



# Dialogue

Volume 23 No. 3  
Fall 2009

## Consumer Spotlight

### Timothy Jin

Many people see Timothy Jin as a role model for others with developmental disabilities. Tim does not see it that way, though. He says that he just does what needs to be done: get an education, earn a paycheck, make thoughtful decisions about his services and care providers, advocate for himself, build a full and active life, and play an active role in his community.

“I am lucky to have keys to open new doors,” he says. Others would say the 34-year-old, who lives on his own in Fountain Valley, makes his own luck through hard work, persistence, and a positive attitude.

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*Many people see Timothy Jin as a role model for others with developmental disabilities.*

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Born with cerebral palsy, Tim does not have use of his hands and uses a wheelchair to get around. He uses his feet for many of the tasks others use their hands. “Due to many years of physical therapy, I can type, open doors, pick up pennies on the floor and do all kinds of things with my feet,” he said.



Tim graduated from California State University, Long Beach with a degree in Communications. Pictured behind Tim are his aunt Jinnie Hun (left), father Mike Jin, and mother Cindy Jin (right).

While he was growing up in Orange County, Tim’s parents refused to treat him as if he was disabled and had the same expectations for him that they had for his two brothers.

“My parents wanted me to be an accountant, but after one semester I didn’t like it,” he said, indicating that line of work did not mesh with his sociable nature. “I chose Communications, because I like to talk, but I also like to be challenged by others’ views.”

Tim has no cognitive disability; however, his speech is difficult to understand, so he speaks mostly by typing with his feet on his computer

or a portable communication device. Those skills serve him well in his work with Teacher Created Resources, a Westminster-based publisher of education materials, where Tim has done data entry for several years as well as various computer-related tasks.

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*He uses his feet for many of the tasks others use their hands.*

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“I’m like their go-to guy for technology stuff,” said Tim, who also created his own Web site

See **Timothy Jin** page 7

## Dialogue

*Dialogue* is published four times per year by the Regional Center of Orange County for people with developmental disabilities, their families and service providers. *Dialogue* can also be read online at RCOC's Web site: [www.rcocdd.com](http://www.rcocdd.com).

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### 2010 Board Meetings

January 7 • March 4 • May 6

The public is invited to attend. Meetings begin at 6 p.m. and are held in the Regional Center Board Room at 801 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana.

### RCOC Administration

Larry Landauer, *Executive Director*  
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## New on the Web

### RCOC Web Site Features New and Timely Information

Chances are, you are reading this *Dialogue* newsletter in print form. However, more and more of the people RCOC serves are looking to the Internet for up-to-the-minute news, information and resources. With this in mind, RCOC has begun to use its Web site to share timely information of interest to people with developmental disabilities, parents and other family members, service providers and the general Orange County public.

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For example, in recent months RCOC has used its Web site to post regular updates on the state budget situation, as well as Frequently-Asked Questions (also called "FAQs") on how the new budget and related legislation will affect services and supports in our community.

As part of RCOC's ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability, the Center's most current audited financial statement, tax return (Form 990), and federal audit are now posted on the site.

Visitors to the site will also find the latest resources and announcements from RCOC's Comfort Connection Family Resource Center, as well as a current calendar of events.

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*In the coming months, visitors to RCOC's Web site will see a new and more streamlined look.*

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While RCOC was one of the first regional centers to develop a Web site some years ago, it has been quite a while since the site was updated. In an effort to both stay relevant to the community's needs and use technology to make scarce funds go as far as possible, RCOC is undertaking that process now.

In the coming months, visitors to RCOC's Web site will see a new and more streamlined look.

"The updated site will be livelier, more colorful, and more engaging," said RCOC's Chief Financial Officer Bette Baber, who is supervising the Web site project. "However, our most important goals are to make it simpler for visitors to find the information they need, and to make more and more relevant information quickly and easily accessible to the people we serve."

