BUILDING BRIDGES TO INDEPENDENCE

Our 8th annual Friends of Independence fundraising breakfast was held on April 29th at Anthony’s Pier 9 in New Windsor. More than 175 supporters attended and heard moving testimonials by individuals we have served.

Thanks to our sponsors: M&T Bank, Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, Ulster Savings Bank, the Cooley Group, D&D Mailing Services, Inc., McGowan Art Works and Jellybean Promotions.

Among the loyal supporters who have attended our breakfast every year since the beginning were our friends at the 105th Airlift Wing NYS Air National Guard; the Newburgh Rotary Club and Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union.

Our annual breakfast is an important source of funding for our programs and services, but also serves as an opportunity to educate members of the community regarding disability issues.

Maurice spoke about the peer supports that have been critical to his recovery after attempting suicide.

Brian was able to keep his promise to the grandmother who raised him, thanks to our Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program that allowed her to remain at home until she passed away instead of going into a nursing home.

Photos by Sharon “Jellybean” Warantz

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HARING RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Congratulations to Phylis Haring, coordinator of our Community Independence Program (CIP), who was recently honored as a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award for Direct Care Professionals at the annual Orange County Joint Membership of Health & Community Agencies (JMHCA) luncheon.

Phylis personifies our organizational values of Integrity, Respect and Customer Focus and demonstrates strong support for the OPWDD philosophy of “Nothing About Us Without Us.” She has innovated many program activities that encourage creativity, goal-setting and self-reliance, including the annual CIP Talent Show at which program participants showcase talents including singing, dancing, comedy and poetry.

CIP is a program that offers people with developmental disabilities the opportunity to integrate into their communities by providing choices that include employment, recreational activities, volunteering, social outings and more.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friends of Independence
Open House & Tour  5:15 - 6:15 pm

- 441 E. Main Street, Middletown: Wednesday, July 15th
- 10 Prince Street, Suite 12, Monticello: Thursday, Aug. 13th
- 5 Washington Terrace, Newburgh: Thursday, Sept. 17th

Independence Square Ribbon-cutting & ADA 25th Anniversary Celebration
July 15, 2015 at 11 a.m.
11 Washington Terrace, Newburgh

Save The Date

7TH ANNUAL DIVERSITY JOB FAIR
Thursday, October 1, 2015 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
at the Cornerstone Residence,
111 Broadway, Newburgh, NY.

Did You Know?

Twenty-five years ago, on July 26, 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Modeled after the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin – and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The ADA is an “equal opportunity” law for people with disabilities.

The ADA prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, transportation, housing, and education, and assures the same opportunities to participate in the mainstream of American life. With continuing changes in civil rights laws, social policies and public awareness, people with disabilities are less stigmatized and marginalized than before, but we still have a long way to go to level the playing field.

To be protected by the ADA, a person must have a disability, which is defined by the ADA as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity; have a history or record of such an impairment, or be perceived by others as having such an impairment.
**Responding to Diverse Language Acquisition Processes**

Independent Living’s Mid-Hudson Early Childhood Direction Center, in collaboration with the Lower Hudson Early Childhood Direction Center at the Westchester Institute for Human Development, Hudson Valley Writing Project and Rockland Community College, developed and coordinated the 3rd annual conference on Educating English Language Learners in Early Childhood – Birth through Age 8. The conference was hosted by the Hudson Valley Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network at Ulster BOCES and held at the Cultural Arts Center of Rockland Community College in Suffern, NY. The theme was “Responding to Diverse Language Acquisition Processes.”

The annual conference is designed to support teachers and administrators who serve children from birth to age 8 and have English Language Learners in their programs. More than 100 educators attended.

Keynote address on “The Power of Language” was presented by Angelica Infante-Green, Associate Commissioner for the NYS Education Department Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages. Following the keynote address, breakout sessions were offered, addressing a range of topics such as “Using ASL Signs as a Bridge from Home to New Language,” “Distinguishing Between Language Acquisition and Learning Disabilities,” “Phonemic Awareness: How Letters Make Sounds and Sounds Make Meaning,” “Criteria for CPSE/CSE Referrals and Bilingual Special Education Evaluations,” “What Are You Thinking?: Teaching Young ELLs How to be Close Readers,” “Responding to Diverse Cultures, Languages and Language Proficiency Levels in Today’s Classroom,” and “How Do I Love Thee?: Teaching ELLs How to Interpret and Convey the Author’s Message.”

**Middletown Service Center Moves to New Location**

Approximately 100 guests toured our new Middletown Center located at 441 East Main Street and attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 21st.

Another Open House and tour will be offered on July 15th at 5:15 p.m. and is open to anyone who is interested in learning more about our programs and services.

**Independence Square**

Independence Square is now open and most residents have already moved in! Fourteen of the 74 units are set-aside for individuals with developmental disabilities. OPWDD qualified individuals who are interested in applying for those apartments may contact Jennifer Sutton at (845) 565-1162 x231.

**Renew your subscription!**

We are trying to reduce production and mailing costs. Many of our subscribers have told us how much they enjoy this newsletter, so to be sure you continue to receive it, please let us know if you wish to remain on our mailing list by calling (845) 565-1162, ext. 242 or emailing info@myindependentliving.org. It would also be very helpful if you would let us know if you do not wish to continue receiving the newsletter.
Independent Home Care, Inc. is a licensed home health care agency that offers consumer-directed home care services for individuals of all ages. Our vision is a barrier-free community with a broad array of supports, enabling people to live with dignity in the home of their choice.

IL Strategy Group is dedicated to assisting affiliates in the Independent Living System with their missions, and designing solutions for issues of poverty, disability and the social determinants of community and individual well-being.