

Thank you for a wonderful evening!

December 6,
2012

MetroWest
Center for Independent Living, Inc.



MWCIL Awards

Our first annual IL Awards and Fundraiser Gala was a fun evening at the Sheraton Tara on November 30. The event was a chance for IL advocates to meet, share ideas, and honor our awardees. We ended the evening with an entertaining roast of MWCIL Executive Director, Paul Spooner. Below is more information about our Award Winners!

**The MetroWest Center for Independent Living
2012 Independent Living Lifetime Achievement Award
Is presented to Commissioner Charles Carr
In recognition of his career of leadership and
commitment to advancing the civil and human rights of
people with disabilities**

Charles Carr, Commissioner of the Massachusetts
Rehabilitation Commission

Charlie has been the commissioner for the past 5 years, and has dedicated his entire career as an advocate for advancing independence for people with disabilities. Even now, almost 40 years after he "escaped", you can hear the emotion in his voice when he talks about living in an institution. He understands the importance of independence, and how it takes grass roots and establishment people to effect change. As commissioner, he is in a position to make a big difference to people with disabilities.

As he stated in closing: "not one person that will come up here tonight and accept an award does it alone. That just isn't the way things happen. The way that we do it is with our friends. It is with the people that we know. The people that we don't know. The people that we love. Maybe even the people that we don't like. But whatever it takes to get the job done. And that's what Independent Living is. We are a family. We are a community. We are the whole and some of our parts are all in this room and everywhere else including institutionalized. We have a lot of work to do. "

You're Invited!

MetroWest Center for
Independent Living and
MA Statewide
Independent Living
Council are having a

Holiday Open House

Where: 280 Irving
Street, Framingham

When: Friday,
December 14 from 1-4

Download the [flyer](#):

About Us:
MWCIL website

Email

Phone: 508-875-7853
280 Irving Street
Framingham, MA 01702

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**The MetroWest Center for Independent Living
2012 Independent Living Lifetime Achievement Award
Is presented to Karen Langley
In recognition of her dedicated service in the fields of
Independent Living and Assistive Technology to promote
the integration of persons with disabilities into the
community**

Karen Langley: Director of Assistive Technology for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Karen began her career at the MRC as a vocational rehabilitation counselor, and has since transferred to the Executive Office of Health and Human Services after developing and managing many, many programs necessary to promote independent living in the community. Her accomplishments over the 34 years are staggering. She thanked her bosses, and her common theme was that they gave her the autonomy to do the work - not always the case in state government! We are all grateful that they recognized and respected her abilities!

Karen thanked her family - her parents "for the strong values that they instilled in me. One of the things that I think about my parents is we had to work hard, we were to persevere, we were to play nice, and always to treat people with respect. And I think I've learned to do that along the way. I also want to thank my husband Charlie. He has taught me how to live gracefully with a disability all these years..." Like Charlie, Karen clearly understands *what* needs to be done in the arena of Independent Living, and she knows *how* to get it done. Her current passion is for the development of reuse programs for Durable Medical Equipment and Assistive Technology.





**The MetroWest Center for Independent Living
2012 Legislator of the Year Award
Is presented to Senator Karen E. Spilka
In recognition of her leadership and steadfast advocacy in
the Massachusetts legislature on behalf of the disability
community**

Karen Spilka, State Senator for Ashland, Framingham, Franklin, Holliston, Hopkinton, Medway and Natick

As a state senator since 2005, and a state representative since 2001, Senator Spilka has worked very hard for MetroWest and for people with disabilities. She fights for any legislation that furthers independence for people with disabilities. Karen's effectiveness stems from her personal understanding as her sister's guardian, her ability to work well with her colleagues, her willingness to work with the local leaders in IL, such as Paul Spooner, and her passion for leveling the playing field for everyone.

She thanked everyone for their work: "Not only with the folks that you interact with and help, or yourselves, but you make a difference to us in the Legislature; whether it be somebody like me who is living it or not, be loud voices. Continue to fight. Continue to come to the State House. Make sure your voice is heard. It is the process that we got. It may not be the best. But it is the squeaky wheel, that's what gets things done. And we have made a lot of progress. We still have a ways to go as we all know, but I look forward to working with all of you. "



We would like to thank everyone who participated in, sponsored and/or attended our first annual Independent Living Awards and Fundraiser night and made it such a success.

Note: We are currently accepting nominations and volunteers for next year's Roastee of the Year.

From,
Paul Spooner
Executive Director at MWCIL

**The MetroWest Center for Independent Living
2012 Roastee of the Year is
Paul Spooner**

Paul Spooner, Executive Director of MetroWest Center for Independent Living

Paul was roasted, with affection, by 9 of his colleagues, and even the Master of Ceremonies, Fred Misilo, managed to get in a few sly digs. While everyone's respect and fondness for Paul was clear, he did not escape unscathed. He was accused of inventing streaking, and stealing his election as President (1999) of the National Council on Independent Living. Even his toy railroad hobby was abused by the roasters. Bill Allen protested "This is just too much of a love in." Bill, check out the photo below! Paul didn't get off that easily.

Paul did get heartfelt credit for his ability to direct and

teach people so that the work gets done, and so that IL causes advance. He ensures that his causes move forward by being prepared with "grenades" and "the finger". Paul "sticks to his guns" (Mary Margaret Moore) regardless of who he is dealing with. And as Bill Henning said, Paul "is the go to guy" and the "frontline guy".

Rachel Richards remembered : "I first met Paul about fifteen years ago. We were both really, really young and cute. Easy going. Open minded. The shy, quiet, retiring types. We often spent time sitting together just sharing our favorite stories about the wonderful ways that MassHealth had helped consumers that week. We giggled with delight. Paul is a true giggler. " She says the Paul we know today has "let out his inner demon" which may explain a lot of things...

When asked how he was feeling afterwards, Paul said that the Roast was tolerable as he now has several more really nice Grateful Dead tee shirts.



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