Bette encouraged people to bookmark [www.rcocdd.com](http://www.rcocdd.com) and check back regularly to see what is new on the Web.

## Executive Director's Report

### Cost-Savings Efforts Will Also Improve Services

By Larry Landauer, Executive Director

To meet the challenges posed by reduced state funding, RCOC continuously examines every aspect of our organization, searching for



ways to do more with less. However, this effort is about more than meeting the needs of people with developmental disabilities in the most cost-effective ways. It is also about finding ways to do our jobs better, delivering excellent service to consumers and families.

### Employing Cost-Effective Technology

One way we are doing this is through technology. For example, we are implementing "auto-calling." The auto-call system places a telephone call to the consumer or parent, reminding them of the date and time they have scheduled for their service coordinator to visit. By relieving service coordinators of this administrative task, we increase their productivity and enable them to spend more time meeting people's needs.

Since the system is able to dial thousands of numbers at once, we will also be able to use auto-calling in the event of an emergency to share critical information with consumers, families and service providers.

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Soon, we anticipate using the auto-call system to follow-up on families' meetings with RCOC staff, polling them about their experience with us. In the same way that private businesses do, we will use that polling data to improve our customer service. This complements our participation in the National Core Indicators (NCI) project. Both efforts are aimed at listening to families in order to more clearly understand their priorities and better meet the needs of people with developmental disabilities.

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*We will also be able to use auto-calling in the event of an emergency.*

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The overhaul of our Web site, as discussed in the story on Page 2, is also well underway. Our intent is that the site will soon be a primary communication vehicle between RCOC and the people we serve, saving thousands of dollars in printing and mailing costs.

### Downsizing Residential Facilities

At the state level, one of the ways that California is aiming to save money is by ensuring that every service for people with developmental disabilities that can receive federal funding meets the standards that the federal government has set.

In the case of residential care, the federal government is moving away from funding for large facilities. To ensure that we in Orange County capture as many federal dollars as possible, RCOC is working with our service providers to downsize three large residential facilities. In the next year or so, the consumers who live in these large facilities will move to smaller, more home-like settings that serve no more than 4-6 people.

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Though this downsizing is being undertaken statewide to preserve federal funding, it is also the right thing to do. Smaller residences are more in keeping with the Lanterman Act's vision for people with developmental disabilities living as normal lives as possible in the community.

### Autism Treatment Standards

Because treatment for people with autism has been such a large and fast-growing area of regional

See **Executive Director's Report** page 6

## Consumer Advisory Team Update

### RCOC Performance Contract Overview

By Jay Connor, CAT Chairman

Each of California's 21 regional centers has a performance contract with the State of California. While every center's contract is different, each one spells out the goals that the center has for its community during the coming year. It also includes the specific ways that the center plans to achieve those goals. At RCOC, the board of directors monitors our center's progress throughout the year. And, at the end of the year, RCOC prepares a report to the community to let us know how it did in achieving its performance contract goals.

As each year's contract is being developed, RCOC seeks community input. Community input and involvement in the process is important because the performance contract



expresses the regional center's key priorities and its core principles. As part of this effort, RCOC's Chief Counselor Jack Stanton did a presentation about the performance contract at our

August CAT meeting. His presentation was one of several meetings where people with developmental disabilities, family members,

service providers, RCOC employees and others were able to ask questions and provide suggestions for the coming year's contract.

For 2010, the RCOC performance contract includes six categories. Five of these relate to the settings where adults and children with developmental disabilities live. (The sixth category details RCOC's goals for prompt intake and assessments.) This year's strong focus on residential services reflects our community's desire for all people with developmental disabilities to live as independently as possible.

Living independently is something about which many

### Upcoming CAT Meeting Dates

December 16

January 20

February 17

March 17

CAT meetings are from 10 a.m. to noon at RCOC's Santa Ana office, 801 Civic Center Drive West. Call Nancy Mata at (714) 796-5206 ahead of time to let her know you will be there.

