



A Global Disability Resource and Advocacy Center

PENDLETON OFFICE

322 SW 3rd
Pendleton, OR 97801
Voice: 541-276-1037
Fax: 541-276-1125
Relay Service: 711
Toll-Free: 1-877-711-1037
E-mail: eocil@eocil.org

ONTARIO CORPORATE OFFICE

1021 SW 5th Ave.
P.O. Box 940
Ontario, OR 97914
Voice/TTY: 541-889-3119
Fax: 541-889-4647
Relay Service: 711
Toll-Free: 1-866-248-8369
E-mail: eocil@eocil.org

THE DALLES OFFICE

400 East Scenic Dr., Suite 2.382
The Dalles, OR 97058
Voice: 541-370-2810
Fax: 541-296-1471
Relay service: 711
Toll-free 1-866-248-8369
E-mail: eocil@eocil.org



Above: Collage of Pictures of Heidi Eidler

Dear Friends,

It is with devastating sadness that I inform our Independent Living Family of the passing of our Heidi Eidler Greenwell. Heidi passed this afternoon surrounded by her wonderful daughter Tamara and son Mark, Horst Kleinschmidt – brother, Steve – her wonderful devoted husband of two years, after a yearlong battle with cancer.

Heidi was born and raised in South Africa, graduated from secondary school in Namibia and as an adult went to college in Austria, where she received her bachelor's degree in English with a minor in psychology. During her college years, Heidi worked in the social services field providing services to people living with HIV/AIDS. Heidi had accumulated extensive HIV/AIDS service delivery experience and knowledge after working in rural communities across Africa, Europe and Brazil in the 1980s. She immigrated to the United States in 2000.

Patty and I have been blessed to have met Heidi in 2000 and almost instantly connected as friends and a big extended blended family. Heidi, Patty and I could spend hours talking about our children's adventures. Tamara and Mark were gracious to share their mother and they are in our thoughts and prayers. EOCIL was fortunate when Heidi joined our EOCIL family in 2001 as EOCIL's Director of

Programs and Services – Ryan White Program Director. Heidi was instrumental in building EOCIL's Ryan White Independent Living program, also known as Ryan White Case Management (RWCM), for individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Heidi was a member the Oregon HIV Care Coalition, the Oregon Integrated Planning Group (IPG), a coalition addressing HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, and of a Subcommittee of the Oregon State Independent Living. She gave 100% of her literal world of experience and a passion for advocating for independent living and self-management peer-based services for people living with HIV/AIDS outside metropolitan areas. Heidi traveled the world sharing information regarding EOCIL's program and was a guest speaker/organizer at the 18th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2010) in Vienna, at numerous Pacific Rim International Conferences (considered one of the most 'diverse gatherings' in the world) in Hawaii, and at the Association of Programs for Independent Living (APRIL) conferences in Las Vegas and Puerto Rico. Heidi's program was recognized as Best CIL Practices in Rural Independent Living for Emerging Groups by the Association of Programs in Rural Independent Living (APRIL), received the Cascade AIDS Project awarded the program its Angel Award for Outstanding Community Partnership, and received numerous PRIDE Foundation awards/honors. Heidi reminded us daily the Independent Living Movement was a global movement and we all have a responsibility to advance it globally.

Heidi was a tremendously devoted friend and coworker and left us many life lessons: a lady never spills her wine, live – love – laugh, friendship is happiness, be accountable, work hard and take time to have fun, enjoy the Columbia River sunrise and sunset. The entire EOCIL family shall miss her energy and life lessons she shared so generously.

W. Kirt Toombs