There’s always so much happening at Independent Living that it’s hard to fit it all into the limited space available in this quarterly newsletter, so here are some of the highlights:

Our Early Childhood Direction Center (ECDC) hosted the 5th annual regional conference on June 2nd. Laura Barker, MS, OTR, conducted a full-day workshop on Sensory Processing and the Ready Approach for over 144 attendees – parents, early childhood educators, related service providers and others.

Independent Living, Inc.’s contract with the NY State Education Department to operate the ECDC has been extended through 2015. The
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WE’VE HUNG OUT A NEW SHINGLE!

Independent Home Care, Inc., a sister company to Independent Living, Inc., received approval from the NYS Department of Health to operate as a licensed home health care services agency (LHHCSA). Independent Home Care will provide home health care and related services, including services for individuals enrolled in the TBI and NHTD waiver programs in Orange, Sullivan, Ulster and Dutchess counties. We are delighted to introduce our new Director of Community Services, Helen Portalatín. We are actively recruiting nurses, personal care aides and home health aides. For more information about Independent Home Care services, visit the website: www.IndependentHomeCare.org or call toll free (877) 345-4466

Helen Portalatín, RN, MSN, FNP-C, Director of Community Services, Independent Home Care, Inc.
**Chatlos Foundation Donates to Independent Living, Inc.**

Philanthropy is a cornerstone of American culture, and we are sincerely grateful to Kathryn Randle and the Chatlos Foundation for their generosity. Without donations such as these, many of the programs and services we offer would be in jeopardy due to budget cuts at both State and Federal levels.

We encourage you to consider giving a tax-deductible donation according to your means, or making a bequest to benefit Independent Living, Inc. in your Will. Modest gifts of cash can be converted into a meaningful endowment by purchasing life insurance. For more information about making a planned gift, please contact our Development Office.

**Hovey Honored by Rotary**

In recognition of his outstanding dedication to community service and for encouraging the highest ethical standards in business practices, Doug Hovey was recently awarded the 2009-2010 “Service Above Self” annual Rotary Award for Vocational Excellence by the ten Rotary Clubs of Region 6 and District 7210. Doug is a member of Rotary International and the Newburgh Rotary Club where he served as President in 1999 and 2000.

**Keeping Up With CIP**

Already this summer, our Community Independence Program (CIP) has held a talent show, a fundraising car wash, and welcomed “Fairy” Yi-Chen Lo from Taiwan, a guest of Rotary International, who works with individuals with developmental disabilities through the Social Welfare Foundation in China. The talent show was great fun for all who participated and attended, and the car wash raised over $300 to be used for a special trip. Visit our website: www.MyIndependentLiving.org to read a poem by Milton.

**Members of the Newburgh Rotary Club congratulate Doug Hovey on Service Above Self Award, presented by Club President Cathy McCarty.**
HAPpENINGS, continued from page 1

ECDC network provides a coordinated system of information and referral services for children with disabilities ages birth-5. Professional development and technical assistance are provided to families and preschool providers to improve results for preschool students with disabilities, including, but not limited to such topics as timely evaluations, least restrictive environments, and improved outcomes.

Laura Barker speaking with Suzanne Tremper, Director of the Mid-Hudson Early Childhood Direction Center.

The 10th Annual Orange County Healing, Wellness & Recovery conference was held on June 3rd. Dr. Bhupinder Gill of Bon Secours Hospital and Independent Living’s own Daniel Hutting, manager of Bridger and Peer Advocacy Services, were honored for their dedication and contributions to promoting wellness. The keynote presentation on “Tools for Life: Breathe – Relax – Feel – Watch – Allow,” by Megha Buttenheim of the Kripalu Center kicked off a day of workshops that included topics such as anti-psychotic medications and health monitoring indicators; clinical policy and practice improvement issues related to co-occurring addictions; peer wellness coaching; the impact of culture on wellness and recovery, and a discussion group designed to help “Fix the System.” The conference wrapped up with an interactive panel presentation/discussion on essential ingredients of healing, wellness and recovery for people who are managing or recovering from mental illness, moderated by Harvey Rosenthal of the New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (NYAPRS).

‘Tools for Living Life to the Fullest’ was the theme of the 1st Annual Hudson Valley Assistive Technology Expo, held on May 15th, that Independent Living co-hosted with SUNY Orange, Inspire and the Orange County Office for the Aging. More than 60 vendor booths displayed and demonstrated technology solutions and durable medical equipment designed to enhance the quality of life and simplify activities of daily living for individuals with disabilities. Hundreds of people from all around our region and beyond attended the expo, which was held in the gymnasium at the Middletown campus of SUNY Orange, and launched the establishment of the new assistive and rehabilitation technology centers at both the Middletown and Newburgh campuses.

Megha Buttenheim

Daniel Hutting, manager of Bridger and Peer Advocacy Services, Independent Living, Inc.

Independent Living's booth demonstrated technology for people with visual impairments.

Suzanne Robitaille, Author of The Illustrated Guide to Assistive Technology and Devices addresses crowd at the AT Expo.

Laura Barker speaking with Suzanne Tremper, Director of the Mid-Hudson Early Childhood Direction Center.

L-R: Commissioner Chris Ashman, Orange County Department of Mental Health, Doug Hovey, Darcie Miller, Deputy Commissioner, OC DMH, Nolly Climes, Rehabilitation Support Services, Dr. Bhupinder Gill, Bon Secours Hospital.
**Our Mission**

Independent Living, Inc., a consumer-directed, cross-disability service and advocacy organization, is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for people with disabilities. Our vision is a barrier-free society with opportunities for all persons to achieve their maximum potential. Programs and resources offered by our agency provide needed support to individuals with all disabilities at literally every stage of life and include services in the areas of: Early Childhood Direction, Personal Attendant Care, Employment, Work Incentives Counseling, Education Advocacy, Deaf and Hard of Hearing advocacy and support, Nursing Home Transition & Diversion Waiver, Traumatic Brain Injury and Medicaid Service Coordination, Access to Home, Long Term Care Planning, Mental Health Case Management, Bridger Services, and Peer Advocacy.

**Save These Dates!**

“Friends of Independence” Open House & Tour – September 2nd 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. at 5 Washington Terrace, Newburgh, NY. For more information or to register, call (845) 565-1162 x242 or email: bjudge@myindependentliving.org

Accessibility Options: Assistive Technology Show – October 6th at Empire State Convention Center, Albany, NY. For more information, call (845) 733-4476. Online: www.nichenewsny.com

Walk4Hearing – October 6th, Bowdoin Park, Wappinger Falls, NY. For more information, email pjfoody@yahoo.com

Diversity Job Fair – October 14th from 10 - 3 in the Green Room at the Cornerstone, Newburgh, NY. For more information, call David Owens at (845) 561-4061 or email: dowens@myindependentliving.org

White Cane Awareness Day – October 15th from 9:30 a.m. – Noon at 5 Washington Terrace, Newburgh, NY

**Did You Know?**

**The ADA is 20!**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) addressed access to telecommunications, employment, transportation and public accommodations, providing access to restaurants, movie theatres, phones, buses and trains that was previously denied to people with disabilities. However, until we have removed all the attitudinal barriers regarding disability, we cannot truly say that the spirit of the law has been woven into the fabric of our culture.