



# INDEPENDENT

OCTOBER 2026

## Fall Is Looking Good at RCAL!

Who doesn't love a little fall glow-up? RCAL is showing off some fresh new signage at our Employment Building, adding a little extra color and inspiration to the property. And we're not done yet! An inspirational mural is currently taking shape on the side of the building, and we can't wait to unveil it to the community. Stay tuned!

### Our 5th Annual Friendraiser Is Almost Here!

Join us Wednesday, November 4, at 5:30 p.m. at Stonehedge Restaurant in Esopus for an evening of great food, good company, and live music from Music Therapy Studio! You may remember this talented local group from our Disability Awareness Parade and Resource Fair this summer at Keegan Ales. We're thrilled to welcome them back!

Tickets are \$55, and your purchase supports RCAL's work promoting independence, choice, accessibility, and participation in our community.

Get your tickets today at [rcal.org/fundraiser](https://rcal.org/fundraiser)!

### New Assistive Technology Opportunities!

We're also excited to announce new Assistive Technology offerings through our recently awarded New York State TRAIID grant! These expanded opportunities will help people explore technology that supports greater independence and participation in everyday life.

Want to learn more? Give RCAL a call or visit [rcal.org/traid](https://rcal.org/traid) to explore what the program has to offer.

From fresh new looks to exciting events and expanded services, there's plenty happening at RCAL this fall. We're grateful to our community for being part of it!



Fancy new signage on our  
Employment Building!

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WE ARE HIRING

Our Wonderful  
Sponsors!



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## New TRAIID Grant Opens Doors to Assistive Technology

RCAL is excited to announce that we have been awarded a New York State Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (TRAID) grant! This funding will help us expand access to Assistive Technology (AT) and bring new opportunities to people with disabilities throughout our community.

Assistive Technology is any device, tool, or technology that helps someone accomplish something they want or need to do. It can help people communicate, move around, read, write, learn, work, manage daily activities, and participate more fully in their communities. From communication devices and mobility aids to tools that make everyday tasks easier, the right technology can make a meaningful difference in someone's independence and quality of life.

One of the most exciting parts of the TRAID program is the opportunity to try before you buy. Finding the right technology is a personal process, and what works for one person may not work for another. Through TRAID, RCAL will offer device demonstrations and loans, training, and information and referral services to help individuals explore their options and find solutions that meet their unique needs. The program supports people with physical, sensory, cognitive, developmental, temporary, and long-term disabilities.

As Maria Lisi-Murray, Acting Executive Director of the NYS Justice Center, explained, "Governor Hochul has been clear that people with disabilities deserve to live in their communities with independence. Programs like TRAID help support that sense of autonomy, save consumers money, and ultimately, enhance quality of life."

At RCAL, we believe independence begins with choice. We're thrilled to bring more Assistive Technology opportunities to our community and help people discover tools that support their goals, remove barriers, and make everyday life more accessible.

A brochure for the TRAID program at RCAL. The brochure is divided into three main sections. The top left section features a circular image of a man and a young boy looking at a computer screen, with the text "TRAID IS FOR YOU" and "People of all ages and disabilities." The top right section features a circular image of a woman and a young girl looking at a tablet, with the text "TRAID AT RCAL" and "TECHNOLOGY-RELATED ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES (TRAID)". The bottom section is a dark blue banner with the text "TRAID at RCAL" and "MORE CHOICE. GREATER INDEPENDENCE." It also includes the RCAL logo and the text "Try it. Learn it. Use it. Live independently." The central part of the brochure contains the text "CONTACT US" followed by the address "727 Ulster Ave. Kingston, NY 12401", the phone number "845-331-0541", and the website "www.RCAL.org". It also includes a small logo for the New York State Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs.

Click to see the TRAID brochure and learn more.

Stay tuned for more information about RCAL's TRAID program and how you can explore Assistive Technology options with us!

**Make a Lasting Impact.  
Become a Monthly Donor.**





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## Working Behind the Scenes for Accessible Voting

You may find RCAL's offices closed to the public on Election Day, and you won't find many of us at our desks, either. But rest assured, we're still hard at work!

Each year, RCAL staff conduct Polling Site Accessibility Surveys to identify barriers that could make it difficult for people with disabilities and older adults to access their polling places. From blocked pathways to voting machines to obstacles near voting tables, our staff look for potential issues and, when possible, work with polling site staff to address them on the spot.

After Election Day, RCAL compiles the information gathered by our staff and provides a report of our findings to the Ulster County Board of Elections. This work helps identify



accessibility concerns and supports ongoing efforts to make voting accessible to everyone.

At RCAL, we believe that independence, choice, and participation in our communities matter. Helping ensure that people with disabilities and older adults can access the voting process is an important part of that mission—and work we're proud to do every Election Day.

