

Spencer-Russell Service Inclusion Mini-grant Program



When talking about her life, *Dr. Jayne Spencer* described herself as both “reasonable and relentless in the quest for equal access.” Her devoted and thoughtful approach to change was evident in her as role as Tarjan Center Community Outreach and Education Coordinator; particularly when she helped to launch our Service Inclusion efforts.

She has said that her experience as a quadriplegic “inform(ed) every activity she under(took)” from campaigning for accessible theaters, to serving as a role model for other academics with disabilities, to chairing the UCLA Chancellor’s Committee on Disability, to initiating a plan to create a Disability Studies degree program, to forming *Computación Sin Fronteras (CSF)*, an organization that expands access to communication technology in California and Latin America.

In the words of one of her students, “...she not only taught about social justice, she practiced it, in her own work and in supporting the work of her students. Whether it was Central America or Los Angeles, she did so much to help disadvantaged communities, [and] the rights of disabled individuals.”

Jayne Spencer leaves a legacy we are proud to carry on.



James Rice Russell generously offered us his time and encouragement as we worked to form the Los Angeles Service Inclusion Network. We miss his boundless enthusiasm and optimism.

Rice coordinated the *Employability Partnership*, an innovative program in the Los Angeles area that makes a multitude of services available for persons with disabilities and provides them with needed training and resources to improve the quality of their lives. Rice also spent four years with *AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA)*, in the *Benefits and Work Services Department*, where he developed and coordinated one of the world’s first HIV/AIDS return to work programs. He is the co-author of the *Work It! Guide*, and the *Work It! Series*, a return to work road map for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Rice’s work taught us the importance of giving people the tools they need to make informed personal choices about their lives.



***Announces a Funding Opportunity
In Collaboration with***



Spencer-Russell Service Inclusion Mini-Grant Program

Application Deadline: March 15, 2006

Purpose:

Named in memory of two leaders in the disability field, Jayne Spencer and Rice Russell, the Spencer-Russell program seeks to enhance opportunities for participation in national and community service/volunteerism by people with disabilities.

Who May Apply:

Nonprofit organizations, including national service and volunteer programs, disability organizations, educational institutions, state agencies, and faith-based entities in California are eligible to apply.

Funding Guidelines:

The Tarjan Center will make available grants up to \$2500** for inclusive service activities, promotion of inclusive service, and/or organizational and community capacity building toward inclusive service.

Possible uses of funds include:

- Organizing an inclusive service or service-learning project—particularly one that features collaborations between national service/community service/volunteer organizations and disability organizations. This could also include inviting new partners into existing service activities.

- Facilitating the participation by people with disabilities in Days of Service Events, such as those hosted by local Hands on Network Affiliates, Volunteer Centers, AmeriCorps programs, or others.
- Arranging an Inclusive Service Fair to promote service and inclusion to people with and without disabilities.
- Documenting Stories of Service by people with disabilities.
- Hosting a community forum: Bring together local service and disability organizations/individuals to discuss how to partner and move toward full inclusion.
- Attending a conference on service and/or disability inclusion: Train colleagues, friends and volunteers upon return.
- Adopting a sister organization for a year to engage in joint activities: If you're a service organization, then adopt a disability sister organization; If you're a disability organization, then adopt a sister service organization.
- Conducting outreach to disability organizations and service organizations in your community.
- Securing consultants to improve the accessibility of existing facilities and sites that utilize volunteers, or offering consultation on accessibility issues.
- Altering policies and procedures of your organization to facilitate inclusion of service and/or people with disabilities
- Creating alternative formats, hiring sign language interpreters, leasing ramps, assistive listening devices, or accessible vans.***

**Larger amounts may be considered for funding based on collaborative nature, size and impact of proposed project.

***These funds are not specifically for equipment, or for accommodations for a single volunteer.

Activities must take place before November 30, 2006.

Program Proposal:

Please submit a formal typewritten proposal of no more than five pages that includes the following:

1. Name and Title
2. Organization: Include address, telephone, email, and fax.
3. TAX ID #.
4. Date(s) of Proposed Activity/Activities.
5. Budget for Proposed Activity/Activities: Provide a budget for your project: including materials, supplies, equipment, accommodations/access services, or transportation costs. List quantity and unit costs for materials and supplies. **Show the total budget for your project as well as the specific amount you are requesting from the Tarjan Center.**
6. Describe your knowledge and experience in working with disability inclusion and/or national service/volunteerism.
7. Describe proposed activity/activities. How will they engage volunteers with and without disabilities in service? How will they improve the capacity of your organization to be accessible or to promote service or disability inclusion? How will it meet community needs? How will it foster community collaboration? And community inclusion? If applicable, how many individuals do you hope to engage in service? State two to three outcomes your project will produce.

8. Describe how the activity will be an opportunity to begin to change your overall organization or community for the long haul.

We will pay special consideration to proposals that demonstrate:

- 1) Community collaboration between disability organizations, service and/or volunteer programs.
- 2) A specific plan that indicates a long-term commitment to service inclusion.
- 3) Direct involvement of national service programs (AmeriCorps, SeniorCorps, Learn and Serve America.)

Requirements:

Awardees will be expected to complete a reporting form (to be forwarded upon receipt of grant) in order to document processes, outcomes, and stories of service.

Review Process:

Applications must be received by March 15th, 2006. Notification will be made no more than 1 month after deadline.

Send Application To:

Kari Pope, Project Coordinator
Tarjan Center
300 UCLA Medical Plaza, Suite 3312
Los Angeles, CA 90095
Fax: (310) 794-1143
E-mail: klpope@mednet.ucla.edu

Resources:

To find national service programs: <http://www.nationalservice.org/>

To find a local Hands-On Network Affiliate: <http://www.handsonnetwork.org/our-network/>

To find a local Volunteer Center: <http://www.volunteercentersca.org/locate.htm>

To find a local AmeriCorps program: <http://www.csc.ca.gov/programs/ac.asp>

To find a local disability organization, contact the Tarjan Center: <http://www.tarjancenter.ucla.edu/>

“Everybody can be great because everybody can serve.” --Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.