



Annual Report 2008



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 2008

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letter from the chair of the board

Mary Johnson



Dear friends and supporters of
RIPIN,

As the 2008 fiscal year comes to a close, and we look back at the many opportunities, successes and challenges of the past year, I can't help but reflect on, and give

thanks for, the wonderful team of staff, volunteers, community partners, and funders that have made it possible for us to have such a positive impact for individuals and families, and on the human service systems in Rhode Island.

During the past year our wonderful team has worked together on a variety of opportunities to strengthen our organizational structure, raise the bar (and our voices at the same time!) for our commitment to family-centered systems and policy changes, and to ensure that all of our efforts are strengths based.

On the following pages you'll read about just a very few of our many successes and opportunities, particularly those that help us more effectively communicate our message of support, collaboration, and empowerment to all Rhode Islanders who need us.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Board members and all the RIPIN team members who stepped up to the plate, eagerly accepted new responsibilities – perhaps even out of their normal comfort zone – and made a difference to our agency and the families and professionals we serve every day.



letter from the chair of the board

I am honored to serve as the Chair of such a high quality organization, and humbled by all that you know, do, and strive for to promote parent involvement at all levels – health, education, and other family-serving systems. Together we are making a difference for all Rhode Islanders, today, tomorrow, and beyond.

Thank you to our many funding partners, corporate sponsors, and individual donors who make all of our work possible. During these challenging times in RI, we appreciate your commitment to RIPIN and the families we serve. We value your partnership as we do our best and brightest team members, volunteers, and parent leaders.

The coming year promises to be another banner year for RIPIN and I invite all of you to call on us and learn how you can help support and inform more families and individuals, mentor those without an adequate support system, or make a difference in the classroom or a medical office. The opportunities are nearly limitless, and the benefits will surely make our children, our families, and the community stronger for years to come.

Mary L. Johnson

Mary L. Johnson, Chair
Board of Directors

the year in review

RIPIN has enjoyed, and been challenged by, a most successful year. Our Board Members and Officers have taken to their roles with diligence and enthusiasm and we are thankful that each and every one of them stepped up to help RIPIN become a stronger agency, and to move forward the many projects that make a difference to Rhode Islanders.

Over the past year, our support from the community and donors increased, most especially through the donations of our staff and Board through the Fund for Community Progress, United Way, and individual gifts to the annual campaign.

We are pleased to note that RIPIN was the first nonprofit organization in the Fund's 25-year history to receive a Workplace Giving Award, in recognition of the generosity of our staff during the 2007 campaign last fall. RIPIN was recognized because 55% of our staff participated in last fall's annual giving campaign...and a notable 500% increase in funds contributed!

During the past year, RIPIN also helped lead the charge to action in informing the community and our elected officials of the serious implications of proposed budget cuts in our state. The RIPIN Policy Team was reinvigorated, and was successful in informing and organizing families to get involved and make their voices heard.

We also received new or expanded funding from the US Maternal & Child Health Bureau, RI Department of Education, RI Department of Health, RI Department of Human Services, Circle of Parents, United Way of Rhode Island, The Rhode Island Foundation, as well as many new host agencies for the Parent Consultant Programs, corporate sponsors, and individual donors.

This past spring, we held our 4th Annual Partnerships Conference and raised the bar with the quality and diversity of workshops offered. We even raised

nearly \$30,000 to help support this important event through sponsorships!

One of the most exciting, and long anticipated, changes at RIPIN is that we now have an agency-wide database that is integrated, secure, easily maintained and upgraded. The Parent Training and Information Center, Family Resource Center, and Rhode Island State Parent Information and Resource Center programs are all up and running with it.

Soon the rest of the agency will be online as well. This new database is sure to increase the quality of our data collection and ease the task of reporting to our funding partners, and will also provide information to help us identify trends in service delivery, requests for assistance, as well as helping inform continuous improvement of our programs.

We also stepped up the quality, diversity, and reach of our web and print materials both through new concepts and designs, and the efforts of our community outreach team members.

As we look to the coming year, we anticipate continued growth in revenue, programs, and staff, and hope to further broaden our reach in the Rhode Island community.



the year in review



millie hillman award

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

This year's Millie Hillman award was given to **Sue Vandal**, Early Intervention Parent Consultant Program Manager.

Associate Director Lisa Schaffran, 2007 winner Deb Spaziano and Millie's daughter, Mary Hillman presented the award to Sue at the Annual Meeting.