**MHV PROUDLY  
SUPPORTS  
OUR COMMUNITY  
PARTNER:  
RCAL!**

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**GUIDING  
YOUR FINANCIAL  
JOURNEY  
*across* THE  
HUDSON VALLEY.**



**MHV**  
MID-HUDSON VALLEY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Federally Insured by NCUA

**JIM GARVEY MEMORIAL  
DISABILITY RESOURCES FAIR**





**SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 24, 2026  
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**



**Saint James United  
Methodist Church  
35 Pearl Street,  
Kingston, NY**

Join us for wonderful  
workshops, community  
resources, activities for kids  
and teens, and more!

**FREE EVENT • FREE LUNCH**

 Sensory-safe hour: 10-11 AM



Use the church parking lot entrance at 29 Pearl Street.  
Elevator access and free parking available.





# ***TWO WEEKS TO GO!***

## **Join Us for RCAL's 5th Annual Friendraiser**

**Good food. Live music. Great company. A cause that matters.**

We're just two weeks away from RCAL's 5th Annual Friendraiser, and we'd love to see you there!

Join us Wednesday, November 4, at Stonehedge Restaurant in Esopus for an evening of good food, live music, and community spirit. Whether you're a longtime RCAL supporter or just learning about our work, the Friendraiser is a wonderful opportunity to connect with others who believe in a more accessible, inclusive community.

This year's entertainment features Music Therapy Studio, a creative community where music brings people together through self-expression, connection, and the power of shared experiences. We're excited to welcome them for an evening celebrating the things that make our community stronger.

Your \$55 ticket helps support RCAL's work promoting independence, choice, accessibility, and participation for people with disabilities throughout our community.



**Wednesday, November 4, 2026 | 5:30 p.m.**



**Stonehedge Restaurant | 1649 Route 9W, Esopus**



**Tickets: \$55 per person**

Two weeks will fly by! Make plans to join us, bring a friend, and help us celebrate the community we're building together.

**[BUY TICKETS HERE!](#)**





*5th Annual*

# *Friendraiser*

RCAL invites you to an evening of community, connection, and celebration at our annual Friendraiser, featuring hors d'oeuvres, pasta, live music, and a silent auction. Join friends and neighbors for a fun, feel-good night that supports independent living and creates meaningful impact across our community.

**WED. NOV. 4 | 5:30 PM**

**Stonehedge Restaurant**  
1694 U.S. 9W  
Esopus, NY



**Tickets: \$55**  
[\*\*rcal.org/fundraiser\*\*](http://rcal.org/fundraiser)

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## Know Your Rights

On October 8th, RCAL and Vancro Integrated Interpreting Services co-sponsored an evening workshop titled, "Know Your Rights" at SUNY New Paltz.

A guest panel of Deaf, Deaf/Blind and Hard of Hearing professionals spoke to a crowd about their rights during medical services. The medical field often overlooks providing needed interpretation services to native ASL speakers and those who are Blind and Hard of Hearing.

This workshop was informative with action steps to prepare for medical appointments, how to request an interpreter for medical appointments or in-hospital services. Another workshop is planned for the Spring.



RCAL's Statewide Systems Advocate, Vernon Bonse, asking questions in ASL during the Know Your Rights workshop.

An Apple Original Film

**SPECIAL VIEWING PARTY**  
at BUSSANI MOBILITY SHOWROOM  
38 Old Sawkill Road, Kingston

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OFFICIAL SELECTION  
BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL OFFICIAL SELECTION

BASED ON A TRUE STORY  
FROM SIÂN HEDER, DIRECTOR OF THE ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING BEST PICTURE, CODA

**BEING HEUMANN**

SCREENPLAY BY SIÂN HEDER & REBEKAH TAUSSIG DIRECTED BY SIÂN HEDER

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13**  
5:30 PM REFRESHMENTS  
6:00 PM MOVIE STARTS

RSVP:  
845-450-1980 or  
apettersen@wegetyouthere.com

Bussani MOBILITY TEAM

R Apple

Need it? Chances are, we've got it!

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# A Little Scarecrow Creativity, RCAL Style

On a crisp fall day, RCAL headed to the Forsyth Nature Center's annual Scarecrow Day to enjoy the season, connect with the community, and show off a little creativity of our own!

Fresh off our third-place finish in this year's Kingston Artcar Derby, our artistic ambitions were riding high. Naturally, we decided to stick with a theme we know well: accessibility!



Meet our durable medical equipment scarecrow, whose name depends on who you ask. Is it RCAL Sal? Wheely Nelson? Walker Texas Ranger? We'll let you decide! Sporting a collection of mobility aids, our scarecrow certainly turned a few heads and sparked some curiosity among festivalgoers.