CAT members are very passionate. Many have told RCOC that it is important to them to see progress in moving more people from developmental centers into less-restrictive community settings.

If you would like to know more about RCOC's performance contract, ask your service coordinator. He or she will have the answers, or will forward your questions to Jack. You can also go to RCOC's Web site at [www.rcocdd.com](http://www.rcocdd.com) to see RCOC's current performance contract as well as contracts for past years.

## Safety on the Internet

One of the ways many of you are staying in touch with family and friends is through the Internet. You are sending emails, chatting online, and using social network sites such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter. Using the Internet can put you in contact with many unknown people from all over the world. However, staying safe while online can be pretty simple as long as you follow some basic rules:

**1. Never give out your personal information, or the personal information of any of your friends or family members.** In other words, do not post or share things like credit card numbers, Social Security numbers, birthdays, addresses or phone numbers.

**2. If you meet someone on the Internet, it is probably best to keep it an online friendship only.** But, if you



try to meet that Internet friend in person, take the same precautions you would for meeting any other stranger. NEVER go alone. Meet during the day time, at a public place, where there are lots of people around. And make sure you let someone else know who, where and when you are meeting.

**3. Do not fill out the “profiles” or description of yourself that some Internet providers, like AOL, have for members.** The less information that you give, the less strangers will know

about you. You will receive less junk email, too!

**4. If you are using a web camera on your computer, never have the camera pointed at something in your room that would let someone know about you personally.** For example, a certificate from your work place or a calendar with dates on it can tell more about you than you might want to share. Remember, millions of strangers can see anything you put out on the Internet.

The online world can be a lot of fun, but there are also people out there who may want to hurt you or take your money. So we have to make smart choices. Remember, we are in charge of our own safety!

*Thanks for staying safe,  
The Safety Team!  
Safety Stu, Roy, Jessie,  
Stevie, Master B-Safe  
and Beary Safe*

## Camp TLC: Teaching Loving Care

In July, dozens of RCOC families participated in the 18th annual Camp TLC (Teaching Loving Care) at the Oak Glen Christian Conference Center in the San Bernardino mountains. Organized by the Family Support Network and funded by numerous corporate sponsors, the weekend event is an opportunity for parents to attend workshops related to their child's special needs, and to network with other parents and experts. While parents were in workshops, their children were in the capable hands of doctors, nurses and other experienced volunteers who oversaw numerous camp activities for the children with special needs and their siblings, including nature walks, swimming, arts and crafts, and miniature golf. Among the volunteers were many RCOC staff.

Gabriel Kimmet focuses on getting to the top of the rock climbing wall, which was a popular activity for children at Camp TLC.



### Executive Director's Report (continued from page 3)

centers' budgets, California is also now looking to save money by producing a set of standards for all of the state's 21 regional centers to use when purchasing these services. These standards will be in addition to the prohibition on funding for experimental therapies that was included in this year's budget.

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*The state's plans for autism treatment will likely have little impact on Orange County families.*

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In other parts of California, where some regional centers funded unproven autism therapies, these state-level changes are causing significant difficulties. Here in Orange County, however, our center has had a long-standing policy of funding only scientifically-proven treatments such as Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). As such, while many of those we serve have autism, the state's plans for autism treatment will likely have little impact on Orange County families.

**Watch for profiles  
of the outstanding  
2009 Spotlight  
Award honorees in  
the next issue of  
*Dialogue.***

**Timothy Jin** (continued from page 1)

(www.timjin.com) where he posts photos and information about himself and his life.

Mercedes Stinger of Creative Support, Tim's supported living service provider, says that Tim is the one she turns to when she has a technology question, whether it is how to make her own computer work better or which new device to buy.

"When he gives me technology advice, I know he's done his research and knows what he's talking about," she said, noting that she and Tim have developed a friendship over the time they have worked together.



