

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2013

inform

advocate

educate

support

empower



# Rhode Island Parent

Our goal is to inform, support, and empower professionals who seek to become effective and their communities. We serve more than



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# Information Network

parents, families, individuals, and family serving advocates for their families, children, themselves, 65,000 Rhode Islanders each year

**Founded in 1991**, the Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN) is a statewide, 501(c)(3), charitable, nonprofit organization with a collective programmatic reach that extends to every Rhode Island community, the state's major family-serving systems, schools, associations, and agencies.

**Our mission** is to assist individuals, parents, families and children to achieve their goals for health, educational, and socio-economic well being by providing information, education, training, support and advocacy for person/family centered care and systems change.

**RIPIN's vision** is that individuals, parents, and families will advocate for themselves, ensuring that their needs for health, educational, and socio-economic supports are accessible.

# Letter from the Executive Director and Board Chair

Dear friends and supporters of RIPIN,

We are pleased to report that 2013 was another year of growth and new opportunities for RIPIN. RIPIN is an extraordinary organization – both in what we do and how we do it. With an ongoing effort to deliver a higher value in services and meet the changing needs of the communities we serve, the agency is always working to address improvements in operations, management and service.

In June of this past year, we welcomed our new Director of Finance, Maureen William, to the agency. In October of 2013, Stephen Brunero was hired after retirement from state government to become the new Executive Director of RIPIN. We are also proud to announce new members of our Board of Directors – Carla Rodrigues, Cristina Amedeo, and Jane Palmer.

At RIPIN, we are pleased to continue the long tradition of providing high quality programs and services including trainings, information and self- advocacy to Rhode Islanders in the areas of health care, education, and early intervention for families and children with special health care needs.

Some of the 2013 Accomplishments, include:

- The inception of the Rhode Island Insurance Research Education and Assistance Consumer Helpline (RIREACH). The RIREACH call center has assisted over 11,300 consumers to date including Rhode Islanders in need of assistance with insurance coverage issues
- Members of the Early Childhood Team presented at three national-level conferences in DC - 2013 IDEA Leadership Conference; AMCHP, and the Family-to-Family Face-to-Face meeting.
- Parent Training Information Center (PTIC) program: Received national recognition for the Pathways to Adult Services workshop developed to help support families and youth with intellectual/developmental disabilities as they transition to the adult world. The National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (NSTTAC) has invited RIPIN to present at the NSTTAC international conference in 2014.

It is with deep pride that we express our gratitude to the RIPIN team, the dedicated Board of Directors, our many community partners and supporters, for bringing us to where we are today. We hope you share our excitement about the agency's performance and the many ways in which RIPIN is building a brighter future for those we serve.

Kathleen DiChiara  
President and Chair of the Board

Stephen Brunero  
Executive Director

The Rhode Island Public Health Association honored the Rhode Island Parent Information Network as 2013's recipient of the Meritorious Program Award. Presented to a group that has made significant contributions to the advancement of public health in Rhode Island, the Meritorious Program Award is based upon recognition by a group of professionals and public health peers long familiar with the development and advancement of public health in Rhode Island. This award is not awarded every year. Past recipients include; RI Kids Count (2012), Department of Health (2010) for flu vaccination program, and Shape Up RI (2008).



Deborah Masland, RIPIN Director of Childhood Programs  
Sharon M. Kernan, RN, MPH, Assistant Administrator, Center  
for Child and Family Health  
Laura Jones, RIPIN Director of  
Health Programs

RIPIN's newest workshop, Pathways to Adult Services, earns national recognition! The PTIC has been asked by the National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (NSTTAC) to collaborate on the development of the Pathways to Adult Services Toolkit in order to be used as a best-practice model for other states. NSTTAC is the national technical assistance and dissemination center funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).



Diana Kriner and Deb Belanger have been invited to present/share the Toolkit at the International Transition Capacity Building Institute in Charlotte, NC. The Toolkit will be published and shared with other states on the NSTTAC website.

# Revenue and Expenses

Through June 30, 2013



## *Revenue*

|                                    |             |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Government Grants<br>and Contracts | 3,615,726   |
| Other Contribution<br>and Grants   | 231,488     |
| Fundraising<br>loss, net           | -1,397      |
| Total Revenue                      | \$3,845,817 |





## *Expenses*

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Program Services          | 3,393,984   |
| Management and<br>General | 514,108     |
| Total Expenses            | \$3,908,092 |

# Board of Directors

Rhode Island Parent Information Network is pleased to count among our many supporters the following community leaders who make up our Board of Directors. Recognized as leaders in the fields of education, medicine, banking and finance, business, nonprofit management and others, they have a keen interest in ensuring a brighter future for all Rhode Island families.

Cristina Amedeo  
Kathleen DiChiara, Chair  
Ammala Douangsavanh, Secretary  
Anthony Fiano  
Stephen A. Furtado  
Rebecca Kislak, Esq., Vice Chair  
Jean Palmer  
David Hamel, MPA  
William H. Hollinshead, MD, MPH  
Carla Rodrigues  
Louis J. Simon, CPA, MST, Treasurer



RIPIN All Staff Meeting 2013

The Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN) employs more than 100 staff members whose duties range from providing direct service to families, to supporting our agency-wide advocacy efforts, to helping build effective parent/school/community partnerships. In all, we offer 18 different programs and services to Rhode Islanders. Our administrative offices are located in Cranston, Rhode Island but our field staff and volunteers work in and travel to all parts of the state.

RIPIN is a proud member of the Fund For Community Progress.  
[www.fundcp.org](http://www.fundcp.org)



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