

# Annual Report

# 2009

Empowering

*all* Rhode Islanders

*inform*

*advocate*

*educate*

*support*

*empower*



# The Rhode Island Parent Information Network

## *Rhode Island's Parent Involvement Specialists*



**Founded in 1991**, the Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN) is a statewide, 501c3, charitable, nonprofit organization with a collective programmatic reach that extends to every Rhode Island community, the state's major family-serving systems, schools, health facilities, associations, and agencies.

**Our mission** is to inform, educate, support, and empower all families to be equal partners in advocacy for the education, health, and socio-economic well being of their children and families; and to achieve family centered systems changes, which are culturally competent and community based.

**RIPIN's vision** is to serve and support all families in Rhode Island utilizing the principles of family centered care by: focusing on the strengths of the child and family; supporting relationship building and community membership; fostering mutual trust and respect between families and program staff and/or administration; promoting family choice and control; offering families good information and access to information; and including families in policy decisions and program planning.

annual report 2009

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## letter from the executive director

Matthew Cox



### Dear friends and supporters of RIPIN,

For many Rhode Islanders, and indeed human service organizations all across our state, this has been a very challenging year. Funding cuts, job loss, reductions in services and supports, and increasing stress at home and at work have forced us all to rethink priorities, economize, and to do our best to help one another. Although RIPIN experienced cuts like many others organizations, we redoubled our efforts to stretch our precious dollars.

Because RIPIN is a good value, we actually expanded service in many areas. Some of our new initiatives and partnerships include the *Peer Assisted Health Initiative* in place at 10 adult medical sites, a new relationship with the Southeast Asian community and an expanded relationship with the Center for Hispanic Policy and Advocacy. (*The Year in Review on the following pages explains these in more detail.*)

On the education front, we implemented some new, exciting, and time-tested initiatives to help increase parent and family involvement in schools to help improve student achievement. We also strengthened our collaborative relationships with the US Department of Education, RI Department of Education, districts, and schools.

This past winter RIPIN partnered with the well-respected firm of FIO Partners to coordinate our Strategic Planning/Strategic Management Process. It was important to include a broad array of those with

a stake in our work, and thus our Strategic Planning Committee is comprised of members of RIPIN's Board of Directors, staff from all levels of the agency, and key collaborative partners and funders.

Although the process will not be complete until early next fall, we have already learned important information about our management practice, interpersonal communications, and trends that will affect our work moving forward. From Board and Staff climate surveys we know that we are a very healthy organization. Soon we will revise our mission, vision, and organizational values statements in order to better reflect changes in community needs, our programmatic focus and geographic reach.

Most importantly, I want to take this opportunity to give thanks to our committed and forward-thinking Board of Directors, our talented, passionate, and effective staff, our dedicated volunteers, and the people and organizations who make all of our work possible: our funders, sponsors, and donors.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Cox". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew Cox  
Executive Director

## letter from the executive director

## the year in review



Spiderman and DeMetrius Rivera have some fun in the sun at RIPIN's 2008 Family Fun Day.

This past year has been a busy one ... filled with new partnerships, events and activities for professionals, families and staff members alike!

Last summer, RIPIN hosted our **6th Annual Family Fun Day** event. Held at Goddard State Park in Warwick, the event welcomed more than 300 families of children or family members with special needs. Participants enjoyed a day of fun, food, and friends and also had the opportunity to network with other families, service providers, and to collect resource material.

Our new **Peer Assisted Health Initiative (PAHI)**, a partnership with the RI Department of Health and Rhodes to Independence, was launched this past winter to provide peer-to-peer support to young adults with disabilities or chronic illness as they transition to adult systems of care, and to other adults who need assistance with systems navigation and supports. To date, ten Peer Resource Specialists have been hired and placed in primary and specialty medical practices all across Rhode Island. This is a very exciting expansion of our service model!



Members of RIPIN's Peer Assisted Health Initiative team.

