

Medicare Advocacy

Center for Medicare Advocacy Sues on Behalf of Medicare Beneficiaries Seeking Fair Access to Home Health Care

In June of this year, InSpirit, was awarded a grant for \$37,000.00 from the Nonprofit Community Partners Program of Marin County to advocate for homebound individuals to receive in-home caregiving from Medicare. This is a service homebound individuals should have been able to receive, but generally have been denied.

“This opportunity has been available since 2013, but the Center for Medicare Advocacy just had to file a lawsuit to ensure that tens of thousands qualified individuals actually receive these very needed services. All of InSpirit’s clients qualify for Medicare covered home health aides, however none of them has ever been able to receive this benefit from the private home health agencies. The lawsuit will help us enroll our clients in this program.”

“Receiving that kind of care is a private and deeply sensitive relationship,” said Brian Jacobson, who has been living with quadriplegia for the last 18 years due to a skiing accident. “Having those extra hours could save me and others in my situation from making risky decisions. Sometimes I’m left alone without a caregiver for extended periods of time because of the high cost for 24/7 care. That choice can endanger my health because it is unsafe for me to be unattended.”



It’s been impossible to find home health aides and agencies to perform this very needed work,” said Maya Friedman, InSpirit’s Executive Administrator, who is administering the grant. “My mom has Guillain Barre, and the 140 hours per month of Medicare would give her almost 24/7 care. I’m very passionate about this work because it would also help so many others in Marin and the Bay Area.”

“Marty found out about these services earlier this year, and her persistent and energized attention inspired Judy Arnold, outgoing Supervisor, to fully support our receiving this grant from Marin County. I’m thankful to Dennis Rodoni and Damon Connolly, as well, for their support of people with severe disabilities,” said Jonathan Frieman, Board President and Executive Director.

Meet Dale Kemp

November is **National Family Caregiver Month!** During this month InSpirit wants to honor the more than 50 million Americans who care for their aging or disabled loved ones. In fact, care provided by family caregivers makes up 90% of long-term care in America! Caregiving for a loved one can take a significant emotional, physical, and financial toll.

Dale Kemp and her late husband Steve brought their son, Joe, home after his accident almost 20 years ago. Dale became Joe’s primary caregiver at home, with morning help from Carlos Martinez, so she is a good person to ask about caring for a family member!



“We’ve been doing it so long, it’s just our normal life! Joe has a pretty special diet. I cook almost all fresh vegetables for him. I start in the morning cooking for him. I try to make it all myself so I know what’s going into his body. Carlos comes at 9 a.m. and does the morning routine. We just started using the standing frame again. It takes two of us, and we couldn’t for a while because I was injured.”

In the evening Dale gets Joe in bed using a Hoyer Lift. “He calls me around 10 p.m. for sleep prep. We have a monitor so I can hear Joe, but he rarely calls me during the night.

“I also take Joe out for medical appointments—big fun! We go to SF for dental care. No dentist in Marin can take a wheelchair. Four years ago we got a good used van that has a lift in back and a tall roof. Before that he had to be lying down and I had to pull him in.”

Dale says: “Be really patient, love the person you are caring for, be willing to learn a lot. It’s a big learning experience and it makes you feel good.”

“InSpirit for Giving” fundraiser was a big Success.

The morning of our first fall fundraiser dawned with rain in the forecast, and worry in the minds of the team who had worked for months gathering silent auction items, and figuring out logistics. We arrived as that rain poured down! But it soon stopped, and as the first guests arrived the silent auction’s 100+ items were in place, drinks and hors d’oeuvres beautifully presented, and David Jenkins was strumming his flamenco guitar.

Over 70 people joined us. Many of Aneice Taylor’s aides and house members came especially to witness their and Aneice’s dear friend Nancy Nichols receive the first Aneice Taylor Community Service Award. David’s playing was a backdrop to warm conversations.

Jonathan Frieman started the presentation by describing the progress we have made in stepping into Aneice’s shoes and growing the organization: getting new grants, and understanding how to help our clients receive

more governmental support. Board member and Aneice’s daughter, Deva Wheeler brought Aneice into the room, basing her speech around the phrase “helping hands.” How necessary all our helping hands are to people with quadriplegia.

