of unwanted selected text. Then you have to click in the document in order to undo the highlighting and try again.

Here is a solution for this annoying problem:

1. Place your cursor at the beginning of the text you want to highlight.
2. Click your mouse once and release (do not hold). Using the vertical scroll bar on your Word window, scroll to the place you want to end. Place the cursor there and hold down the SHIFT key and click the mouse button once.

Yay! The text you want to be highlighted is highlighted without the mouse racing past and highlighting more than you wanted. You can now copy and paste just like you would any other highlighted text.

If you have any questions about the tips posted in Dan's Tech tips, please contact Dan at this email address: dthompson5@mchsi.com.

QUICK FACTS:

- Computer mouse = need help?
- Come to JACIL for demo
- Instructor Dan Thompson can show you an easy way!

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

JANUARY 24, 2012

Circuit Breaker for 2011

January's Knowledge is Power workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the conference room at JACIL's Jacksonville office.

Jennifer Reif from the Illinois Department on Aging will share information about the value of, and how to apply for, Circuit Breaker grants to help with medications and license plate fees.

For more information, please contact Larry at 217-245-8371. If you should need to receive materials in alternate format please call by Thursday, January 19.

A sign language interpreter will be provided. Light refreshments will also be available.

We look forward to seeing you (and your friends) there!



by Kathy Price

Each issue Kathy will answer your questions about anything--from household hints to the price of tea in China.

Please e-mail your question to her at kathy@jacil.org.

This Month's Question: Our dog had an encounter with a skunk in the backyard recently. Can you recommend any way to get the odor off of her so our eyes will stop watering?

Kathy says: Many folks use lemon and tomato juice but I suggest you try one quart of peroxide, one third of a cup of baking soda and two teaspoons of liquid dish soap. That should take care of the pungent puppy.

JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 3 JACIL offices reopen following holiday break
- 12 VisAbility Support Group - 10:30 a.m. to Noon
- 16 Martin Luther King Day - JACIL OFFICES CLOSED
- 18 Personal Assistant Training, 9:00-1:00 - Pre-registration required
- 19 Friends Helping Friends Action Club - 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
- 19 Deaf Silent Club - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- 20 People First Aktion Club - 3:45 to 4:45 p.m.
- 24 Knowledge is Power - 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Topic: *Circuit Breaker for 2011*
Speaker: *Jennifer Reif, Illinois Department on Aging*
- 25 Laborer's for Greater Vision Support Group - 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Laborer's Home Development (in the meeting/craft room).
- 26 Byts & Bytes - 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- 26 Parents of Children with Autism Support Group - 6:00 p.m.

CARE TRAINING CLASS SCHEDULE

Tuesdays in Jacksonville, 5:30 to 7:00 starting January 24

SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS SCHEDULE

ASL Level I (Adult) - Wednesdays, 6:15 to 7:45 starting January 18

ASL Level I (Youth) - Saturdays, 11:00 to 12:30 starting January 21

ASL Level II - Tuesdays, 5:15 to 6:45 starting January 17 or 24

"JACIL Connections" is published by the Jacksonville Area Center for Independent Living. JACIL is organized to serve people with disabilities in Morgan, Scott, Cass and Mason Counties. JACIL is committed to serving persons with disabilities to gain control and direction of their lives in the home, workplace and community. JACIL's goal is to stimulate and promote a growing sense of personal dignity through individualized services designed to provide the tools necessary for maximum independence and community participation. We invite your comments and suggestions.

JACKSONVILLE AREA CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

15 Permac Road, Jacksonville, IL 62650

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

217-245-8371 Voice/TTY • 217-245-1872 Fax • 888-317-3287 Toll Free

866-790-5311 Deaf Advocate's Toll Free Videophone Line

E-mail: info@jacil.org • Website: www.jacil.org

JACIL - MASON COUNTY OFFICE

220 West Main Street, Havana, IL 62644

Office Hours: Mondays & Thursdays, 8 a.m. to Noon

309-543-6680 Voice/TTY • 309-543-6711 Fax • 877-759-2187 Toll Free

E-mail: jacil@casscomm.com



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