The award was created to honor beloved RIPIN staff member Millie Hillman, who passed away three 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.



through June 30, 2008

<i>Revenue</i>	
Government Grants	2,706,629
Program Revenue/Fundraising	168,795
Contributions	183,534
Other	353
Total Revenue	\$3,059,311

<i>Expenses</i>	
Salaries	1,864,846
Taxes and Benefits	297,338
Education and Training Materials	16,887
Occupancy	95,580
Consultants	310,682
Travel and Training	100,878
Printing and Copying	42,702
Supplies	40,066
Equipment	21,777
Other Expenses	139,182
Total Expenses	\$2,929,938

through June 30, 2007

<i>Revenue</i>	
Government Grants	2,394,947
Program Revenue/Fundraising	170,121
Contributions	88,083
Other	91
Total Revenue	\$ 2,653,242

<i>Expenses</i>	
Salaries	1,644,909
Taxes and Benefits	246,514
Education and Training Materials	12,854
Occupancy	97,278
Consultants	336,314
Travel and Training	131,807
Printing and Copying	77,514
Supplies	50,143
Equipment	12,855
Other Expenses	94,329
Total Expenses	\$2,704,517

revenue and expenses

board of directors

2008-2009

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Lee Ann Bonneau
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Linda McMullen
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Sandra Rivera
Victoria Rodriguez
Tammy Russo
Lisa Schaffran
Marsha Schlesinger
Nancy Silva
Shavon Smith
Diane Smyth
Debbie Spaziano
Fiordaliza Then
Suzanne Tobin
Barbara Torres
Susan Vandal
Joan Vendetti
Nenita Vinalon
Linda Vollaro
Heidi Wallace
Dawn Wardyga
Roberta Zimmerly

board
and
team
members



board
and
team
members



supporters

Funders

- ◇ US Department of Education
- ◇ US Maternal and Child Health Bureau
- ◇ US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
- ◇ RI Department of Health
- ◇ RI Department of Human Services
- ◇ RI Department of Education
- ◇ The Autism Project of RI
- ◇ Circle of Parents
- ◇ Coastal Waterman Pediatrics
- ◇ Family Service of RI
- ◇ The Fund for Community Progress
- ◇ Hasbro Children's Hospital
- ◇ March of Dimes
- ◇ Memorial Hospital Neurodevelopment Center
- ◇ Neighborhood Health Plan of RI
- ◇ Neonatal Follow-Up Clinic
- ◇ Northwest Community Health Care
- ◇ Ocean State Charities Trust

- ◇ Park Pediatrics
- ◇ Rhode Island College EI Training and Technical Assistance Center
- ◇ The Rhode Island Foundation
- ◇ Samuels Dental Center
- ◇ Sherlock Center on Disabilities at Rhode Island College
- ◇ South County Pediatrics
- ◇ South Kingstown School Department
- ◇ State Employee's Charitable Appeal
- ◇ United Way of Rhode Island
- ◇ Women & Infant's Hospital

Sponsors

- AAA
- AFLAC
- About Families
- Amica Insurance
- Art on Ice
- The Autism Project of RI
- BJ's Wholesale Club
- Belmont Market, Wakefield
- Best Buddies RI
- Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center
- Butler Hospital
- Casey Farm
- Celebration Tent Rental
- The Clafin Company

- Clinical One
- CVS Caremark Charities
- D'Angelo's, Westerly
- Del's Lemonade
- Don Rodrigues Karate Academy
- Dunkin' Donuts
- Empowered Families CEDARR Center
- Family Service of Rhode Island
- Family Voices
- Frank Rentals
- Hasbro Children's Hospital
- Historic New England
- Leadsafe Homes Program
- Let's Dance Studio
- Make A Wish
- Maxim Healthcare Services
- McDonalds
- Merrill Lynch
- Muscular Dystrophy Assoc.
- Neighborhood Health Plan of RI
- Newport Creamery
- New York Life
- Office of Rehabilitation Services - RI DHS
- Parent Support Network
- The Providence Center
- Reach Out & Read
- RI Costume Warwick Mall
- RI Department of Health
- RI Department of Human Services

- RI Developmental Disabilities Council
- RI Disability Law Center
- RI Housing
- RI Novelty
- The Rhode Island Medical Society
- Ronzio Pizza
- Shaws
- SibLink
- Sam's Club
- Solutions CEDARR
- Sovereign Bank
- Stop & Shop
- Therapeutic Child Care Services
- United Behavioral Health
- Walmart Stores, RI
- Warwick Boys & Girls Club
- West Bay Community Action Program
- Wolf Rocks Catering

Donors

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- Ken Pariseau
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- Barbara Robinson
- Susan Rotblat-Walker



supporters

volunteers



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José González	Collaborative-Transition
Iasha Johnson	Employment Center
Mary L. Johnson	Craig O'Connor



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Elizabeth Pascucci	Ashley Trenouth
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Dorothy Poirier	Cliff Wieland
Colleen Polselli	Bettye Williams Clanton
Danny Rivera	
Claire Rosenbaum	
Christine Sheldon	
Patricia Sobral	



volunteers

Rhode Island Parent Information Network

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

www.fundcp.org