Marty Meade movingly enumerated all that Nancy has done for InSpirit. Nancy’s heartfelt acceptance speech again made Aneice present. Brian Jacobson laid out the important contribution Andrew Giacomini has made to InSpirit, using his legal expertise to our benefit. Jonathan explained how Judy Arnold helped us get our first grant from the Marin Board of Supervisors. The fused glass plaques that Marty made, based on Aneice’s artwork, will be treasured by the recipients. Our new fundraising associate, Tracy Gary, explained with clarity and humor the importance of pledging support.

Between ticket sales, the auction, and pledges, we raised \$24,200. Many thanks to

Leslie Franklin, Marty Meade, Maya Friedman, Amy Valens, Brian Jacobsen, Buck Chavez, Ben Kinney, Kiersten Kotaka, Deva Wheeler, Tom Valens, Chef Ryan Gyorke and Alyssa Wood of R. Gyorke Catering and bartenders Danielle Kerr and Sam Boal, plus the many people and organizations whose donations fed us or went home in the hands of high bidders!





Supporting independent living for people with quadriplegia

Post Office Box 383
Woodacre, CA 94973
Tel: 415.488.0477

Email address
info@inspiritmarin.org

Website
inspiritmarin.org

Assisting the unique needs of people affected by quadriplegia since 1987

- Grants for Attendant Care
- Peer Support
- Special Needs
- Legislative Advocacy

InSpirit Executive Director Update:

This last year has been exciting and meaningful. All of us on the board and staff held Aneice Taylor in our hearts as we expanded our efforts in meeting our mandate to serve our clients by getting for them as many in-home caregiving hours as possible. A year ago Maya Friedman came on board as our Executive Administrator. Brian Jacobson, a client, began working hard as our Volunteer Social Media Manager. Marty Meade, our long time secretary, began touting using Medicare as another way to get our clients another 140 hours per month of in-home care, and with that she stepped back as Co-Director.

As a team we brought in \$87,000 of grants to help us raise more caregiving funds and pursue advocacy on the Medicare issue. Just a couple months ago we had our first ever fundraiser, led by Leslie Franklin, our newest board member, and raised almost \$24,200. Long time well known philanthropic consultant Tracy Gary started working with us and provides a burst of energy and love and support.

As ED, I help support the big visions we all have, which is so easy because we have such a wonderful team. Much of my work is now networking “outside of the valley” where InSpirit began. I now sit on

the board of Public Authority, the county agency which manages 300 in-home caregivers, just as Aneice did. We have new and good ties with Vivalon, MCIL, and the Marin County Commission on Aging, and we are looking at partnerships which could get our clients and other similar recipients about 300 more caregiving hours.

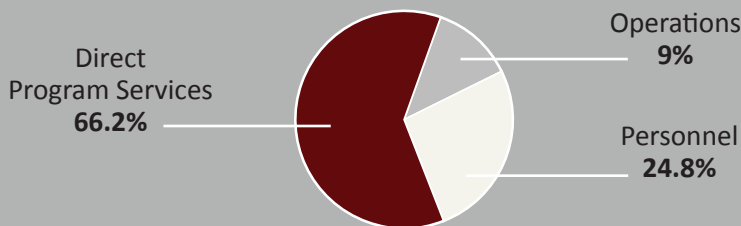


The future looks really rosy!

Jonathan Frieman
President,
Executive Director

Your Financial Support at Work

July 2021 – June 2022 Total Budget: \$174,816



Board of Directors

Jonathan Frieman, President, Executive Director
Marty Meade, Secretary/Treasurer

Directors

Brian Jacobson	Amy Valens
Ben Kinney, Jr.	Leslie Franklin
Kiersten Kotaka	Robert Lasser
Deva Wheeler	Laurie Chorna

Executive Administrator

Maya Friedman

InSpirit serves people paralyzed from neurological disorders such as spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, ALS and muscular dystrophy. InSpirit is a one-of-a-kind nonprofit that directly addresses the unique needs of people affected by quadriplegia. **Your support and gift will help provide hands-on care. Credit Card donations may be made on our secure website inspiritmarin.org.**

InSpirit is a nonprofit 501©3
EIN 94-3032391

Enter to Win a \$250 Amazon Gift Card!

InSpirit is excited to announce our email raffle! It's simple to enter, all you have to do is include your name and email address in the enclosed return envelope or email info@inspiritmarin.org with the subject line “Email Raffle”, and you'll immediately be entered in a random draw to win a \$250 Amazon Gift Card.

The deadline to enter is December 30, 2022 and the winner will be announced on January 5, 2023.

Good Luck!

