REINVEST IN MY RECOVERY!

On January 31st, I was honored to be among 800 advocates who surrounded the state Capitol, sporting green buttons proclaiming the message of the day: “Reinvest in My Recovery!” at the New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (NYAPRS) 14th Annual Legislative Day. We came from all over the state: Buffalo, Rochester, Jamestown, Binghamton, Watertown, Syracuse, Plattsburgh, Westport, Westchester and Orange counties, Long Island and every borough of New York City to participate in celebrating the principles cherished by the greater NYAPRS community: hope, empowerment and rights, wellness and recovery, employment and economic self sufficiency, community integration and services in the most integrated setting.

Senate Mental Health Committee Chairman Roy McDonald announced the formation of two work groups charged with indentifying key performance indicators for services in the emerging ‘health homes’ and ‘managed care’ environments. OMH Commissioner Mike Hogan also spoke about new employment and ‘first break’ initiatives. New York must adopt an aggressive and systematic plan for closure of its seventeen remaining psychiatric institutions. State employees should be re-trained and re-deployed to become community support personnel. Not only is institutionalization a horrible choice for the human experience, it is not financially sustainable. I am encouraged to believe that Governor Cuomo’s requirement for the Most Integrated Setting Coordination Council to create SMART (Specific, Measurable, Aligned, Realistic, Time Bound) goals provides an opportunity for real progress, as intended by the Olmstead decision of 1999.

INDEPENDENT LIVING, INC.
STAFF MEMBER AUTHORS BOOK

Tiba Araujo, Community Outreach Coordinator for our Regional Early Childhood Direction Center, was recently interviewed by CNN about her book: “Sobre amor y sufrimientos: Realidades de la vida en pareja.” (On love and suffering: Realities in a couple’s life), available online at Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble and Palibrio.com. Congratulations, Tiba!

PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY

Doug Hovey, Founder and Executive Director of Independent Living, Inc., was honored for distinguished service at the Greater Hudson Valley Family Health Center’s 12th Annual “Pillars of the Community” Awards Banquet on Saturday, November 5th, at Anthony’s Pier 9 in New Windsor, along with Marcel Martino, President and CEO of Inspire, Inc., who also serves as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Independent Home Care, Inc.

Standing L-R: Richard and Patricia Hovey, Ann Hovey, Anne Miller, Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther, and John Miller. Seated: Doug Hovey

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NEW INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTERS OPEN IN MIDDLETOWN AND MONTICELLO

Independent Living, Inc. recently celebrated the grand opening of two new service centers located at 66 Bennett Street, Middletown, NY and 10 Prince Street, Suite 12, Monticello, NY.

Staff and board members welcomed over 100 supportive well-wishers at each of the new service locations. Community supporters, service providers and service recipients toured the centers, enjoyed refreshments and learned about our programs and services. “One of the greatest benefits of having offices in Monticello and Middletown is that it provides easier access to our services for local residents,” said Independent Living Executive Director, Douglas Hovey. “This new funding will allow us to assist between 20 and 30 additional people to remain at home or return home from rehabilitation or skilled nursing facilities.”

11TH ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Over 250 stakeholders of the mental health system, including individuals with psychiatric diagnoses, family members, and service providers from Orange, Ulster, Sullivan, Rockland and Dutchess Counties, gathered for the 11th Annual Mental Health, Wellness and Recovery Conference, on Thursday, December 1st at Anthony’s Pier 9 in New Windsor, NY.

The focus of this year’s conference was healthcare reform and the obstacles that need to be addressed to design a well-orchestrated system. The keynote presentation by Michael F. Hogan, Commissioner, NYS Office of Mental Health, addressed the transformation of the NYS mental health system in light of health care and Medicaid reform, and the integration of physical and mental healthcare. Other presenters included: Dr. James Schuster, Chief of Medical Staff for the Community Care Behavioral Health Organization, and Harvey Rosenthal, Executive Director of the New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services. Speakers and panelists throughout the full-day program reiterated a common message: Behavioral Health Organizations, Health Homes, Provider Organizations and Government need to work together to ensure that effective services are provided, leading to intended outcomes as directed by the consumers being served. The conference wrapped up with a panel discussion on new health care models and workshops on community-based mental health recovery services. Chris Ashman, Commissioner of the Orange County Department of Mental Health, who retired on January 6th, was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award and received a standing ovation from the crowd when it was announced that this annual conference would henceforth be called “The Chris Ashman Mental Health & Wellness Conference.”

