Welcome & Overview

It’s my pleasure to welcome everyone to the Center on Disability Studies’ (CDS) Alliance for Inclusion Advancement - Hawai‘i (AIA-HI) Newsletter. In this newsletter, our intention is to share some of our accomplishments over the past three years.

The purpose of the Alliance for Inclusion Advancement - Hawai‘i (AIA-HI) has been to increase the capacity of individuals with disabilities, 14 and older, to participate in volunteer opportunities and to be a catalyst to enhance the ability of service organizations to include volunteers with disabilities in their programs. Increasing these capacities has enabled those with disabilities to be more actively engaged in their communities and enable community organizations to avail themselves of the talents and resources those with disabilities provide.

CDS began AIA-HI in October 2005 when we at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa were awarded a collaborative grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. CDS has been a sub-grantee of the primary grantee, UCLA’s Tarjan Center. Other collaborators have been the University of Miami, and the Points of Light Institute. The CDS portion of the three year grant was about $290,000.

AIA-HI has acted as a conduit for volunteers with disabilities to engage in short-term (as brief as a few hours) and ongoing (from day a week to full-time) volunteer opportunities. We are sharing aspects of how this has worked throughout the newsletter.

The project ends in September 2008. In August 2008 representatives of all 3 LINCs will meet to discuss what LINC projects might continue after the conclusion of AIA-HI.

We appreciate the participation of everyone who has been involved in AIA-HI and hope that results from this project will continue to stimulate capacity-building of volunteers with disabilities throughout Hawai‘i.

—Steven E. Brown
Project Director for the AIA-HI staff

What is a LINC?

Local Inclusion Network Collaborative:

A group of organizations collaborating to devise a plan for integrating volunteers with disabilities into a wide spectrum of volunteer community activities.

Many people with disabilities offer a wealth of resources that may increase the quality of your organization.

The benefit for individuals with disabilities is being involved in organizations that may increase their community involvement.

The benefit for everyone is integrating and utilizing the wealth of community resources we all bring to one another.

The ultimate goal of the LINC is for these collaborations to continue after AIA-HI no longer exists.
Calling all members of LINCs (Local Inclusion Network Collaborative)!
Join the Core group!

Join your colleagues in making a commitment to the continuity and the sustainability of the Alliance for Inclusion Advancement-Hawaii project!

We are looking for members who can commit to the following three objectives:
1. Make a commitment to attend three LINC meetings a year.
2. Send a representative if unable to attend the meeting(s).
3. Assist in the sustainability of the project by continuing the LINC meetings after the project has ended in October 2008.

Interested? For more information, contact: Madeline Harcourt, M.A., Assistant Specialist and Oahu LINC Coordinator, Alliance for Inclusion Advancement-Hawaii, Center on Disability Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Education, Office telephone: 956-0947.

Sponsored by AIA-Hi

Visit us at:
www.aia.hawaii.edu
AIA-HI Accomplishments (October 2005 - July 2008)

- Established 3 LINC (Local Inclusion Network Collaboratives), on O'ahu; the Big Island of Hawai'i (2006) and Maui (2007) and facilitated 15 LINC meetings on the 3 islands;
- Conducted annual online surveys of LINC members regarding numbers of volunteers and program accessibility changes;
- Facilitated 15 Match Making meetings and/or matches on all 3 islands;
- Served as a conduit between community organizations leading to more than 950 volunteers with disabilities and more than 3,000 volunteers without disabilities participating in all kinds of volunteer service opportunities;
- Developed Climate Assessment evaluation instrument for all AIA collaborators.

- Participated in numerous outreach activities including the SPIN conference, Ability House/Habitat for Humanity build, Pacific Rim Conferences on Disabilities; Tools for Life and Abled Hawai‘i Artists.
- Developed and distributed flyers for organizations to recruit volunteers with disabilities for the Hawai‘i Food Bank, the Holy Nativity Thrift Store, and the Cat Foundation Sanctuary.
- Wrote and received $40,000 grant for APPLAUD (Action Plan to Include People Labeled and Underserved because of Disability in Volunteer Service) from October 2006 through March 2008;
- Launched and maintained APPLAUD website, www.aia.hawaii.edu/applaud/, with about 180 unique visitors;
- Established a Core Group consisting of Local Inclusion Network Collaboratives (LINC) members representing Maui, the Big Island and Oahu to continue various aspects of the AIA-HI project;
- Participated in numerous outreach activities including the SPIN conference, Ability House/Habitat for Humanity build, Pacific Rim Conferences on Disabilities; Tools for Life and Abled Hawai‘i Artists.

