WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

On Wednesday, September 17th, Derrik R. Wynkoop, President and CEO of Walden Savings Bank presented a check in the amount of $500 to Independent Living, Inc., in celebration of the 15th anniversary of the New Windsor Branch Office.

Board President, Matthew Migliaccio and HR Director, Beth Abarca accepted the contribution on behalf of ILI.

On the eve of White Cane Awareness Day, which is celebrated nationally on October 15th each year, the support group for individuals with visual impairments held its monthly meeting at Independent Living’s Newburgh service center. The meeting was attended by Orange County Legislator James Kulisek, who presented a Resolution on behalf of the Orange County Legislature, in recognition of the accomplishments and contributions of individuals who are blind and visually impaired. Representatives of the Newburgh Lions Club also attended, and presented the group with a check for $500 to assist with transportation for members attending the support group.

Each year, the Hudson Valley SPCA’s resale store donates a portion of proceeds generated by its sales to a select group of local charities. Independent Living, Inc. was honored to be one of this year’s recipients of a $500 grant, in recognition of collaborative efforts with the Orange County YWCA and Kidz4Causes to increase awareness and drive traffic and donations to the Bloomingdeals! Consignment Emporium and resale store in New Windsor, New York.

GET ‘EM WHILE THEY’RE HOT!

ILI’s Community Independence Program (CIP) has published its first cookbook entitled “Together We Cook.” Profits will benefit the outings and activities planned by CIP participants. Program participants, staff and board members, family and friends have compiled their favorite recipes into this collection of yumminess -- 139 recipes -- everything you need from appetizers to desserts. Cookbooks are priced at just $10 each and may be purchased at Independent Living, Inc., 5 Washington Terrace, Newburgh, NY 12550 or by calling (845) 565-1162 ext. 242. Great gift idea!

Continued on page 2
Upcoming Events

Friends of Independence
Open House & Tour Schedule
We start and end on time.
5:15 - 6:15 pm

• Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015 - Newburgh Center
• Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015 - Middletown Center
• Tuesday, Mar. 24, 2015 - Monticello Center

For More Information Call:  845-565-1162 x242

Annual Diversity Job Fair

The 6th Annual Diversity Job Fair on October 9th attracted more than 200 people seeking employment, training opportunities and support services from over 30 businesses which were recruiting for positions in retail, manufacturing and production, human services, health care, banking and finance. Educational offerings included training in cosmetology and security.

The job fair was preceded by an informational breakfast for employers at which Connor Harrison, who works in IT at Willy Gilly Productions in Goshen, NY spoke about his increased sense of empowerment and improved self-esteem since he began working. Nan and David Wilson, owners of Willy Gilly, also spoke about the talents that Connor brings to the job, noting his positive outlook and his skills as a problem solver in particular.

Welcome Orange!

Nearly 300 people attended “Welcome Orange,” the Chris Ashman Wellness & Recovery Conference on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at Anthony’s Pier 9 in New Windsor, NY. The conference was kicked off by Orange County Executive, Steve Neuhaus. Presentations included a Keynote entitled “Changing the World in Orange County: A Welcoming, Hopeful, and Integrated System for People in Need of Services” by Dr. Kenneth Minkoff, board-certified psychiatrist with additional certification in addiction psychiatry. Dr. Minkoff also conducted workshops on the Comprehensive Continuous Integration System of Care (CCISC). The conference included panel presentations on poverty and health care integration, and offered workshops on trauma informed care and the Housing First model.

Welcome Orange was sponsored by the Orange County Department of Mental Health, Independent Living, Inc., Rehabilitation Support Services, PEOPLe, Inc. and the Joint Membership of Health & Community Agencies (JMHCA).

2014 FRANK W. MASTERSON
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
PRESENTED TO DOUGLAS HOVEY IN
RECOGNITION OF HIS SIGNIFICANT
CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE MENTAL
HEALTH FIELD.

Cookbook, continued from page one

The Community Independence Program at Independent Living, Inc. is a day program for adults with developmental disabilities that provides the opportunity for participants to determine the content and character of the service they receive, identify the goals to which they aspire, and receive independent living skills training. Regular activities undertaken by this enterprising group include a gardening and cooking club, regular visits to the gym, trips to area museums and local farms for apple and pumpkin picking, in addition to service projects such as regular volunteering with Meals on Wheels and at local thrift shops and nursing homes.

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National Disability Employment Awareness Month Celebrations

By an act of Congress and an annual proclamation by the President, October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). The purpose is to highlight the contributions made in the workplace by people with disabilities and to promote the hiring of people with disabilities. This year Independent Living’s Employment Services team spearheaded a number of celebrations throughout the month:

• NDEAM was kicked off with the annual awards breakfast hosted by the Orange and Sullivan Counties Employment Alliance Network (OSCEAN) under its chairman, Michael Kochler, Independent Living Inc.’s Employment Services Coordinator. Twenty-five employers were recognized for their outstanding efforts to provide competitive employment opportunities to people with disabilities.

• The Honorable Judy Kennedy, Mayor of the City of Newburgh, delivered a proclamation at Unitex, a medical laundry that actively recruits people with disabilities in the City of Newburgh. Mayor Kennedy declared that “the City of Newburgh is recognizing National Disability Employment Awareness Month this October to raise awareness about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of people with disabilities.”

• The Honorable Brian Maher, Mayor of the Village of Walden, presented a proclamation at the Walden Village Council meeting, citing the work done to “cultivate a more inclusive workplace… and to promote the right to equal employment opportunity for all people.”

Independent Living, Inc.’s Employment Services team and OSCEAN collaborated with Newburgh Area Transit service to improve local transportation by expanding bus routes and hours of service. The expanded schedule includes cross-town bus service and will reduce wait times by 50 percent. Printed schedules are available at Independent Living, Inc. in Newburgh and other locations throughout the Greater Newburgh area. Schedules and additional information may also be obtained online at www.transitorange.info.

“THAT’S MY BRICK”

Independent Living, Inc. and Independent Home Care, Inc. have established a campaign to encourage all who have supported the development of the Independence Square apartment complex to memorialize their support for Newburgh’s revitalization and a higher standard of living for local residents. Individuals, families, businesses and other groups may purchase commemorative bricks to be placed at the site for as little as $100. Bricks engraved with a personalized imprint or message may be created in honor or in memory of someone special, or simply to designate support for Independence Square, which will soon be home to 74 individuals and families.

“Safe, affordable and accessible housing is one of the most critical needs in our community today,” said Executive Director Douglas Hovey. “We are very proud to have spearheaded this initiative, and pleased that the City of Newburgh and our colleagues in human services have been so supportive.” Bricks may be ordered online at www.thatsmybrick.com/independencesquare, or by calling Bridget Judge at (845) 565-1162 x242. For more information, and to follow the progress of Independence Square, visit our website at www.independenthomecare.org
Independent Home Care, Inc. is dedicated to providing reliable, quality home care and related services as well as safe, affordable and accessible housing 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 and equal opportunities for participation in community life.

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, including, but not limited to, the provision of affordable and accessible housing, opportunities for education, employment and social inclusion.