INDEPENDENT LIVING, INC. AWARDED “ACCESS TO HOME” FUNDING

The New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHRC) has awarded Independent Living, Inc. $300,000 to assist persons with physical or developmental disabilities, and the frail elderly in Orange and Sullivan Counties in making accessibility improvements to their homes.

“We have always worked to help individuals to live in the community, in the home of their own choosing, regardless of the extent of their disabilities,” said Independent Living Executive Director, Douglas Hovey. “This new funding will allow us to assist between 20 and 30 additional people to remain at home or return home from rehabilitation or skilled nursing facilities.”
Certo is Walgreens’ “Employee of the Month”

Cara Certo, Sales Associate at Walgreens in Newburgh was recently honored as “Employee of the Month” for her hard work and dedication. Cara’s duties include organizing products on shelves, checking inventory and assisting with the needs of Walgreens’ customers.

“Getting this award is based on several things but most importantly it is given to an employee who receives the most customer satisfaction submissions, and Cara did,” said Ann Sewall, Manager at the Newburgh Walgreens. Cara participates in Independent Living’s Enhanced Supportive Employment Program (ESEMP), and has been employed at Walgreens since December 2010, where she quickly became an energetic dynamo with the willingness to get the job done! Cara’s Job Coach at Independent Living notes “Cara really has done a wonderful job. Her confidence in providing customer service has increased so much since she first started working, and that confidence comes from determination, practice and hard work. She certainly deserves this award.”

Warmest congratulations to Cara from all of us at Independent Living, Inc.

Does your business need outstanding employees?
If so, contact Senior Job Developer and Coaching Specialist Michael Collins at 845-565-1162 ext. 238

Quit Smoking

Join a four-session quit-smoking group at Independent Living Inc.’s Wellness Center at the Cornerstone, 111 Broadway, in Newburgh.

The sessions are free and open to the public. For more information or to register, call Bryon Abrams at 845-561-4061 ext. 266, or visit the Orange County Department of Health’s Healthy Orange website at www.healthyorange.com.

Ideas for Supporting Independent Living

- Make a donation in memory or in honor of someone special.
- Consider making a bequest in your Will
- Set www.goodsearch.com as your search engine: every time you search or shop, Independent Living receives a donation
- Shop online through our portal www.marketamerica.com/ILI

25th Anniversary Gala

May 5th • Anthony’s Pier 9, New Windsor, NY • 6 - 11 PM

Our Sponsors

PATRONS
Rider, Weiner & Frankel, PC St. Luke’s Cornwall Hospital

CATALYSTS
Brooks Funeral Home Philadelphia Eagles
Crystal Run Healthcare Tampa Bay Lightning
Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union Walden Savings Bank

Visit our online auction at www.BiddingForGood.com/ILI

Auction items include:
- Many authentic, one-of-a-kind, autographed celebrity sports memorabilia items
- Original artwork by renown Hudson Valley artists
- Mini-getaways at Mohonk Mountain House and the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel
- Tickets to a performance at Bethel Woods

and much more….
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, Medicaid Service Coordination, Access to Home, Mental Health Case Management, Hospital Diversion & Bridger Services, and Peer Advocacy.

Did You Know?
It costs New York State taxpayers far less to support people who live outside institutions. In fact, every dollar invested in ILC’s programs to help people live independently at home rather than an institution represents a $9 savings for New York State taxpayers.

(source: DisabilityFunders.org)

Please Join Us
“Friends of Independence”
Tour and Open House

5:15 – 6:15 pm: We start & end on time!

April 18, 2012 10 Prince Street, Suite 12, Monticello, NY
May 16, 2012 66 Bennett Street, Middletown, NY
June 7, 2012 5 Washington Terrace, Newburgh, NY
July 18, 2012 10 Prince Street, Suite 12, Monticello, NY

Learn more about how Independent Living, Inc. is helping to reshape the future for people with disabilities of all ages throughout the Mid-Hudson region.

Please let us know if you are planning to attend: Call Bridget at (845) 565-1162 x242 or email bjudge@myindependentliving.org