



UPWARDLY MOBILE



BURTON CENTER DONATES COMPTERS

Thirteen students in Burton Center for Arts and Technology's Networking program, most of whom are juniors and seniors, and most of whom have already earned their CompTIA A+ Certified Technician certification, spent 25 classroom hours, 6-7 class periods, or 325 total hours, preparing computers to donate to BRILC.

The students come from all five Roanoke County High Schools. The PCs were donated to Burton Center for Arts and Technology via the VA STAR program, which is an acronym for Virginia Student Training and Refurbishment, a grant-funded program the state provides. The idea is that companies and corporations donate their used or out-of-warranty equipment to the VA STAR program headquartered in Prince William County Public Schools. They, in turn, redistribute the equipment to schools like Burton throughout the state.

The students begin by physically cleaning the computers, then ensuring the hardware is working properly. If they encounter any defective PCs, they diagnose the problems and can potentially create a functional PC by using parts from two or more non-functioning computers. Burton uses funds given to them by the VA STAR program to purchase SSD storage devices to replace the much slower magnetic hard drives that came in the system.

Once the hard drive replacement was completed on all PCs, the students took one machine and installed Windows, along with other licensed or free software and utilities, as well as all of the proper drivers, security updates, and Windows updates. Students then took an image of that computer and populated it to all the other computers, which sped up the process.

Lastly, all of the monitors were individually tested and cleaned. The result is that this year Burton has more than 30 Dell model 5050 computers, each with an SSD mass storage device, 8GB of RAM, and Windows 11 that are ready for general-purpose use!

This program is wonderful because it benefits students, as they learn how to properly image and distribute Windows on multiple machines, and it benefits a local organization like BRILC that, in turn, will be able to give the PCs to individuals with disabilities to try to minimize the digital divide!



If you're interested in getting a desktop computer, call Avis at 540-342-1231 or VA Relay 711

DMAS/Cardinal Care

Beginning January 1, 2025 - Exclusively Aligned Enrollment. Some of you may have received a letter because you are enrolled in both Virginia Medicaid and a Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan (D-SNP) for people with Medicare. Right now, your Medicaid and Medicare plans are managed by two different private insurance companies, also known as “Managed Care Organizations” (MCOs).

On January 1, 2025, all Virginia Medicaid and D-SNP members will need to be enrolled with the same MCO for Medicaid and Medicare. This is referred to as “exclusively aligned enrollment”. If you have questions about how exclusively aligned enrollment will affect your Medicaid coverage, you can call your MCO’s Member Services line at the number on your Medicaid or Medicare ID card.

You can also call the Managed Care Helpline at 1-800-643-2273 (TTY: 1-800-817-6608), or the Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program (VICAP), at 1-800-552-3402 (TTY 1-800-552-3402). VICAP provides free, confidential information for Medicare enrollees, including people in D-SNPs.



ROAD SCHOLAR’S CAREGIVER GRANTS

At Road Scholar, they acknowledge the responsibility carried by all adults who serve as family caregivers for ill or disabled relatives.

The warm, welcoming and friendly nature of their learning adventures provide a much-needed respite from the emotional and physical demands of being a caregiver. They’re committed to helping you offset the costs of arranging substitute care while you attend a Road Scholar learning adventure through their Caregiver Grants.

You’re an eligible caregiver if you are the primary unpaid caregiver providing daily care and support for an ill or disabled family member (spouse, parent, adult child, partner or sibling).

- Your loved one may also be receiving home care, hospice, visiting nurse, LPN services, or comparable and related services.
- Your loved one may be in adult day care, memory care, a nursing home or comparable or related facility.
- You have lost a loved one within the past two years who was in any of the above situations.
- You live in the United States and are 50 years of age or older.
- You have not taken a Road Scholar program in the last two years.

Learn more and apply at www.roadscholar.org/Caregiver.



DECEMBER INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) is observed annually on December 3rd. The theme for this year is "Amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future." This theme recognizes the important role that persons with disabilities play in creating a more inclusive and sustainable world for all. It also emphasizes the importance of the participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes that affect their lives.

The theme this year reflects the current international political and policy context, in particular the Pact for the Future and the upcoming 2025 World Summit for Social Development, and the need to create momentum for achieving the 2030 Agenda. The theme seeks to amplify the centrality of the leadership role of persons with disabilities, in all of these efforts - from the global to the local.



AKTION CLUB FISHING AT THE SALEM DUCK POND

The Aktion Club members catching fish at the Salem Duck Pond. The Fish Fry took place at Hopetree Family Services in Salem, on October 14th. A total of 45 trout were caught, fried and eaten, along with a host of side dishes and beverages. BRILC recognizes the Kiwanis Aktion Club for its efforts with community service projects and just being an overall great group of folks!



FROM ONE OF OUR CONSUMERS

"You made my life easier, and for that I am so grateful. And the way I was treated was the best. God bless the staff from the front desk to the back."

BRILC CHARITY LIST

Like to shop at Amazon? While you are there visit our wish list on Amazon.com on the link below:

<https://a.co/gzoiCAp>

FREE COVID-19 TESTS

U.S. households are eligible to order 4 free COVID-19 tests at COVIDTests.gov. The COVID-19 tests will detect current COVID-19 variants and can be used through the end of the year.



