



FLORIDA INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL, Inc.

Academy Award nominated documentary "Murderball" An interview with Bob Lujano

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April Calendar

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Please submit information you would like to contribute to this publication to Debbie Richards at dlr@polaris.net.

Individuals from all over the United States recently had the pleasure to hear an inspiring speaker at the 2006 SILC Congress hosted by the Florida Independent Living Council in Orlando, Florida. Bob Lujano is an inspiring athlete who appears in *Murderball*, a documentary about Quad Rugby, a fast-paced full-contact wheelchair sport played indoors on a modified basketball court. Mr. Lujano has a B.A. in Pre-Law and a M.S. in Sports Management and is the Coordinator of Athletics at the Lakeshore Foundation, an official US Olympic and Paralympic Training Site. He is also a quadruple amputee. In 1979, Mr. Lujano lost his limbs below the elbow and above the knee due to a rare blood disease called Meningococemia, a rare form of meningitis. In Bob's 10 years of playing Quad Rugby he has won: 1 Bronze medal (2004 Paralympic Games, Athens, Greece), 1 Gold Medal (1999 World Wheelchair Games in Christchurch, New Zealand), 1 Silver Medal (World Championships of Rugby in Gotenburg, Sweden), 5 US Quad Rugby National Championships with the Lakeshore Demolition of Birmingham, Alabama, and 3 medals playing Rugby for Team USA.

Murderball tells the story of a group of world-class athletes unlike any ever shown on screen. It crushes every stereotype about individuals with disabilities as it touches on the real lives of the players and their families. Wheelchair Rugby is played in over 19 countries and is a Paralympic sport. The Paralympics are the second largest sporting event in the world following the Olympics, taking place 2 weeks after the Olympics in the same venue of the city that has hosted the games.

The Florida Independent Living Council is proud to provide this incredible documentary to each Florida House Representative and Senator to promote awareness and education supporting full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into each and every community within Florida. We hope that this inspiring video will promote responsible policy decisions by our Legislators that promote the best interests of all Florida citizens....including those with disabilities. *-Contributed by Rose Lee Archer*

April 4, 2006
Personnel Committee 2:00 p.m.
Teleconference

April 5, 2006
Planning Committee 2:00 p.m.
Evaluation Committee 3:00 p.m.
Teleconferences

April 7, 2006
Executive Committee 1:30 p.m.
Teleconference

April 12, 2006
Finance Committee 10:45 a.m.
Teleconference
Tallahassee, FL

April 20, 2006
Advocacy Committee 2:00 p.m.
Teleconference

April 25, 2006
Nominating Committee 2:00 p.m.
Teleconference

April 28, 2006
Consumer Survey 2:00 p.m.
Teleconference

Activities initiated/hosted by the Florida Independent Living Council are open to the public. For information about these or any other FILC events please contact the FILC office @ (850)488-5624.

A Call for Responsible Legislation

What can the Governor and Legislature do to promote financial responsibility while developing a balanced budget and sound policies supporting medical care and services to Floridians living with disabilities?

- Avoid caps or fixed allotments of Medicaid dollars for catastrophic health care needs

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Independent Living In Action SportsAbility dates set for April 21-22, 2006!

SportsAbility is the premier event of the Florida Disabled Outdoors Association (FDOA). This two day event is about enhancing the lives of people with disabilities by promoting active living. SportsAbility provides first hand access to resources and demonstrations of activities designed to encourage participation regardless of age or ability level. For more information regarding **SPORTSABILITY**, please contact the Florida Disabled Outdoors Association (FDOA), David Jones (850) 668-7323, info@fdoa.org. See page 2 for scheduled events.

