**Fundraising for “People First: Wishing – Working – Winning” at 3rd Annual Friends of Independence Breakfast**

On Wednesday, October 20th, approximately 260 supporters attended Independent Living’s 3rd annual fundraising breakfast at Anthony’s Pier 9 in New Windsor, NY. Founding Executive Director Doug Hovey spoke about the need for funding to ensure that young students receive encouragement to pursue employment and higher education goals, and the need to advocate for the right to live in the community instead of a nursing home.

Board President Matthew Migliaccio challenged the audience.

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**2nd Annual Hudson Valley White Cane Awareness Day**

Our 2nd annual Hudson Valley White Cane Awareness Day celebration was held on Friday, October 15th in collaboration with the New York State Commission for the Blind, and the Association for the Visually Impaired. The Newburgh Lions Club sponsored the celebration by contributing $500 toward transportation costs for individuals with visual impairments to attend the monthly support group meetings at Independent Living in Newburgh. In addition to Newburgh Lions Club President David

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**Find us online**

*First...* Check out Independent Living’s fan page on Facebook and tell your friends you “Like” us ... [www.facebook.com/pages/Newburgh-NY/independent-livinginc/134818303199950](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Newburgh-NY/independent-livinginc/134818303199950)

*Then...* Visit our shopping portal: [www.marketamerica.com/ili](http://www.marketamerica.com/ili)

When you create a FREE preferred customer account, each time you shop at one of your favorite online stores, Independent Living earns points from Market America toward a donation. (If the referral field is not automatically populated, please indicate you were referred by info@myindependentliving.org.) When you refer friends through the site’s “Invite Your Friends” link, YOU earn cash back as well! There are over 3,500 partner stores, and check out specials and coupons available on the “Hot Deals” tab.

*And...* Don’t forget to use [www.Goodsearch.com](http://www.Goodsearch.com) to search (or shop) when you are online: just type in Independent Living – Newburgh in the box that asks who you Goodsearch for. It’s also fun to see how much our shopping and searching have earned! Thanks to all who have been donating in this simple way. Our goal is for this total to increase every month.

*Finally...* Visit our website for the latest Wellness Center activities, including Yoga, Zumba and other classes: [www.myindependentliving.org/EN-Services/TheWellnessCenter](http://www.myindependentliving.org/EN-Services/TheWellnessCenter).
2nd Annual Diversity Job Fair

30 employers and local agencies participated in the 2nd Annual Diversity Job Fair, held in the Green Room at the Cornerstone in Newburgh on October 14th and attended by about 340 job seekers. The event provided many opportunities that would not otherwise have been available either to employers or candidates for their open positions. Ralph Lauren, Inc. expects to hire 35-40 of the individuals who completed applications that day. Participating employers also attended a complimentary breakfast to learn about incentives available for hiring individuals with disabilities, and listened to a presentation by an employer about the many unexpected benefits resulting from their experiences.

Meet “The Transformers”

Cara, Heidi, Nayeem, and Milton are the current officers of the Community Independence Program’s Self-Advocacy group, ‘The Transformers.’ This summer, they attended the Hudson Valley Regional Self-Advocacy Conference in Stony Point where they networked with other self-advocates and attended workshops such as: ‘You and Healthy Living’ and ‘Skills for Building Community Living.’ Nayeem was also selected to participate in a national leadership development training program, held in Washington, DC, where he met with other self-advocates and discussed ways to address several problems facing individuals with disabilities such as transportation and employment.

Empire State Bank Charitable Trust Shows Support

Empire State Bank Charitable Trust recently granted a $250 award to Independent Living, Inc. to help defray the cost of its annual fundraising breakfast. Proceeds from the breakfast supplement funding for direct services and provide seed money for new programs until they become self-sustaining.

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to consider whether it is acceptable for our insurance companies to pay for full hospital and nursing home care for elderly people, but not to pay for them to spend their final days at home, with their families, even though it is much less expensive for them to do so.

Service recipients, Milton Santiago and Natasha Underwood, who is Deaf, and communicated her message using American Sign Language and an interpreter, spoke about the challenges they faced when seeking employment, the support received from Independent Living, and their improved quality of life as a result of working.

Finally, Board Vice President Charles Walwyn thanked all who have donated in the past and made an appeal to all present to give as generously as possible to ensure that Independent Living is here not only for those who need our services today, but for our friends and family members who will need these services tomorrow and in generations to come.

Independent Living thanks breakfast sponsors Provident Bank, Ulster Savings Bank, D&D Mailing Services, and Michael Kanakis, Photographer, for their generosity.
Maksomski and member Will Thorpe, the Cornwall, Town of Wallkill and Town of Fallsburgh Lions were among the 125 attendees, which also included New York State Senator William J. Larkin, Assemblyman Frank Skartados, Orange County Executive Edward Diana, Newburgh Mayor Nicholas Valentine, representatives from the offices of Senator John Bonacic and Assemblywoman Nancy Calhoun. Mr. Diana, Senator Bonacic and Mayor Valentine each presented proclamations regarding White Cane Awareness.

Executive Directors and staff members from the Brooklyn, Harlem, Middletown and Westchester Independent Living Centers participated, and Associate Commissioner Brian Daniels of the NY State Commission for the Blind (CBVH) commended Executive Director, Douglas Hovey, and the staff at Independent Living, Inc. for their leadership in providing assistive technology services for people with visual impairments in the region, noting the importance of partnerships among community providers to ensure effective service delivery.

Bob Gumson, manager of the Independent Living Services Unit at the NY State Office of Vocational Education Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID) and members of the support group for individuals with visual impairments, spoke about their life experiences, aspirations, and the challenges they face especially when seeking employment. Common themes included the inadequacy of public transportation, prevailing myths and stereotypes regarding the abilities of people with visual impairments, and the need for audible as well as visual crosswalk signals especially in the cities and towns throughout the Hudson Valley.

Many attendees also took advantage of the opportunity to see demonstrations of the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), screen-reader software, and the new Image Cast voting machine.

Persons with disabilities constitute the largest minority group in America. The same men and women who might once have been considered appropriate candidates for confinement in state hospitals, nursing homes and other segregated institutions, are now able to choose to remain at home, pursue productive lives and direct the care that they require.
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!

1st Thursday of every month at 5:15 p.m.
Join us for a “Friends of Independence” Open House & Tour at 5 Washington Terrace in Newburgh, NY. Learn more about our services, meet our staff, hear a testimonial and talk with program participants. Refreshments are served. Please let us know if you’re planning to come: January 6th, February 3rd, March 3rd, or April 7th. Call (845) 565-1162 x242 to register.

2nd Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m.
Support Group for Individuals with Visual Impairments meets at 5 Washington Terrace. Call (914) 993-5385 for more information or to sign up. There is no cost to participate.

Independent Home Care, Inc. is a Licensed Home Health Care Services Agency (LHHCSA), dedicated to providing personalized, reliable, high-quality, home care and related services for individuals of all ages in Orange, Ulster, Sullivan and Dutchess Counties. If you are interested in learning more about our services for yourself or someone you know, or if you are seeking employment as a nurse, personal care aide or home health aide, please contact us at (845) 565-1163. Visit our website at www.IndependentHomeCare.org. Se habla Español.