Life Without Limits

Independent Living, Inc. held its annual “Friends of Independence” fundraising breakfast on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at Anthony’s Pier 9 in New Windsor, NY. The theme “Life Without Limits” was clearly exemplified by our two testimonial speakers.

Alisha shared how our Onward Recovery Program helped her find meaningful and lasting freedom from addiction in a safe, comfortable and healing environment staffed by compassionate and skilled peer specialists. Alicia said “Each staff played a key role in my recovery and personal transformation; helping me to write my resume, teaching me how to dress for an interview, managing my finances and lending an ear to listen. That is what recovery is about; building a support network that allows you to open up and accept the help you need to learn a new way to live.” Next, Stephen shared about how individuals with developmental disabilities can and should always be given the opportunity to determine the service they receive and choose the goals to which they aspire.

Over 300 people attended and enjoyed a hot breakfast, interacted and learned about who we are, what we do and who we serve. Our annual breakfast is an important source of funding that helps us to close the financial gap for our programs and services. Equally important, it serves as an opportunity to inform the community about important disability issues. The event was a big success thanks to all of our table captains, donors, and sponsors.

Shannon has been a part of Independent Living, Inc. (ILI) since 2006. She has a deep commitment to ILI and truly believes in our agency’s philosophy and mission. During her tenure with us, she has held the following positions: Community Services Liaison; Employment and Family Services Manager overseeing all OPWDD funded programs and services and Director of Quality and Compliance providing oversight of the agency-wide compliance program ensuring that internal policies and procedures and the regulations of our funding sources are current. Shannon holds a Master of Science in Psychology from California Coast University and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Human Services from Mount Saint Mary College. She is a volunteer for Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Condo Development Board Member, Orange County Rising Stars Award Winner, and a member of the Leadership Orange Class of 2015.

Climbing the Ladder of Success

We are pleased to announce the promotion of Shannon Zawiski to the position of Chief Operating Officer (COO), reporting to Douglas Hovey President & CEO. In her new role as COO, Shannon will have oversight of all programs and services provided by all agency locations.

Welcome Alison!

Independent Living welcomes Alison Heidemann as the Regional Director of Peer Services. Alison has a very diverse background encompassing positions as a peer recovery specialist as well as several management positions in housing. Her most recent position was Program Manager for the largest supported housing program in Dutchess County. Alison earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Information Technology from Mount Saint Mary College and worked as a software engineer project manager for IBM for over 8 years. During that time she managed and led a large, global IT team. Alison replaces Raymond Rodriguez.

Promoting From Within

- Eveleese Campos (Lake) was promoted to Bridger/Diversion Team Leader.
- Awilda Cerna was promoted to Senior Peer Bridger.
- Tony Lebron was promoted to Community Independence Program (CIP) Coordinator.
- Alissa Cepeda was promoted to Peer Diversion Team Leader.
- Brendan Riley was promoted to Peer Diversion Team Leader.
Recognizing Members of the “Friends of Independence” Society

Individuals who have pledged to donate a minimum of $1,000 per year for 5 years; their names are engraved on a plaque that is displayed at the 5 Washington Terrace Center.

- Luis & Beth Abarca*
- Allan E. Atzrott*
- In memory of Edith Hicks
- Richard & Alice Carpenter
- Maureen Crush & Robert Whelan*
- Jack & Kara Dorsey*
- Steve R. Gleason
- Douglas Hovey*
- Richard & Patricia Hovey*
- Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union
- Hudson Valley Hospital Physicians, PLLC
- Bridget & Pernell Judge*
- Stuart & Nancy Kessler*
- John & Dr. Mary Ellen King
- Michael & Susan Kochler
- Jonah Mandelbaum & Donna Applegate
- Matthew Migliaccio*
- John & Anne Miller*
- Elaine Morgan
- Bill & Mary Murphy*
- Susan Najork
- Dr. Geraldine Petrosino*
- Helen & Carlos Portalatin
- Bill & Rebecca Potter*
- Ranni Law Firm
- Dr. John C. & Mrs. Kathryn R. Reed
- Rose & Kiernan, Inc.
- Sue Sullivan
- Susan Stockburger*
- Stanley & Suzanne Tremper
- Sterling National Bank
- Walden Savings Bank
- WMCH Health PPS
- Young & Unique, Inc.

*Founding Members

Keeping Up With CIP

Already this summer, our Community Independence Program (CIP) has held talent and fashion shows, fundraising car wash and experience a once in a lifetime opportunity to tour NBC Studios. The talent and fashion shows were great fun for all who participated and attended, the car wash fundraiser was a big success and the NBC tour was something they would never forget. The CIP Program enjoyed a special trip to NYC for an exclusive tour of the NBC studio and 30 Rock set. The group chartered a luxury West Point bus courtesy of a special donation, had a personal tour of the studio and they also learned about the many individuals with disabilities who work at NBC, and dined at a fancy Manhattan restaurant.

Everyone really enjoyed the day!
How You Can Help

Want to help ensure that Independent Living’s programs and services are here for generations to come? Here are a few ideas for supporting Independent Living, Inc.

- Make a donation in memory or in honor of someone special
- Consider making a bequest in your will
- Shop online at smile.amazon.com and select Independent Living, Inc., Newburgh, NY as your charitable organization.
- Buy and engrave a brick in honor or in memory of someone special. Bricks are available in two sizes: 4x8 and 8x8.

For more information, please visit www.thatsmybrick.com/independencesquare or contact our Development Office at (845) 565-1162 x202.

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Fax: 845-342-1192

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Phone: 845-565-1162
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Monticello, NY 12701
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