Tim (right) sometimes converses with his friend Andy Sutfin (left) by typing with his feet on his home computer.

Mercedes thinks that Tim's situation is the perfect example of the value of supported living services, and why these services are so vital.

"He manages his own life," Mercedes said, with the help of four direct care workers who rotate shifts to assist him with the physical tasks he is unable to do with his feet. These include meal preparation and eating, dressing, personal care, and housekeeping.

"We take him to the grocery store, but he does his own shopping. We do the cooking, but he does the meal planning," she said.



Tim (right) is close to his brothers Rick (left) and James (center) and visited New York City with them a few years ago.

Tim's RCOC Service Coordinator Maysa Brancaleao agrees that it is a combination of regional center services and generic resources such as Medicare and Medi-Cal, SSI/SSP and IHSS – as well as his own hard work and attitude — that together enable Tim's independence.

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***Tim's situation is the perfect example of the value of supported living services, and why these services are so vital.***

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"He can teach us all how to be more positive and creative in meeting the challenges in our lives," Maysa said.

Longtime friend Andy Sutfin also admires Tim's attitude, which is very easy-going toward people who may not understand cerebral palsy. He said that when he and Tim are out at

a restaurant, for example, he is the one who gets frustrated at some people's insensitivity, while Tim just says "Whatever!"

Andy thinks the most important thing for people to know about Tim is that he is just a regular guy. He is a sports fan who follows motocross, auto racing, and basketball. He has a great sense of humor, and loves to laugh. He likes to date women. He appreciates a wide variety of music, from indie rock and punk, to ska and hip hop – and has even appeared on-stage with his friends in the Orange County band Aquabats! He likes nature and enjoys traveling, especially to places like Yosemite and the Grand Canyon. He is strong and physically fit, since his brother James helped design a workout routine that allows Tim to exercise every muscle group using standard equipment in his nearby gym.

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***"He can teach us all how to be more positive and creative in meeting the challenges in our lives."***

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"I've seen him do 300 incline crunches at the gym," said Andy. "Most people can't even do one!"

The two met 20 years ago when Andy was Tim's counselor at AbilityFirst's Camp Paivika. They got along well at camp, stayed in touch, and have built a strong friendship marked by mutual respect and shared interests.

"I confide in Tim. I can talk with him about things I don't talk to anyone else about," said Andy.

# Make the Holidays More Festive by Supporting Wish Tree

Each year, RCOC's Wish Tree program helps to brighten the holiday season for hundreds of people with developmental disabilities. If you, your company, volunteer organization or church group are looking for a great way to help others in Orange County in the coming weeks, please consider participating in Wish Tree!



The Wish Tree begins when low-income, needy individuals and families served by RCOC fill out cards that bear their name and holiday gift requests. These wishes – ranging from children's toys and clothes, to store gift cards – are fulfilled by purchasing the requested items and delivering them to RCOC. Volunteers then wrap the gifts and deliver them to the families.

Donors who may not have the time to purchase gifts during the busy holiday season can still participate. Financial contributions are used by volunteer shoppers to fulfill specific wishes from Wish Tree and ongoing needs throughout the year. Checks should be made out to "Brian's Fund," and mailed to RCOC's Santa Ana office.

If you would like to support the Wish Tree program, contact Karen Schaeffer at 714-796-5330.

## Regional Center of Orange County Locations

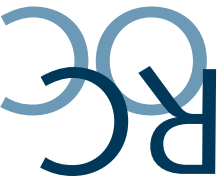
Santa Ana Office	Orange Office	Irvine Office	Westminster Office
801 Civic Center Dr. West 24-hr Phone: (714) 796-5100	3111 N. Tustin, Suite 150 24-hr Phone: (714) 796-3700	46 Discovery, Suite 200 24-hr Phone: (714) 796-4060	5555 Garden Grove Blvd., Suite 100 24-hr Phone: (714) 796-2900

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