



# Independence & Dignity



## Disability Resource Center 2008 Annual Report

625 Highway 231  
Panama City, Florida 32405  
[www.drcpc.org](http://www.drcpc.org)




# Leading DRC into the Future

DRC's mission is to promote Independent Living for and by individuals with disabilities, to enable them to take control of their lives, to make decisions about themselves and their future; to ensure that the necessary support services are available to enable them to be active participants in their communities; and to prevent unnecessary institutionalization. The DRC provides four core services: Advocacy, Independent Living Skills training, Information and Referral and Peer Support. The DRC provides a host of other programs and services that are tailored to address our unique local needs.

This past year has been another year of tremendous accomplishments for the DRC. The DRC hosted two fundraisers in the community that were very successful in getting the name of the organization out and networking with the business community, not to mention the extra proceeds that were generated for the organization. Our four year Strategic Long Range Area Plan is on target and halfway complete. Out of the 12 identified objectives, 10 were completed and 2 are in progress. Despite the budget cuts to the organization the consumers served continues to increase. The quarterly newsletter "THE INDEPENDENT", which goes to 800 businesses and consumers with disabilities, continues to benefit our area and consumers. The sign language classes that are being provided for the community continue to be helpful for local businesses and government agencies.

Over the last year the DRC has received several small grants from local businesses and civic organization to provide services in assistive technology equipment for the Deaf Community and build ramps for the local disabled community.

We still have a long way to go, but we have made tremendous progress towards attaining our goal of Independence and Dignity.

  
Robert Cox, MHRM  
Executive Director

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# DRC HIGHLIGHTS

## CONSUMER, COMMUNITY AND PROGRAM SERVICES

- 195 consumers received DRC services, a 45% increase over last year.
- Provided in excess of 1263 hours of community services and outreach activities.
- Mailed a quarterly Newsletter “The Independent” to 800 businesses and consumers with disabilities.
- DRC helped with funding to build 12 wheelchair ramps in our service area.
- Increased services for the Deaf community.
- Helped to increase the hours of the Bay Town Trolley.
- DRC provided several sign language classes to the community.
- Advocated the change in government and local businesses to make buildings ADA compliant and accessible.
- Increased Advocacy in the Business Community for the Deaf Community.

## EXPANSION

- Increased services in DRC’s service area.
- Established Fee for Services for Interpreters.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- Collaborated with Bay District Schools Transition Fair at Gulf Coast Community College which hosted over 200 students with disabilities from around Bay County.
- Started fundraising events to increase the revenue of the organization.



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# Four Core Services

## **Independent Living Skills Training:**

Instruction and skill building for living independently with a disability. Topics can include cooking, budgeting, transportation, social participation and self-care.

## **Information and Referral:**

We gather and share information about community programs and projects that assist persons with disabilities.

## **Peer Support:**

Persons with disabilities helping and supporting other persons with disabilities.

## **Advocacy:**

Educating consumers about the rights of persons with disabilities; assisting individuals in learning laws to self-advocate, and working within the system to bring about change.

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# Programs and Services:



## **Deaf Culture and Sign Language Classes:**

These classes are offered to anyone in our community interested in learning sign language and interacting with the Deaf culture.

## **Communication Services:**

We coordinate agency and business interpreting services, video access for activities like employee training, social services appt., job interview, legal appt., medical appt.

## **Disability Awareness/ Etiquette Training:**

We offer disability awareness and training to schools, clubs, businesses, and public agencies.

## **Benefits Planning:**

Trained Specialist provide consumers with disabilities information and help with managing SSI and SSDI benefits.

## **Loan Locker:**

This program allows consumers, businesses and agencies to borrow equipment for mobility impairments, vision impairments, and self care.

## **Ramp Building:**

We coordinate local entrance accessibility resources for home and office.

## **Library:**

Our library has over 100 Educational books, videos and cd's about various disabilities ready to be checked out by businesses, family members, caregivers and consumers in our community.



# 2008 Financials

## State of Florida, Department of Education, Div. Of Voc. Rehab.

SSA : \$69,919.00

Title Vii Part B : \$13,144.00

General Revenue: \$23,478.00

**Total: \$106,541.00**

## US Department of Education, Rehab. Services Administration

Part C: \$192,037.02

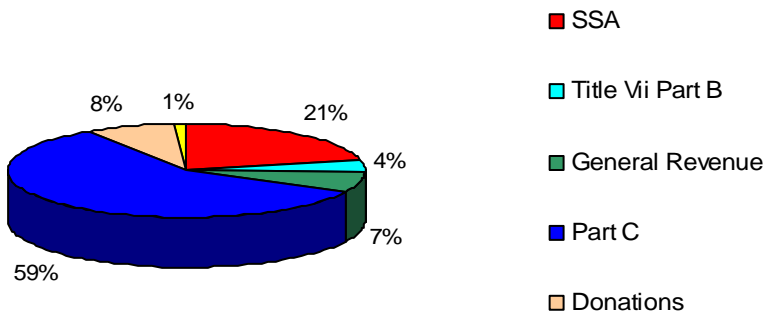
Donations: \$27,142.00

Fees for Services: \$3,473.95

**Total : \$ 222,652.97**

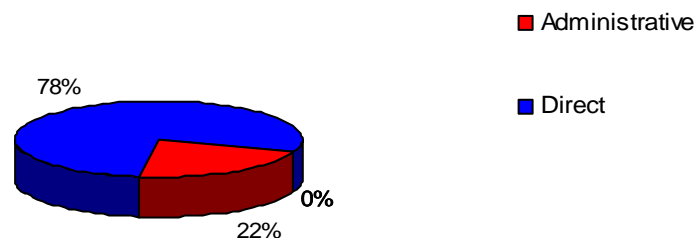
**Grand Total : \$329,193.97**

### Income



### Expense (Use of Funds)

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Administrative:        | \$66,895.42         |
| Direct:                | \$243,799.64        |
| <b>Total Expenses:</b> | <b>\$310,695.06</b> |



**Cash Reserve**

**\$18,498.91**

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# DRC Board of Directors & Staff



## **Officers:**

### **President**

Millard Cloud

### **Vice President:**

Kerry Corley Jr.

### **Treasure:**

Lynette Rehburg

### **Secretary:**

Julie Graham

## **Members:**

Dr. Pedro Behety

Ann Hairston

Judy Creel

Marc Kerby

Julia Works

Sha' Nelms

## **Staff:**

Robert Cox

**Executive Director**

Beverly DeMarcus

**Administrative Assistant**

Tamara Williams

**Coordinator**

Angie Dyer

**Independent Living Specialist 11**

Paul McAuliffe

**Independent Living Specialist**

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