The Winner is.... 987500

The winner of the \$10 Kroger gift card for returning their survey by the deadline is **987500**. If you have the **blue winning ticket stub**, please call us at 540-342-1231 or VA Relay 711 so that we can tell you how to claim your prize. If you don't claim your prize a new number will be selected and shown in the next Newsletter. For all of you that returned your completed survey, **Thank You!**



AMPUTEE & LIMB DIFFERENCE SUPPORT NETWORK

ALL amputations result in limb difference but not all limb differences are from amputation. When people are born with absent or partial limbs, it is referred to as congenital limb deficiency.

The Amputee & Limb Difference Support Network (ALDSN) is a support group for adults with all forms of limb difference. These differences can be congenital in origin or resulting from amputation. Amputations often stem from accidents or illness and are sometimes performed to preserve one's life.

The ALDSN will provide an opportunity for adults with all forms of limb difference to come together in a safe space to discuss their challenges, share success stories and provide moral support. Topics like phantom pain management techniques, residual limb care and prosthetic options will also be discussed.

The ALDSN meets bi-weekly, on Mondays, from 1pm to 2:30pm. Dates may fluctuate due to consumer availability and changes in office hours. Please call for specifics. We currently have 5 individuals on the roster with room for plenty more. Caregivers and members of patient's support networks are encouraged to attend as well. We hope to see you soon!

If you know of someone who may have interest in joining the ALDSN, please have them contact Marc Davis @ 540-342-1231 x106 or VA Relay 711 or send an email to mdavis@brilc.org.



Blue Ridge
Independent
Living Center

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

The Allegheny Christmas Parade: Saturday, November 30th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm
The Allegheny Santa House from December 5th to 14th:
Thursday, December 5th from 5:30 - 7:30 pm
Saturday, December 7th from 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Thursday, December 12th from 5:30 - 7:30 pm
Saturday, December 14th from 1:00 - 3:00 pm

The Buchanan Christmas Parade: Saturday, December 14th (December 15th rain date)
from 4 - 5 pm

The City of Covington Christmas in Covington on Saturday, December 7th, from
4:00 pm-6:30 pm . Parade goers are encouraged to bring canned or non-perishable goods
to donate to the Northshore Food Bank.

The Roanoke Valley's holiday celebration, Delta Dental Dickens of a Christmas,
December 6, 6 pm - 10 pm, The Christmas Tree Lighting.
December 13, 6 pm - 10 pm, Roanoke Christmas Parade.
December 20, 6 pm - 10 pm, SPCA Pet Costume Contest.

Fincastle Christmas Parade: Saturday, December 7th . The parade starts at 2 pm.

Grandin Village Holiday Children's Parade, all day: November 23 at 11 am.
Admission: Free, Historic Grandin Village 1327 Grandin Road SW Roanoke.

The Salem Christmas Parade, Friday, December 6, 2024, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
(The rain date is Monday, December 9, 6:30 - 8:30 pm)

The Salem-Roanoke County Chambers will also host a Gingerbread Festival on December 7th,
from 10 am - 4 pm at Longwood Park and Salem Museum.

Vinton Christmas Parade: December 5th, start time 7 pm, downtown Vinton.

The O. Winston Link and Roanoke History Museum presents: Fantasyland's 30th
Anniversary. This immersive holiday experience also features vintage window displays from
downtown business. Tickets for the public showtimes are on sale: Showtimes include:

Saturday, November 30 at 10, 11:15 am, and 12:30 pm
Saturday, December 7 at 1 pm and 2 pm
Saturday, December 14 at 10, 11:15 am and 12:30 pm
Saturday, December 21 at 10, 11:15am, and 12:30 pm



WE'RE MEETING IN PERSON!!!

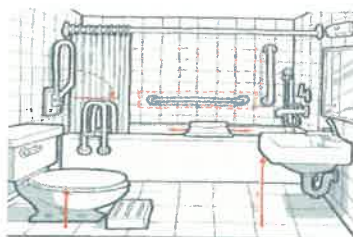
BRILC has a support group for all people with disabilities. Both men and women of all ages are invited to join us on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 1 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. We discuss issues or concerns that you might have, socialize and play games. The group is run by the members. We hope you'll join at the next meeting. If you have any questions, contact Jon Weems at (540)-342-1231 or VA Relay 711.



HAVE A DISABILITY? NEED HOME MODIFICATIONS?

Are you a person with a disability? Would a home modification help you to remain independent in your home? BRILC might be able to assist you.

Want to learn more about this program? Contact us at 540-342-1231 or VA Relay 711.



BRILC YOUTH TRANSITION PROGRAM

We are currently looking for youth with disabilities between the ages of 17-24 who had an IEP and have completed high school. We will assist youth with transitioning from high school to college and/or employment by providing peer mentorship, goal planning, and providing a youth group support meeting. Please contact us, or email at BRILC at brilc.org or at 540 342-1231 or VA Relay 711 for more information.



Thank You!

For Your Contribution to BRILC

Ellen Gunter, Charles Harlow

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- * **Beth Ann Gregg**
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- * **Jon Weems**
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- * **Darnita Stone**
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UPWARDLY MOBILE – Is available upon request in alternate formats: Braille, audiotape, large print, and Email **DISCLAIMER STATEMENT** – The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Blue Ridge Independent Living Center.



Happy Holidays!