We also established a new relationship with the **Socio Economic Development Center for Southeast Asians (SEDC)**. RIPIN now supports a part-time Family Involvement Specialist there to provide information and support to families of children with special needs.

In addition, this past year, our relationship with the **Center for Hispanic Policy and Advocacy (CHisPA)** was strengthened and a RIPIN Family Involvement Coordinator dedicates a portion of her time there each week to support families and provide technical support to staff of CHisPA. We expect to expand our collaborative work even more in the coming year.

Our inaugural **Fall Fundraiser** last October was a complete success, bringing together our Board, staff, community partners, and many corporate sponsors to help raise precious funds to support our mission. Planning is already underway for the event this coming fall.

We were also actively involved in planning and implementation of the **Providence School Department's Annual Parent Involvement Conference**. As a key sponsor, we helped bring Anne Henderson, a nationally renowned expert in parent involvement in education and author of *Beyond the Bake Sale*, to RI as the keynote speaker.

RIPIN's **6th Annual Partnerships Conference** was a resounding success this past March at the Providence Marriott. Almost 300 people came out to connect with each other and celebrate a Journey to Independence, the theme of this year's conference.



Key note speaker R. Scott Boots and RIPIN's Anna Caban at the Partnerships Conference.

Families of children and youth with special health care needs and the professionals who work with them attended informational workshops, picked up new resources and were inspired to keep moving forward during the opening presentation, *Beating Burnout: Caring for the Caregiver*, by keynote speaker R. Scott Boots of the Healthcare Initiative, Chicago, IL.

In our first major collaboration with Reach Out and Read, RIPIN hosted the **First Annual Read, Romp and Play** event at the Blackstone Valley Tourism Center in Pawtucket this past April. Nearly 300 children and families participated in literacy activities, including storytelling, trying out educational toys, and connecting with families from across RI. New books were also given to children who participated.



Linda McMullen, RIPIN Director of Administration, presents RI Dept. of Human Services' Paul Choquette with an award at the 1st Annual RIPIN Fundraiser.

The Rhode Island Dept. of Education's Office of Diverse Learners, Rhode Island Dept. of Health's Office of Special Healthcare Needs, RIPIN, Rhodes to Independence Initiative and many other RI helping agencies, came together to make the **First Annual Dare to Dream** Conference a major success! The event hosted 300 teenagers transitioning to adulthood as well as 100 educators and youth presenters.



Children at Read, Romp and Play meet Curious George.

## the year in review

For the past four years, RIPIN has presented the **Emilie (Millie) Hillman Award** to a RIPIN staff member who embodies the spirit of RIPIN.

The award was created to honor beloved RIPIN staff member Millie Hillman, who passed away four years ago. Millie's family and friends established this annual, memorial award to recognize a RIPIN staff member who exhibits passion for RIPIN's work, collaborative style and the support for colleagues that were so much a part of Millie's contributions to RIPIN.

Nominations came in from every program and in every area of the agency and many staff members were nominated. Each nomination described how the nominees helped individual staff as well as contributed to the mission and vision of RIPIN.

Associate Director Lisa Schaffran, 2008 winner Sue Vandal and Millie's daughter, Mary Hillman will present the award to the 2009 recipient.



## through June 30, 2009

<i>Revenue</i>	
Government Grants and Contracts	3,087,186
Other Contributions and Grants	185,160
Program Income - Workshops	132,914
Fundraising Income	18,702
Interest Income	437
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$3,424,399</b>

<i>Expenses</i>	
Personnel	2,383,805
Consultants	191,839
Occupancy	131,251
Office / Program	316,444
Miscellaneous	8,643
Sub-Grant	229,225
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,261,209</b>

## through June 30, 2008

<i>Revenue</i>	
Government Grants and Contracts	2,591,770
Other Contributions and Grants	210,872
Program Income - Workshops	35,438
Fundraising Income	60
Miscellaneous Income	-
Interest Income	271
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 2,838,411</b>

<i>Expenses</i>	
Personnel	2,177,892
Consultants	194,060
Occupancy	116,413
Office / Program	300,205
Miscellaneous	14,372
Sub-Grant	156,922
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,959,864</b>

