



DAYLE MCINTOSH — CENTER —

Organization Overview

The Dayle McIntosh Center (DMC) is an Orange County-based organization that partners with people with disabilities to address immediate needs and achieve independence. The center has been a community resource for 40 years. DMC works with people without regard for age, race, income, or type of disability. Most of the staff and governing board consist of individuals, who have disabilities themselves and have met the challenge of becoming self-sufficient.

The center is named in memory of Dayle McIntosh, who worked tirelessly to lay the foundation for an independent living center in Orange County. Ms. McIntosh had a congenital disability that significantly limited her physical capacity. She fully managed her own life including obtaining a college education and employment. Regretfully, Ms. McIntosh died at the age of 26, shortly before the center opened. The fierce independence that Dayle McIntosh displayed exemplifies the philosophy and spirit of the center that is part of her legacy.

Programs and Services

DMC offers a broad array of services free of charge to consumers. The following is a brief description of the services currently available at the Dayle McIntosh Center.

Advocacy – guidance regarding eligibility for various disability programs and benefits; information concerning provisions under specific laws; and intervention to address reported instances of disability-related discrimination.

Aging with Vision Loss – provision of in-home assistance, for older individuals, who have lost some or all of their sight, including using adaptive daily living skills, modifying the home for easier access, and training to use assistive technology or devices.

Assistive Technology – demonstration of a wide range of equipment and devices to mitigate effects of various disabilities; recycling of donated medical equipment; provision of individual assistance in selecting and purchasing AT; and availability of computers with adaptive software.

Community Transition Services – coordination of tasks necessary to relocate individuals who are in nursing homes and want to move back into the community, including, finding suitable housing, furniture and household items, and in-home assistance.

Housing Assistance – aid with accessibility modifications in the home; distribution of affordable housing and emergency shelter lists; and provision of information regarding tenant rights and responsibilities. (DMC does not own or operate any housing units nor does the organization have funding for emergency shelter).

Sign Language Interpreter Referral – coordination of requests for sign language interpreters to facilitate accurate communication in everyday situations such as business appointments, parent/teacher conferences, or job training.

Communication Medical Emergency Network for the Deaf (COMMEND) – operation of a 24/7 emergency sign language interpreter service for use by hospitals and medical facilities so deaf patients or family members have access to appropriate communication during crisis situations.

Independent Living Skills for the Deaf – provision of individual or group instruction to improve the ability of people with hearing loss to be self-sufficient including use of deaf-friendly community resources and development of safety and self-advocacy skills.

Independent Living Skills Training – instruction in adaptive techniques for accomplishing activities of daily living and management of personal affairs.

Information and Referral – maintenance of a clearinghouse of information and resources of interest to people with disabilities and provision of appropriate referrals to address specific needs.

Mobility Training – provision of one-to-one instruction for people with disabilities, who want to learn to use public transportation including trip planning, practicing travel routes, and using safety procedures.

Orientation and Mobility – specialized training by a certified instructor to prepare persons with blindness to travel with a white cane and navigate both indoor and outdoor environments.

Peer Counseling – advice, support, and mentoring by qualified people with disabilities to assist others in their efforts to become more self-sufficient.

Personal Assistant Services – recruitment prescreening, and referral of individuals seeking to provide part or full-time help with personal care and housekeeping tasks.

Transition Services for Youth – helping young people prepare for adult-life by mastering routine tasks such as basic cooking, managing money, and communicating effectively; sponsoring social and recreational activities; developing leadership skills; and facilitating role modeling by adults with disabilities.

Community Services – provision of public support such as technical assistance regarding disability-related issues and standards; systems advocacy to promote positive change; and outreach and disability-awareness education.