



# The Update

**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. We thank the staff and ten youth who participated. 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**

With the 2001-02 county grant allocations approved recently, the IL Bulletin/Application can be processed for signature. We expect distribution of the bulletin in the near future.

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

In November 2001 Dave Derbes, the state IL Grant Coordinator was promoted to the position of Program Specialist Supervisor with the Office of Children Youth and Families/ DPW. While he will continue to supervise the IL Grant Program, it is with some reluctance that Dave transitions 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 the various grant programs in the new position while interviewing candidates for the Coordinator position. A final decision is expected soon. 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 address this issue. Lourn Evans, the Management Information System (MIS) staff person, 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.pheaamentor.org](http://www.pheaamentor.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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**IL Specialist:** Lenore Moton ext. 207  
**Forms/Data Entry:** Crystal Bittinger ext. 214