## board of directors

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Mary Johnson and Lisa Blestt



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## board and team members

## supporters

### Funders

- ◇ US Department of Education
- ◇ US Maternal and Child Health Bureau
- ◇ RI Dept. of Health
- ◇ RI Dept. Human Services
- ◇ RI Dept. of Education
- ◇ Family and Children's Trust Fund
- ◇ The Fund for Community Progress
- ◇ Neighborhood Health Plan of RI
- ◇ Rhode Island College
- ◇ EI Training and Technical Assistance Center
- ◇ The Rhode Island Foundation
- ◇ Rhodes to Independence
- ◇ Sherlock Center on Disabilities at Rhode Island College
- ◇ South Kingstown School Department
- ◇ State Employee's Charitable Appeal
- ◇ Family Resources / United Way of Rhode Island

### Sponsors

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- New York Life
- The Providence Center
- Rhode Island Housing
- RI Quality Institute/ RI Network of Care

RI Tutorial & Educational Services  
 Samuel's Dental  
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 CHELO's Restaurant  
 Chili's Restaurant  
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 Cilantro Restaurant  
 Conway Tours  
 Creative Corner Family Hair Salon  
 CVS, Cranston  
 Danny's Place  
 Domino's Pizza

Don Bosquet & Sons Aerial Photography  
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 Legion Bowl  
 Lowe's  
 Masello Salon  
 Mikasa  
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 Pags Pizza  
 Park Oil

Park Square Florist  
 Portsmouth Abbey  
 Precious Cargo Day Care  
 Preservation Society of Newport County  
 Providence Marriott  
 Radisson Providence Harbour Hotel  
 Reflections Cafe  
 RI Blood Center  
 RI Philharmonic  
 RI School of Design  
 Rotary Club of Chariho  
 Sakonnet Vineyards  
 Sam's Club  
 Seven Moons Restaurant  
 Shape Fashions  
 Sports Treasures  
 Starbucks Coffee House  
 Sweenor's Chocolates  
 T's Restaurant  
 Tennis Hall of Fame  
 Terra Cotta Flower Shop  
 Thames Glass  
 Tony's Pizza  
 Trinity Repertory Company  
 Veccechia Roma Restaurant  
 Victoria's Secret  
 Water Wizz  
 Yankee Candle

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 Paul Boucher  
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 Myra Webster  
 Barbara Whalen

## committee representation

Early Childhood Council  
 New England Comprehensive Center  
 Advisory Board  
 The Fund for Community Progress Board of  
 Directors  
 Children's Leadership Roundtable Planning  
 Group  
 Healthy Tomorrows Advisory Board  
 Providence Mayor's Council of Education  
 Leaders  
 Positive Education Partnerships (DCYF)  
 Steering Committee  
 Positive Education Partnerships (DCYF)  
 Early Childhood Committee  
 Positive Education Partnerships (DCYF)  
 Administration Team  
 RI Children's Policy Coalition  
 RI Department of Children, Youth and  
 Families Program Improvement Plan  
 Review Committee  
 RI Department of Education 21st Century  
 Community Learning Centers Advisory  
 Committee  
 RI Department of Education Progressive  
 Support and Intervention Advisory  
 Committee  
 RI Department of Education Advisory Panel  
 for Instruction  
 RI Department of Education English  
 Language Learners Workgroup  
 RI Department of Health Institutional  
 Review Board  
 RI Department of Human Services Advisory  
 Committee on Childcare and Development  
 RI Department of Human Services Office of  
 Child Support Advisory Committee  
 RI Department of Human Services Respite  
 Task Force  
 RI Fatherhood Coalition  
 RI Father and Family Network  
 Strengthening Families Through Early  
 Education Rhode Island Leadership Team  
 Successful Start Steering Committee  
 RI Quality Institute Consumer Advisory  
 Committee  
 US Department of Education Northeast  
 Regional Advisory Committee for  
 Educational Needs Assessment  
 RI Department of Human Services Center  
 for Child and Family Health Consumer  
 Advisory Committee  
 RI Senate Oral Health Commission  
 Health Care Organizing Project/Ocean State  
 Action  
 One Rhode Island/Ocean State Action  
 Interagency Coordinating Committee,  
 Women & Infants Hospital