A Call for Responsible Legislation

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- Support the development of managed care that makes provisions for long-term assistive, rehabilitative, and service needs that meet the needs of individuals with disabilities including further exploration of “carve out” and “money follows the person” programs
- Include provisions for individuals with disabilities to “buy in” to Medicaid so they may obtain/regain employment and contribute to the public’s tax base without losing the medical services needed to maintain independence in the community
- Provide for active participation of individuals with disabilities and advocates in developing programs that impact the scope, frequency, and duration of services and the evaluation of the Medicaid transformation pilot
- Assess the fiscal impact to local communities for loss of providers and services that would cease to exist with elimination of a fee for service structure

What else can the Legislature do to help individuals with disabilities?

- As requested by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, approve 1.5 million dollars in general revenue to increase service capacity for Centers for Independent living
- Support legislation for emergency shelters that meets the medical and support needs of individuals with significant disabilities
- Support legislation promoting affordable housing for individuals with extremely low incomes
- Support legislation that promotes employment opportunities for individuals with significant disabilities

SportsAbility

(Continued from page 1)

DAY ONE (April 21 - 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM) - INDOORS DAY Tallahassee Community College Lifetime Sports Complex RESOURCE EXPO AND INDOOR ACTIVITIES such as....

Expo – Information booths on the latest in products, active leisure programs, and disability services; Wheelchair and Adaptive Golf; Tennis; Basketball; Goal Ball; Laser Target Shooting; Interactive Fishing Simulator; Disc Golf; Therapeutic Recreation Activities

DAY TWO (April 22 - 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM) - OUTDOORS DAY – Florida State University Seminole Reservation

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES such as.... Pontoon Boat Rides; Sit-down Water Skiing; Sailing; Canoeing and Kayaking; Jet Skiing; Fishing; Hand-Pedaled Biking; Archery; Target Shooting; ATV Trail Rides; Golf Clinics; Horseback Riding

Florida Independent Living Council is proud to support and participate in this event. Stop by and see us!

“Independence Worth Preserving”

Centers for Independent Living

- Suncoast Center for Independent Living** serving Sarasota and Manatee Counties, (941) 351-9545
- Coalition for Independent Living Options** serving Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Martin, and Palm Beach Counties (561) 966-4288
- Center for Independent Living of Broward** serving Broward County, (954) 722-6400
- Disability Resource Center** serving Holmes, Jackson, Washington, Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Liberty, and Franklin Counties ((850) 769-6890
- Center for Independent Living of the Florida Keys** serving the Florida Keys, (305) 453-3491
- Center for Independent Living of North Central Florida** serving Hamilton, Suwanee, Columbia, Lafayette, Dixie, Gilchrist, Union, Bradford, Alachua, Levy, Marion, Putnam, Citrus, Sumter, and Hernando Counties (352) 378-7474
- Self Reliance Inc.** serving Hillsborough County, (813) 375-3965
- Center for Independent Living of South Florida** serving Dade County, (305) 751-8025
- Independent Living Resource Center of Northeast Florida** serving Baker, Nassau, Duval, Clay, and St. Johns Counties, (904) 399-8484
- Center for Independent Living of Southwest Florida** serving Charlotte, Glades, Lee, Hendry, and Collier Counties, (239) 277-1447
- Center for Independent Living of Northwest Florida** serving Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton Counties, (850) 595-5566
- Caring and Sharing Center for Independent Living** serving Pasco and Pinellas Counties (727) 577-0065
- Ability 1st** serving Gadsden, Leon, Wakulla, Jefferson, Madison, and Taylor Counties, (850) 575-9621
- Victory Lane Center for Independent Living** serving Flagler and Volusia Counties, (386) 671-1960
- Space Coast Center for Independent Living** serving Brevard and Indian River Counties, (321) 784-9008
- Center for Independent Living of Central Florida** serving Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands, Lake, Seminole, Orange, and Osceola Counties (407) 623-1070

Please feel free to distribute this letter to any other persons/organizations that may be interested.

It is the mission of the Florida Independent Living Council to assist and advocate for people with disabilities in achieving equal opportunities. Our vision is to foster change via leadership, collaboration and visibility.