



**Pennsylvania's Independent Living (IL) Project Newsletter  
Winter 2002**

**January is National Mentoring Month!!**

**2002 Youth Retreat Planning Committee Meeting Held**

On January 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, the IL Youth Retreat Steering Committee met in State College to begin making plans for the 2002 retreat at Shippensburg University. The retreat will take place from Monday, July 29<sup>th</sup> through Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Additional information related to the conference theme, agenda and retreat speaker(s) will be in future additions of The Update and the IL-Luminator.

**01' - 02' IL Bulletin**

Currently the 2001 – 2002 IL Bulletin/Application is awaiting signature from the secretary of Pennsylvania. It is thought that the bulletins will be available for distribution within the next month or so!

**Dave Derbes, State IL Grant Coordinator Promoted**

In fall 2001 Dave Derbes, the states IL Grant Coordinator was promoted to the position of ???? At the Office of Children Youth and Families/ DPW. It is with some reluctance that Dave moves on due to the close relationships he established during his years of work with PA's IL Programs. Dave's last several weeks have been spent learning a new position while interviewing candidates for his Coordinator position. A final decision is expected within days. Look for a spot light on the new State Grant Coordinator in future editions of The Update.

**University of Pittsburgh IL Specialist Position**

December 28, 2001 was the closing date for the position of IL Specialist formerly held by Ms. Lynda Long. The next several weeks will be spent in interviews with suitable applicants with a final hiring decision hopefully being made in late winter.

**University of Pittsburgh Competency Based Training Open House**

Open house for the new home of the IL Project will be held on January 23, 2002 from 4:30pm – 7:30pm at our offices in Mechanicsburg. The address is 2 Market Plaza Way (also know as Rt. 114), Suite 102. Additional information related to the open house can be obtained from Vernatta Jones at 717-795-9048.

## PILOTS System Update

Effective January 1, 2002 the PILOTS was in full operation. Unfortunately a small problem has prevented the system from functioning properly and the server again had to be shut down. I implore you to continue completing your Reporting Forms as youth enter your program just as you would if the server were functioning. Please be patient as we work on correcting this issue. Lourn Evans has replaced Lou Minisci as the Management Information System (MIS) staff and is working diligently at making the necessary changes to PILOTS. Packets with new user manuals and revised Youth Reporting Forms are currently waiting to be mailed to you. Keep an eye on your mailbox for their arrival.

## TJX Gift Certificates

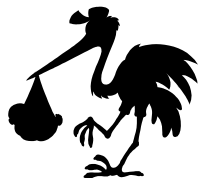
Even though it's cold outside, before you know it the graduation season will be approaching. Information about a program called TJX Certificates recently came to our attention at the Mechanicsburg office. This program provides gift certificates for purchase at a "cut rate" for use in TJ Maxx and Marshall stores. Enclosed with this months Update is additional information on how this program may benefit youth in your program. There are 53 TJ Maxx and Marshall's stores across the state.

## 2002 National Conferences

- 6/12 – 14 Pathways to Adulthood: Transitional Living/IL Conference  
San Diego, California
- 8/23 – 25 Destination Future: 2002  
Chevy Chase, Maryland
- 11/6 –8 National Adoption Conference  
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

## Website's You May Want to Visit

- [www.philliproj.com](http://www.philliproj.com) Phillip Roy, Inc Transition to Work, Life Skills, Parenting...
- [www.nila.org](http://www.nila.org) National IL Association
- [www.pheaammentor.org](http://www.pheaammentor.org) PHEAAMentor's site to help students go on to secondary education in PA



### A new baby is on the way...

Kristen Getic the former Data/Forms Entry Manager at Shippensburg University and her husband Derrick are expecting!! Their bundle of joy is due in mid-July! Kristen now works for the CBT program as the South Central Regional Training Center Director.

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