Social inclusion and integration into society is a vital part of our existence as human beings and as members of our culture. Social inclusion is successful when individuals and entire communities of people have three important things: 1) access to rights, 2) opportunities, and 3) resources that are usually available to members of American society. Research shows that people with mental health and substance use issues who are deprived of one or more of these three things, and become entrenched in traditional systems of care, are unlikely to recover from a mental illness and less likely to rebuild their lives. Too often, well intended supports do not have a systematic process for helping people to get well and do not emphasize a beginning, middle and end to the process of attaining a greater degree of wellness.

Too much focus is on illness and not enough on connecting and supporting people to take advantage of peer support, and the social, economic, educational, recreational, and cultural opportunities that most people take for granted. A socially inclusive society also provides opportunities for individuals with disabilities of all types to contribute to their communities as

Continued on page 3

**Love Letters to Our Donors**

Independent Living, Inc. recently took the opportunity to thank our donors at an evening reception at our Center in Newburgh. Executive Director Doug Hovey thanked all who have provided financial or in-kind donations as well as volunteer support to our organization, in particular the members of our “Friends of Independence” Society, who have pledged a minimum of $1,000 per year for at least 5 years.

Attendees also heard a moving consumer testimonial by Lianne, who spoke about the support she has received from staff members at Independent Living, that has empowered and enabled her to become involved in helping to train personal care aides at Independent Home Care, Inc. Lianne also volunteers at the Greater Hudson Valley Family Health Center and attends SUNY Orange.

Board President, Matthew Migliaccio and Board Vice President, Charles Walwyn, spoke about The Heritage Society, a planned giving program, established to ensure that the services and resources that Independent Living, Inc. provides remain available and grow to meet the needs of people with disabilities and their families – today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.

We are grateful to our friends at AXA Advisors, Stuart Flaum and Ken Traficante, for providing a thoughtful presentation, and very helpful “Love Letters to My Family” booklet, encouraging everyone not only to plan, but also to document their intentions, to ensure that their wishes are carried out when they are no longer here. For more information about the Heritage Society, please contact our Development Director, Anne Miller.
Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union
Champions Independent Living!

Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union (HVFCU) recently donated an additional $1,000 to support programs and services offered at Independent Living, Inc.

“We are most grateful for the generosity and support of the Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union,” said ILI Executive Director, Doug Hovey. “Without the friendship and collaboration of community partners like HVFCU, it would be difficult to sustain the programs and services we offer, that are so necessary to preserving and improving the quality of life for individuals with disabilities and seniors.”

“We commend the Board and staff at Independent Living, Inc. for their efforts to promote the rights and well-being of some of our most vulnerable citizens,” said Gary Armida, Director of Retail Sales at HVFCU. “We are committed to helping achieve positive results for all stakeholders in the communities we serve.”

Members of the Friends of Independence Society

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<tr>
<th>Luis &amp; Beth Abarca*</th>
<th>Steve Gleason &amp; New Horizons Asset Management</th>
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<tr>
<td>Albin Anderson*</td>
<td>Douglas &amp; Ann Hovey*</td>
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<td>Allan E. Atzrott*</td>
<td>Richard &amp; Patricia Hovey*</td>
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<td>Joseph Bilello*</td>
<td>Bridget &amp; Pernell Judge*</td>
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<td>Marie Byrne, in memory of Edith Hicks</td>
<td>Stuart &amp; Nancy Kessler*</td>
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<td>Maureen Crush &amp; Rob Whelan*</td>
<td>John &amp; Dr. Mary Ellen King</td>
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<td>Ricki DeSantis*</td>
<td>Michael &amp; Susan Kochler</td>
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<td>Jack &amp; Kara Dorsey*</td>
<td>Matthew Migliaccio*</td>
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John & Anne Miller*
Bill & Mary Murphy*
Susan Najork
Christopher Petrosino
Dr. Geraldine Petrosino*
Helen & Carlos Portalatín
Bill & Rebecca Potter*
Dreena Pross
Susan Stockburger*

*Founding Members

Founding Members of the Heritage Society
(thus far)

| Maureen Crush |
| Kara Dorsey |
| Doug Hovey |
| Matthew Migliaccio |
| Anne Miller |
| Jeff Sculley |
| Charles Walwyn |
| Anonymous |

Thank You!!
**Positive Behavior is the Focus of Early Childhood Conference**

At the 6th Annual Regional Early Childhood Conference, held on June 1st, guest speaker and licensed psychologist, Phil Smith, PhD, conducted a full-day workshop with 137 participants on “Positive Behavior Supports in Preschool: Three Levels of Intervention.”

Attendees included parents, early childhood educators, child care providers, and related service providers who work with children, including those with developmental delays and disabilities. Participants learned to identify the purpose of challenging behavior and new teaching skills to decrease problem behavior and assist children and their families to achieve their desired lifestyles.

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**From the Executive Director, continued from page one**

peers, employees, parents, residents, students, volunteers, teachers, and active citizens. Social inclusion provides a policy framework to make this vision a reality.

On June 4th, the NY/NJ Trail Conference opened a wheelchair accessible section of the Appalachian Trail on the summit of Bear Mountain. The ADA-compliant segment of this historic and nationally celebrated long-distance trail allows wheelchair users to enter the woods and view the Hudson River and Valley from one of the region’s most scenic spots.

I was proud to appoint a staff member from our Center to say a few words at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, an event which reminded me of the quote by Samuel Johnson: “Life, like every other blessing, derives its value from its use alone.”

(For more information about the Trail dedication event, visit www.nynjtc.org/content/june4.)

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**Kiwanis Club of Newburgh Honors Hovey**

Members of the Newburgh Kiwanis Club recently honored Independent Living, Inc.’s Executive Director, Doug Hovey, as an Everyday Hero for his contributions to making our community a better place for all.

*Pictured with Hovey are his parents, Richard and Patricia Hovey; former “Everyday Hero” Award Recipients: Nancy Kosloski, Executive Director of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Orange County; Fr. Bill Scafidi of Sacred Heart and St. Mary’s of Newburgh; and Deirdre Glenn, founder and former Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh.*

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**Considering a meaningful career as a Personal Care Aide?**

If you are already certified, you can start right away. If not, we’ll train you. Opportunities in Orange, Ulster, Sullivan and Dutchess Counties.

Contact Independent Home Care at (845) 565-1163 x229.
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.

CALENDAR

“Friends of Independence” Tour and Open House

August 4 & October 6 from 5:15 – 6:15 pm at 5 Washington Terrace, Newburgh, NY. Call to register: (845) 565-1162 x242

SAVE THE DATE!

25th Anniversary Gala – Silver Celebration
Saturday, May 5, 2012 at Anthony’s Pier 9

Did You Know?

Under the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid eligibility will expand in 2014 to include all legal residents with incomes up to 133% of the federal poverty level (or $14,484 for an individual and $29,725 for a family of four in 2011.)