Match Making

A Match Making meeting is generally a face-to-face introduction between organizations seeking volunteers with disabilities and organizations referring volunteers with disabilities for placement in the community. The main purpose of the meeting is to determine ways in which two or more organizations can work effectively together to increase the number of volunteers with disabilities in the community. Usually, one organization will host the event and one or more organizations will attend the meeting. The agenda is planned cooperatively to best serve all parties in the match.

Accomplishments, Continued on page 5
Accomplishments, Continued from page 3

- Created, developed and facilitated three training products, the AIA-HI Jeopardy Game, the Color my Rainbow to Inclusion and the Comfort Zone Road Map to Inclusion art activities;
- Developed and distributed informational brochures about working with volunteers with disabilities, including “A Brief Etiquette Guide Relating to People with Disabilities,” “Frequently Asked Questions about Volunteers with Disabilities,” and “Ten Tips to Keep in Mind When Interacting with Adults with Hidden Disabilities in the Workplace”;
- Hosted Engaging People with Disabilities in Service and Volunteerism Summit;
- Participated in 3 Pacific Rim Conferences on Disabilities, hosted by the Center on Disability Studies;
- Facilitated 4 Days of Service at community organizations, such as the Institute for Human Services, the Cat Foundation Sanctuary and Kapiolani Medical Center.

A Ready, Set, Go! Graduate Pays it Forward!

Susan Napua graduated from an earlier Center on Disability Studies project. The 2003 Ready, Set, Go! graduate participates in periodic Day of Service events and chaperones homeless families at her church throughout the year. “I love working with the homeless, they are so deserving of help,” Susan said. She has taken the lead on a number of service projects emerging as a successful project leader. Susan, who has a hidden disability, has learned to cope with daily challenges to give back what she has received with aplomb. She recently launched her own freelance paralegal business and a website to advertise her services to potential clients. She continues to share her caring personality with the community through volunteer work, including continuing her Ready, Set, Go! activities with AIA-HI, whenever she can. Way to go, Susan! Check out our website at www.aia.hawaii.edu for more inspiring photos.
### AIA-HI Goals Chart through July 2008

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<th>3 Year Goals</th>
<th>Achieved</th>
<th>Remaining</th>
<th>Hours Worked</th>
<th>Direct</th>
<th>Indirect</th>
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<td>Volunteers without Disabilities</td>
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AIA-Hawaii Staff

Robert Stodden, PhD
Principal Investigator

James Skouge, EdD
Co-Principal Investigator

Steven Brown, PhD
Director, Big Island and Maui LINCs Coordinator

Madeline Harcourt, MA
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Introducing the Core Group Members:

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Paying It Forward—Nalini gives back!

Nalini Blumer-Buell has been volunteering a few hours a week at Holomua Elementary school in Ewa Beach for three years. She helps with language arts activities and reads to the children. In addition, Nalini also volunteers at her church and as a STRIDE mentor. Last year, she was highlighted on KITV-news Channel 4, was a speaker at an Oʻahu LINC meeting and recently attended the CNCS Summit. Paying it forward started early for Nalini. "My volunteer experiences began in the Girl Scouts fourteen years ago. Since I drive a scooter, I am pretty adaptable. I got a lot of classroom experience, learned that I love teaching and working with the kids!”, said Nalini.

Nalini was recently involved in the AIA-APPLAUD Days of Service events reading to the kids at the Institute for Human Service and at the Abled Hawaii Artists event. She also took the lead on projects related to the Cat Sanctuary and the Kapiolani Medical Center’s Days of Service events in March.

For more information on volunteers with disabilities, visit our website at www.aia.hawaii.edu.
Core Group Members, continued from page 7

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