

ACTIVE RE-ENTRY

Independent Living Programs

10 South Fairgrounds Rd. Price, Utah 84501 • (435) 637-4950 • www.arecil.org

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Active Re-Entry Honors Local Advocates with Inaugural Awards

By **Stephanie Olsen,**
ETV News Reporter

PRICE – On March 12, Active Re-Entry presented awards to community members to recognize their hard work.

Five people received awards and recognition at the Active Re-Entry Community Advocate Awards. Among those honored was recently retired Louie Santillanes, who received the inaugural Community Advocate Award for

his career dedicated to advocating for people with disabilities. Through his time at Active Re-Entry, Santillanes advocated for the use of assistive technology, improved services and the inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of daily life. He is praised for helping residents across Eastern Utah gain their independence through specialized equipment and the building of countless home ramps. “We recognize him for

all of his hard work in the community,” the organization representative stated during the awards recognition. “And his dedication to people with disabilities.”

Nathaniel Woodward, attorney at law, was honored for his efforts in helping an individual in the Active Re-Entry program. After the organization contacted Woodward last year, he took on the case...

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*“Believe you can
and you’re
halfway there.”*

- Theodore Roosevelt



Consumer Spotlight

By Ryan Crozier

MICHAEL

Michael has been a standout individual with the consumers that I work with here at Active Re-Entry. Michael focuses on being a good young man and active in his community through getting around and meeting people in the town and actively pursuing connection with his peers in Duchesne County. He is one of the most insightful members of the youth class that I teach and is courageous in his willingness to be open about his vulnerabilities and his strength in standing by his friends and family. Michael is a pillar in his community and stands as such even as he faces adversity.

Active Re-Entry Honors Local Advocates with Inaugural Awards

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...and provided his services voluntarily. He provided many hours of counseling, legal advice and was with the individual every step of the way through the court process. As a direct result of Woodward's generous help, the consumer is now his own guardian, granting him the independence he had sought for years.

Harim Driggs was also recognized for her years of providing nutritional education to Active Re-Entry participants through the USU Extension and the Create a Better Health Program. Driggs has led many nutritional and

cooking classes, with her focus being on teaching consumers how to make healthy meals using everyday ingredients. Active Re-Entry praised Driggs for being a vital advocate for healthy living within the disabled community. It is their hope to continue their partnership in the future.

Active Re-Entry also honored Marsha Ellington and Anna Callaham. Together, they run the Avalon House Soup Kitchen & Food Pantry (formerly known as Marsha's Kitchen Table Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen) in Helper. Ellington and Callaham serve meals three days a week at the Avalon

House in Helper. In addition to the general public, the food pantry serves the Newhouse apartments in Price. It is a good option for anyone who is need of a good, home-cooked meal.

As Active Re-Entry continues its mission to advocate for those with disabilities who are unable to advocate for themselves, they continue to make a big impact in the community. With the start of the Community Advocate Awards, this marks the beginning of a new tradition of honoring those in our community who go above and beyond to help bridge the gap for residents in need.



Satellite Office Updates

Moab

Amy has been busy handling numerous loan bank requests and is planning to attend several events this spring, where she will set up an information booth to raise awareness about Active Re-Entry in the community.

Amy Farr 435-355-0683

Vernal and Roosevelt

Night to Shine is a worldwide event started by the Tim Tebow Foundation for people with disabilities, giving them the opportunity to enjoy a prom night of their own. Guests walk down a red carpet while paparazzi cheer them on. They can have their hair, nails and makeups done by professionals, dance and sing karaoke. Tracy and Jamie helped in the gift shop by filling guest bags with items such as jewelry, T-shirts, socks, sunglasses and more at the event held at Vernal Christian Church in February.

Training at the Department of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DSBVI) in January was a fun and educational experience for Jamie and Ryan. They were blindfolded and learned how to complete daily tasks without their sight. They practiced cane travel by listening to their surroundings and using a cane to detect objects. They also learned how to use a wood lathe to make a wooden pen in the woodshop. In addition, they practiced cooking and measuring ingredients, as well as navigating a kitchen while blindfolded. The training also included learning how to read braille and navigate a computer.

