

# Our Mission

Silicon Valley Independent Living Center (SVILC) is a cross-disability, intergenerational, and multicultural disability justice organization that creates fully inclusive communities that value the dignity, equality, freedom, and worth of every human being. We do this by building disability identity, culture, and pride; creating opportunities for personal and community transformation; and partnering with others to ensure that civil and human rights are protected.

# About SVILC

SVILC is one of 28 community-based, non-residential Independent Living Centers (ILC) in California, and over 400 across the nation.

SVILC is unique because it is consumer controlled. Over 70 percent of the highly-skilled staff and board members are persons with disabilities who have a first-hand understanding of disability related issues. This understanding embodies a core motto practiced at SVILC, "Nothing about us without us!"



# Contact Information

## Main Office

25 N. 14th Street, Ste. 1000  
San Jose, CA 95112  
Phone: 408.894.9041  
FAX: 669.231.4795  
Email: [info@svilc.org](mailto:info@svilc.org)

## Branch Office

7881 Church St., Suite C  
Gilroy, CA 95020  
Phone: 408.843.9100  
Fax: 408.842.4791  
Email: [info@svilc.org](mailto:info@svilc.org)

Hours for both offices are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

Closed 12 to 1 p.m. for lunch



Find SVILC on the web at [www.svilc.org](http://www.svilc.org).



SVILC practices access for all. Contact SVILC within three business days for accessibility or accommodation requests.

Also, SVILC is a scent-free environment. Please refrain from wearing scented products.

This brochure is available in multi-language and accessible formats upon request.

Photographs by Suzanne L. Levine © 2011 and Terry Schmidt © 2011.



**Silicon Valley Independent Living Center**

Promoting interdependent living and full inclusion for people with disabilities in Santa Clara County



## Our Vision, Our Values

At the core of Silicon Valley Independent Living Center's (SVILC) organizational values is positive disability identity, culture and pride. This pride is transformative in the belief that disability is a natural and beautiful part of human diversity that should be celebrated. People with disabilities are not to be pitied.

This strong sense of pride is supported by additional SVILC values that commit to:

- Transforming ourselves and each other
- Equal access
- Equality and social justice
- Self-determination and advocacy
- Interdependence and community
- Inclusion and diversity

## Disability Justice

The disability rights movement's quest for civil and human rights continues to today. In recent years, however, another dimension of this struggle has emerged led by disabled people of color: disability justice. To this end, SVILC is committed to advocating not just for people with disabilities, but also for the human rights and social justice of all people.

## Services

### For People with Disabilities

- Information and Referral
- Various Peer Support groups
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Advocacy, including self-advocacy training
- Housing referral, home modifications, advocacy and emergency financial assistance
- Personal Care Attendant Services (assistance to locate, hire, and manage a PCA)
- Assistive Technology assessments and device loan library
- Transition assistance from a long term care facilities into integrated community living settings
- Benefits counseling
- Youth Transitions to Independent Living
- Accessible computer lab

### Systems Change Advocacy and Community Organizing

- More accessible, affordable and integrated housing
- Speaking out against budget cuts to essential services
- Increased accessible, affordable transit services
- Partnering with others to ensure that civil and human rights are protected
- Challenging the negative stereotypes and stigmas of disabled people

### For Community Organizations, Business and Government Agencies

- Disability and diversity training
- Complying with ADA standards
- Accessibility surveys
- Educational and disability culture workshops

## How to Apply

- All services are free. Anyone who lives in or near Santa Clara County and has a disability may apply for SVILC services.
- Individuals must request services for themselves; those unable to do so may request services through a chosen representative.
- Attend an Intake Workshop to learn about the services and opportunities available at SVILC. Appointments available by request.
- We work with each person to create an Independent Living Plan (ILP) that meets personal needs and goals.



SVILC staff and IL Advocates from Japan

## In Their Own Words

*"Words cannot express my gratitude for your assistance in helping me get an electric wheelchair lift so I can enter and exit my home. Thank you for making seniors and the disabled be able to stay in their homes."* – Kay B.