A big thank-you to RCAL staff members who took the time to iron out the kinks and get our scarecrow ready for public consumption. Our creation aims to show that accessibility can be creative, engaging, and even a little silly.

We're always happy to get out into the community, spread the word about RCAL, and remind everyone that independence and accessibility can show up in some unexpected places. Even in a scarecrow!

RCAL PRESENTS

# RCAROLING FOR ALL ABILITIES

People of all ages and abilities are

*welcomed!*

Favorite holiday attire is encouraged! Bring your joy and merriment for a warm evening of carols and community!

Pizza dinner will be served before carols with a cookies & cocoa station to follow carols!



DECEMBER 2ND



RESOURCE  
CENTER FOR  
ACCESSIBLE  
LIVING, INC.

ST. JAMES UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

35 Pearl St., Kingston, NY  
Snow Date: 12/16 6-8pm

6-8 PM

FREE  
EVENT



Everyone's voice belongs in the song.





**Light up your community with this bag.**



Spread some light and love with this \$2.50 reusable Community Bag. Every time this bag is purchased at our selected Hannaford store during our benefiting month, our organization will receive a \$1 donation.

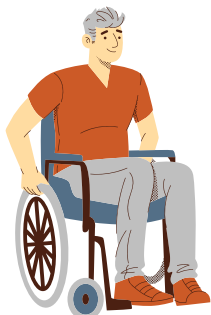
[hannaford.2givelocal.com](http://hannaford.2givelocal.com)



Community Bag Program



## RCAL'S DURABLE MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET



**Need medical equipment? RCAL provides affordable, community-based support.**

WE PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT ON LOAN, INCLUDING:

- ✓ WHEELCHAIRS
- ✓ WALKERS
- ✓ ROLLATORS
- ✓ SHOWER SEATS
- ✓ CANES
- ✓ PORTABLE RAMPS



 **HOURS OF OPERATION:**  
MON – FRI, 10 AM – 3 PM  
PLEASE CALL 845-331-0541 TO CHECK  
AVAILABILITY AND SCHEDULE AN  
APPOINTMENT.



## JOIN OUR TEAM

RCAL is looking for compassionate, dedicated individuals who want to make a difference in our community. Explore career opportunities and learn more about joining our team at [rcal.org/employment-opportunities](https://rcal.org/employment-opportunities).

## Special Education Advocate – Part-Time

Pay: \$20-\$26 per hour | Hours: Approximately 28 per week

The Resource Center for Accessible Living (RCAL) is seeking a **bilingual (English / Spanish) part-time Special Education Advocate** to help families of students with disabilities navigate the special education system. This position provides guidance on educational rights, IEPs and 504 Plans, services and accommodations, and advocacy strategies.

Responsibilities include supporting families through the special education process, participating in IEP meetings and dispute resolution, coordinating with schools and community partners, and providing workshops and educational resources for families and professionals.

**Qualifications:** Fluency in Spanish is required. Knowledge of special education laws and regulations, including IDEA and Section 504, and experience with the IEP/CSE process are preferred. Strong communication, organizational, research, and interpersonal skills are essential.

Experience working with children with disabilities and their families is highly desirable. An associate degree is preferred, though relevant professional or life experience may be considered.

Benefits: Paid holidays and paid time off (PTO).

To apply: Email your resume to Anthony Mignone at [AMignone@rcal.org](mailto:AMignone@rcal.org).





**JIM GARVEY MEMORIAL**



# DISABILITY RESOURCE FAIR

**OCT 24, 2026**

**10 AM - 3 PM**

**St. James United Methodist Church  
35 Pearl St., Kingston, NY**

Join RCAL and St. James for a dynamic day of workshops, resources, and community connections designed to empower you or your child to live independently and thrive! Discover local vendors, support services, and tools to take charge of your future.



**REGISTER NOW**

## **Questions?**

Please contact Roxanne Ferber  
at RCAL: [rferber@rcal.org](mailto:rferber@rcal.org) or  
Pastor Rebecca at St. James:  
[kids.saintjames@gmail.com](mailto:kids.saintjames@gmail.com)





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## RCAL Angel Sponsor



## Community Contributors



*RCAL Board Members*  
*Kathy McMahon &*  
*Jack Ruddick*



Join our growing community of sponsors. Learn more at  
[rcal.org/sponsorships](http://rcal.org/sponsorships).



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## Disability Advocates



**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF KINGSTON



*Anthony Mignone & Matthew Coumbes*

*Joanna & Peter Mignone*

Join our growing community of sponsors. Learn more at  
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## Friends of RCAL



**Timely Signs**



NEW YORK  
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**FRANCIS PFLYNN**

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Join our growing community of sponsors. Learn more at  
[rcal.org/sponsorships](http://rcal.org/sponsorships).