Miracle Rodeo is an annual event hosted by Delsco Northwest in Roosevelt. It brings together local businesses that set up booths, games and farm animal exhibits for 115–130 children with disabilities. The event allows children to interact with the community, have fun and enjoy a variety of activities. Jamie, Ryan and Tracy hosted a booth with games such as ring toss and a colorful spinning wheel, where kids could play and win prizes.

Jamie Batty 435-789-4020 | Ryan Crozier 435-630-0500

Blanding

DeAndra Smith was recently hired to assist Roxanne with her large coverage area. She will be providing loan bank services to the Monument Valley, Oljato, Halchita, Mexican Hat and Navajo Mountain areas. Roxanne has also been busy with outreach to the Chapter Houses and Senior Centers, as well as a lot of applications for paid assistive technology services, including items such as ramps for her consumers.

Roxanne Whitehorse 435-820-0900

Earth Day: Climate Change's Impact on People with Disabilities

By Jenna Martinez,
Access to Independence
of Cortland County Inc.
Advocacy Intern

Each year on April 22nd, Earth Day is celebrated to recognize the need to protect our environment. The founders of Earth Day created this celebration on the belief that we all deserve a right to a healthy and sustainable environment. Climate change has become a growing concern over the years. People with disabilities are harshly affected by climate change and the impact it has on the environment. Here are some key threats to people with disabilities

health due to climate change:

- **Heat Illnesses** (extreme temperature changes): Certain disabilities affect a person's ability to regulate their body temperature. With extreme temperature changes, this regulation is even more difficult.

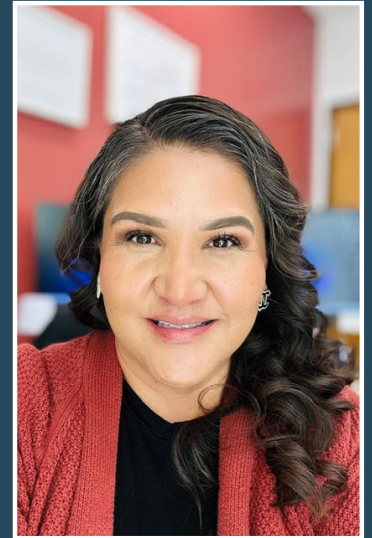
- **Water-Related Illnesses:** Because climate change impacts water resources in many ways, such as changes in temperature, flooding and rising sea levels, disease-carrying organisms may be introduced into the drinking water supply.

- **Mental Health Effects:** The extreme weather events associated

with climate change such as heat waves, flooding, and droughts can cause a great amount of depression, anxiety and stress for people with disabilities.

- **Injuries and Death/Natural Disaster Evacuation:** Oftentimes, people with disabilities are an afterthought in extreme weather community plans. Without the proper preparation for these events, people with disabilities may not be able to evacuate safely after a natural disaster, putting them at a greater risk of injury or death.

For more information on these threats, visit www.epa.gov



Employee Spotlight: DeAndra

I am from Kayenta, Arizona, and have been working in San Juan County, Utah, since 2012. Helping others is something I truly believe I'm meant to do. I enjoy seeing people smile, especially when I'm able to support them and make a positive difference in their lives. DeAndra has joined the Active Re-Entry team thanks to a grant provided by the Noorda Foundation. DeAndra will be providing outreach and loan bank services in the southernmost part of San Juan County.



Activities & Events Carbon & Emery Counties

Please call 435-637-4950 for more details.

Support Groups		
<p>Grief Support Group @ Active Re-Entry For more information contact Terri at 435-637-4950</p>	<p>April 8 May 13 June 10</p>	<p>1:30 PM</p>
<p>Caregivers Support Group @ Active Re-Entry For more information contact Terri at 435-637-4950</p>	<p>April 29 May 27 June 24</p>	<p>1:30 PM</p>
<p>Active Access Support Group @ Active Re-Entry For more information contact Derek at 435-637-4950</p>	<p>June 24</p>	<p>1:30 - 2:30</p>
<p>Low Vision Support Group @ Active Re-Entry For more information contact Tracy at 435-637-4950</p>	<p>April 15 May 20 June 17</p>	<p>1:30 PM</p>