Neighborhood Health Plan of RI, Advisory  
 Committee for Children with Special Needs  
 National Family Voices Board of Directors  
 National Family Voices Policy Committee  
 Ready to Learn Providence  
 PAT and HIPPIY Affiliates  
 Hope High School Parent Involvement  
 Advisory Board  
 Policy Council Comprehensive Services  
 Newport Partnership  
 Newport Education Foundation  
 Newport School Department Parent  
 Coalition  
 Providence After School Alliance  
 United Way 211 Advisory Committee  
 United Way Impact Committee  
 United Way Solutions for Children, Youth,  
 and Families Impact Group  
 RI Asthma Coalition  
 English for Action  
 Transitioning English Language Learners/  
 Progresso Latino  
 National Parent and Community  
 Involvement Team for English Language  
 Learners  
 Student Success Initiative  
 Providence Education Excellence Committee  
 Providence Partnership for Young Children  
 Providence Back-to-School Celebration  
 Committee  
 Regional Transition Advisory Councils  
 Statewide Transition Council  
 State Rehabilitation Council  
 Statewide Task Force on Highly Qualified  
 Teachers  
 Rhodes to Independence Youth in Transition  
 Committee  
 Rhodes to Independence Social Security  
 Disability Summit  
 Providence Housing Authority  
 Personal Literacy Plans/Plus  
 RI Leadership Planning Committee



State Advisory Committee for Special  
 Education  
 RIte Care Consumer Advisory Committee  
 DCYF Lead Poisoning Prevention  
 Collaboration Committee  
 Childhood Lead Action Project  
 Collaboration  
 Community Health Worker Training  
 Curriculum Committee for the Center  
 for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in  
 America  
 Special Education Diversity Recruitment  
 Committee  
 Quality Rating System (QRS) Steering  
 Committee  
 WIC Coordinator's Committee  
 Ocean State Action Coalition  
 WIC Outreach Committee  
 Early Childhood Immunization Coalition  
 March of Dimes Board of Directors and  
 Program Services Committee  
 NICU Advisory Board  
 PPEP (Pediatric Practice Enhancement  
 Project) Advisory Committee  
 EI Transition Mentor  
 Committee  
 NHP Family Advisory  
 Lifespan Parent  
 Committee  
 Disability VOTES  
 CHILDSPAN Advisory  
 Board, Providence Public  
 School Department  
 Transition to Kindergarten  
 Coalition  
 RI Children's Crusade/  
 PEEC  
 Back to School Celebration

Coalition  
 Sherlock 260 Local Parent Support  
 RI Department of Education Alternate  
 Assessment Committee  
 RI Department of Education IEP Network  
 RI Mental Health, Retardation and  
 Hospitals Innovations  
 Sherlock Leadership Development  
 Workgroup  
 East Bay CASSP  
 Kent County CASSP  
 Newport County CASSP  
 Pawtucket/Central Falls CASSP  
 Providence CASSP  
 Washington County CASSP  
 Transition to Kindergarten T2K  
 Positive Educational Partnerships  
 Implementation & Protocol Committee  
 Positive Educational Partnerships  
 Training & Technical Assistance  
 Committee  
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 Interagency Coordinating Council for Early  
 Intervention  
 RIDE Task Force on Teachers Assistants  
 RI Alternate Assessment Advisory  
 Committee  
 Early Childhood Education and  
 Community Partners in Education  
 (ELITE)

## committee representation



## **Rhode Island Parent Information Network**

175 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860

401.727.4144 or 800.464.3399

[www.ripin.org](http://www.ripin.org) [info@ripin.org](mailto:info@ripin.org)



**RIPIN is a proud member of the Fund For Community Progress.**

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