

My name is Helene Ferreira, I am an Assistive Technology Resource Specialist and have worked in Auburn, CA. for an local Independent living center for 10 years. There have been numerous times that I have worked with People with varying types of disabilities (ALS, Cerebral Palsy, CVA or Stroke, stuttering etc.) that were having difficulty just living independently and communicating with others via telephone.

Communication is vital for everyone.

When I tell people that they CAN communicate for themselves, just by dialing 711, I get incredible responses, such relief. Its just so simple. Dialing 711 and connecting to Speech to Speech allows someone who otherwise might not be understood to place those calls to loved ones, to the local market or pizza place that delivers, to the pharmacy for refills, to their Dr.s to make their own appointments. These things many of us take for granted, but for someone that may not always be clearly understood, dialing 711 can make a huge difference.

Please keep 711 available to everyone and provide training for People with speech disabilities so that we may all benefit by staying in touch with each other!

Sincerely,

Helene Ferreira