Disability Advocacy Day 2026

On Monday, January 26 Active Re-Entry staff and consumers had a full day at the state capitol. We attended training, disability rights march around the capitol, rally on the south steps, and the Legislative Coalition of People with Disabilities reception. We met with lawmakers and talked about the

needs of people with disabilities across Utah. We would like to thank Rep. Watkins & Rep. Monson for spending time with us at the reception and learning about our request. Now that the session is over there were many changes to laws, funding and programs that support people with

disabilities. The six IL Centers did receive half of the funding that was requested in ongoing funds. This funding will help centers continue to provide quality services to all of you. Active Re-Entry would like to thank everyone that advocated in support of our funding request.





Senior Medicare Patrol Newsletter

February 2026

Medicare/Medicaid complaints? Call our Utah SMP/SHIP partners

Bear River AAA – 435-713-1467
Serves Cache, Rich, and Box Elder counties.

Davis County Health Department –
801-525-5050

Five County AAA – 435-673-3548
Serves Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, and Washington counties.

Mountainland AAA – 801-299-3819
Serves Summit, Utah, and Wasatch counties

Salt Lake County AAA - 385-468-3200

San Juan AAA – 435-587-3225

R6 Regional Council AAA– 435-893-0728
Serves Sanpete, Sevier, Millard, Juab, Wayne, and Piute counties.

Southeastern AAA – 435-613-0028
Serves Carbon, Emery, and Grand counties.

Tooele County AAA – 435-277-2420

Uinta Basin AAA – 435-722-4518
Serves Daggett and Duchesne counties.

Uintah County AAA – 435-789-2169

Weber-Morgan AAA – 801-625-3770

Medicare Flex Card Scams

Some Medicare Advantage plans offer flex spending cards that can help pay for groceries, over-the-counter drugs, and more. While these are great benefits, scammers are using them as a way to steal your personal information.

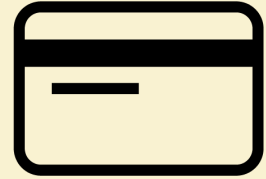
Common tactics to watch for:

- **Fake online ads.** Ads claiming that Medicare is giving out flex cards and directing you to a website that asks you to provide personal information.
- **Phone calls offering a flex card.** Imposters claiming to be government representatives call and ask for personal information so they can send you a flex card.
- **Switching you to another plan.** Salespeople call and use flex cards as a way to get you to switch from one Medicare Advantage Plan to another, or from original Medicare to an Advantage plan. Joining an Advantage plan doesn't guarantee you will get the card and may mean that your current doctor is no longer in-network.

Do you already have a flex card? See how they are changing in 2026.

What to know about Medicare advantage Medicare cash cards



Medicare Advantage flex spending cards can help pay for groceries, over-the counter drugs, and more. However, starting in 2026, not everyone can get them.



You must qualify:

- 1 **Joining a plan doesn't mean you get the card.**
You need a qualifying chronic condition.
- 2 **Work with your plan to see if you qualify** for extra benefits, like the cash card. See the plan's Evidence of Coverage document for details.
- 3 **You may need to send in paperwork** proving you have a qualifying condition to get the card

Also consider:

-  Medicare Advantage plans have provider networks. Make sure your doctors are covered.
-  Using flex spending cards to pay for utilities or rent can reduce HUD benefits (HUD 2025)



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MAIN OFFICE

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Active Re-Entry Moab



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- Chris Haycock CIP/Youth Program Specialist - Price Office
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- Larry Heaton, Dale Harbor, Doug Mecham, Dean Marchello PERKIE Drivers - Price Office
- Kelly Trolin Youth/ CIP/ PERKIE - Price Office
- Tracy Manchester IL/Low Vision Specialist - Price Office
- Kevin Nybo Driver/Facility Maintenance - Price Office
- Jodi Liin Volunteer - Price Office
- Roxanne Whitehorse IL/LV Coordinator - San Juan Office
- Jamie Batty IL/LV Coordinator - Vernal Office
- Amy Farr IL/LV Coordinator - Moab Office
- Ryan Crozier IL/LV Coordinator - Roosevelt Office
- DeAndra Smith Outreach Coordinator - San Juan Office