



# 2015 ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

## Nominee: Community Resources for Independent Living

Nominators: Amy Mauldin & Cecelia Fusich



### *In the Nominators' words:*

Community Resources for Independent Living (CRIL) is a non-profit organization that works closely with low-income clients in the Dublin and surrounding areas. In 2015, CRIL provided many services including: Housing Assistance; Travel Training; Advocacy; Assistive Technology and Device Lending; Healthy Living, Peer Support and Disaster Preparedness Workshops. More than 850 consumers in the Southern and Eastern Alameda County Area were served. CRIL serves Dublin residents of all ages who have a disability, including youth and seniors. The Tri-Valley Office (located in the Livermore Multi-Service Center) was staffed by two individuals; the Employment and Benefits Coordinator is also a bilingual woman with a disability, and is able to provide disability peer support and role modeling to both English- and Spanish-speaking residents of Dublin.

CRIL's services are administered through the following methods: Monthly Housing Workshops, covering individual housing needs, eligibility for Section 8 and other programs, credit checks and repair, housing research, applications, interviews, tenant rights and responsibilities; Monthly Job Club and 1:1 Employment Counseling; Monthly Travel Training Workshops; Individualized Travel Training Excursions on WHEELS, BART, ACT; Monthly Peer Support Groups to address various Independent Living topics; Individual Independent Living Plan development and coordination; and individual meetings with consumers to help develop a plan that includes specific steps and timelines for meeting goals.

Two Dublin residents who have benefited from CRIL's services in 2015 are a retired mom and her son, who has Cerebral Palsy. They have used Dial-A-Ride but have found that it requires lots of pre-planning and is time consuming. The two worked with CRIL's travel trainer and learned how to use the fixed bus routes and BART. They are now able to independently visit family in Livermore, venture into San Francisco, and are happy with their increased independence.

CRIL assists qualifying low-income Dublin residents with one-time delinquent mortgage or rent payments, security deposits, access modifications or other costs associated with retaining housing or moving into a home. Residents benefit by being able to retain or obtain affordable, accessible, and safe housing, which in turn decreases the City's homeless population and minimizes the possibility of unnecessary institutionalization.

Job-seekers receive guidance and assistance from CRIL's Employment & Benefits Coordinator (an SSA-Certified Work Incentives Counselor trained to counsel on work incentives and tools for self-sufficiency through employment). CRIL assists consumers with navigating job readiness resources available through American Job Centers, and prepares consumers for job hunting. The CRIL Job Club assists with cover letters, resume writing, interviewing skills, and dressing for success.

CRIL's Tri-Valley staff is extremely familiar with the resources and services available in Dublin and the nearby areas. The Tri-Valley Office CRIL staff has developed strong relationships with service providers at ECHO, Abode, the Livermore Housing Authority, Dublin's Housing Services Department, and other local agencies that provide housing and social services.