

Educate youth about disability identity, culture and pride; disability rights and social justice.

Communicate with peer mentors who have lived similar experiences.

Lead and gain experience to build your resume as well as enhance your college applications.

Have fun making life-long friendships and celebrate diversity; build positive self-esteem and self-determination.

DISABLED & PROUD



CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about any of the programs and services in this brochure contact or email us at: info@svilc.org

CONNECT WITH US



This brochure is available in multi-language and accessible formats upon request.

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SILICON VALLEY INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER

YOUTH UNITED



LEARN ABOUT

DISABILITY PRIDE & IDENTITY
EDUCATIONAL & CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Silicon Valley Independent Living Center

A disability justice organization that creates fully inclusive communities.

www.svilc.org

SVILC MISSION STATEMENT

"We are a cross-disability, intergenerational, and multicultural disability justice organization that creates fully inclusive communities that value the dignity, equality, freedom and worth of every human being. We do this by building disability identity, culture and pride; creating opportunities for personal and community transformation; and partnering with others to ensure that civil and human rights are protected."

ABOUT YOUTH UNITED

Silicon Valley Independent Living Center (SVILC) encourages disabled members of the youth community to step up and take part in Youth United as a way to explore who they are and who they want to be. This interactive leadership and organizing program teaches the history of our people and its great leaders with disabilities. Youth will learn about disability rights law and the first steps of self-advocacy toward interdependent living.

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Youth Advisory Council consists of a volunteer board of dedicated youth, ages 14-25 that have completed SVILC's Youth United leadership and organizing program. Council members coordinate youth days, participate in SVILC community events, act as recruits for the program as well as mentors, and take on leadership roles in their community.



YOUTH IN ACTION

YOUTH DAYS

Monthly Youth Days are open to youth of all ages and provide a laid back social environment in which youth can build allies and learn about each other on different levels. These events allow youth to talk openly together and let emotions be free while supplying them with a safe environment to grow and play with their peers and youth mentors.

COMMUNITY FORUMS

SVILC proudly sponsors forums for youth with disabilities and their families. Topics include dealing with bullying, teasing in school, and parents learning how to be an "ally" verses "advocate" for their child.

MENTORING DAYS

SVILC Youth United works to facilitate opportunities for youth with disabilities to connect with adults with disabilities who are employed in various careers. Mentoring Days focus on preparing youth as they transition into adulthood.

CELEBRATING DISABILITY HISTORY

In California, Disability History Week is the second week in October when schools, public offices and agencies highlight the history, accomplishments and leaders of the disability movement. This legislation was a grassroots success by youth with disabilities. Youth United is proud to provide Disability History curriculum and training to teachers in Santa Clara County.

"SVILC's Youth United Program has helped me to be a better person because it has increased my awareness about other people with disabilities besides myself. By graduating from the program I realized I can mentor other youth with disabilities."

— Sara Moussavian
SVILC Emerging Youth Leader



YO! DISABLED & PROUD

SVILC is a proud partner and supporter of Youth Organizing! Disabled & Proud, a program of the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers. YO! develops community organizing activities to build a power base among youth with disabilities so youth can effectively work for change.

"We will not tolerate another generation of young people with disabilities going through segregated education, segregated society, being dependent on their parents and public aid. We can make a difference in their future."

— Ed Roberts