



Greetings from the Research & Training Center on Independent Living (RTC/IL) at the University of Kansas.

The RTC/IL is committed to supporting centers for independent living and other community-based organizations that serve people with disabilities in their work. We'd like to send you a monthly update about RTC products and research that you and your staff may find useful.

If you know someone else who would like to receive this update, please let us know. Or if you prefer not to receive it yourself, just reply with the word "Unsubscribe" in the message line.

Emergency Preparedness

The recent tornadoes in the U.S. and disaster in Japan remind us again that *now* is the time to prepare. Here are a few resources for you and your consumers.



Disabilityprepared.ku.edu is an interactive website for exchanging best practices for disaster-related needs of people with disabilities. People from around the country are sharing what works in the areas of communication, planning, evacuation, shelter and recovery.



"[Animal Emergency Preparedness](#)" is an online course provided free through Kansas TRAIN, the state's web-based resource for public health professionals. Service animals and pets need to be considered in planning for disasters as well as humans!

You can find these links, publications and more emergency preparedness resources on our website under "Training": <http://www.rtcil.org/training/emergencypreparedness.shtml>.

Living Well with a Disability (LWWD) Workshops

This program has produced great results for consumers across the state. If you'd like to have your staff trained as facilitators to deliver the course, or if you want to learn more, contact Leslie Schmille, lschmille@ku.edu, 785-864-0592.



Special thanks go to LWWD participants Veronica Thigpen (*on left in photo*) and Dianne Bradley (*right*) for sharing their personal success stories with visitors from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in March. Their stories are [available here](#).

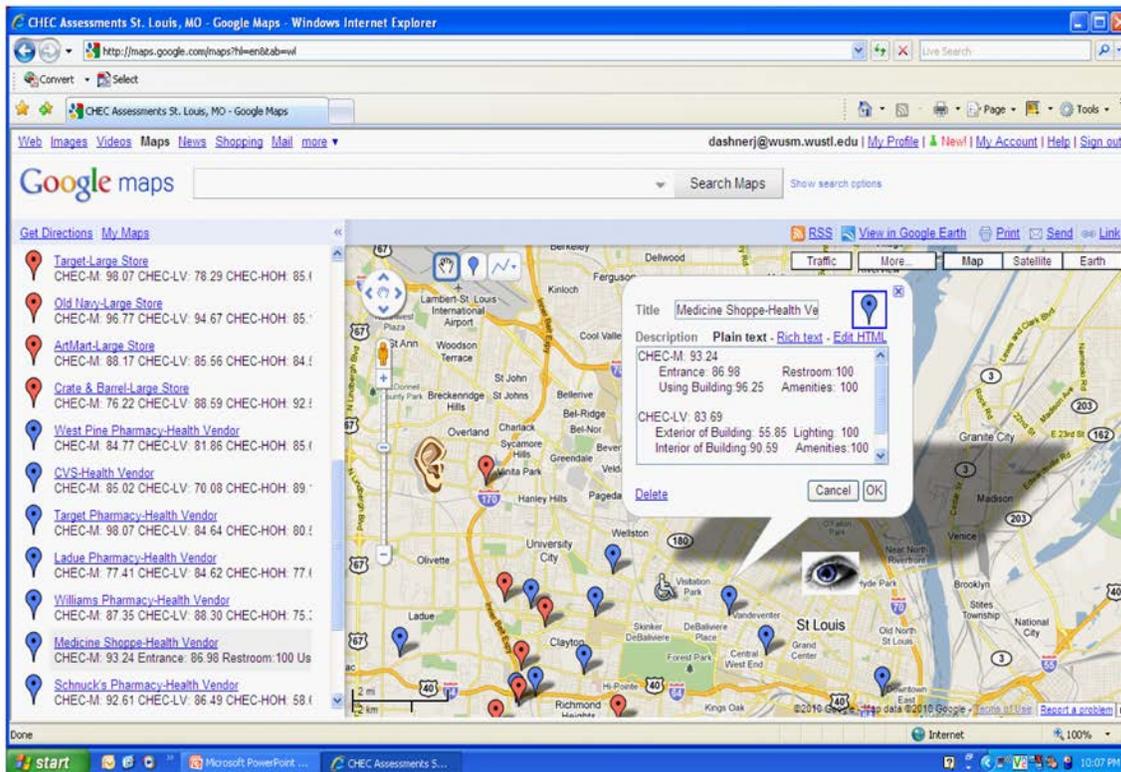
You can also learn about Living Well and view our Facebook page (no need to login) on our

website: <http://www.rtcil.org/training/LivingWell.shtml>.

Community Participation Research

If you weren't able to attend our conference last fall, we now have videos online that summarize the research projects. Visit our YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/RTCIL>.

Here's one of the tools this research has produced – a Google map that rates how receptive local restaurants, stores and other businesses are to people with sensory disabilities.



This image shows a Google map of St. Louis. Drugstore locations are identified with balloons. An information box is opened for one store, the Medicine Shoppe. This box shows the store's CHCE accessibility ratings for the entrance, restroom, using the building, amenities, exterior, interior and lighting.

To produce this map, people with disabilities use the **Community Health Environment Checklist (CHEC)** to review the businesses. Then their local CIL can share the information with all of its consumers. For more info, see the [video](#) or [PowerPoint](#).

Another project asks which CIL services are most effective for enhancing consumers' community participation? CIL staff members have spoken, and now we're getting feedback from consumers. For more info, see the [video](#) or the [PowerPoint](#).

These are just two of the areas addressed by the Research and Training Center on Measurement and Interdependence in Community Living (MICL). If you missed our conference last October, or if you want to refresh your memory, visit the [conference page](#) on our website:

We'll send you updates as each research project advances.

Thanks for your attention. We welcome your feedback and your questions.

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