



The Independence Foundation

Helping individuals with physical disabilities live independent and self directed lives.

2220 Hall Road, Elma, NY 14059 716-685-3976
We are a 501c3 not-for-profit organization.

February 2007 Newsletter

*In Loving Memory of:
Eric Grammas
November 16, 2006*



*In Loving Memory of:
Alisa McFarland
December 29, 2006*

2000 Dodge Caravan Awarded

A 2000 Dodge caravan was donated to The Independence Foundation *in Loving Memory of Jerry Polakiewicz*. His family generously donated the fully accessible van with wishes that it promote independence for another.



The Independence Foundation is proud to announce that Tasha has been awarded the 2000 Dodge Caravan.

Congratulations Tasha ...

on the road to Independence !

Tasha is currently enrolled in the driver evaluation process and looks forward to new opportunities and greater independence with this vehicle. Thank you to the Polakiewicz Family for their generous donation.

Please consider The Independence Foundation if you should ever find yourself in the position to donate a wheelchair accessible van.

Your donation will help another family and you will receive a letter of donation for tax purposes.

Thank you to Main Mobility for the referral! Thank you to Elma Collision and Mark Mingle for generously donating the custom detail work. We encourage you to use Elma Collision, 6381 Seneca Street - the finest in collision repair!



**Visit our website for more details on our
NEW Transportation Program
– including our Families Helping Families initiative.**

The Independence House: (a residential option for independent & self-directed living)

People Inc. continues to work through the contingencies as we move towards a close date on land. We have had meetings with the architect to begin designs for the Independence House. This is an option for individuals with physical disabilities who can manage their own lives. To be placed on the wait list – call Chris at 685-3976.



Power Soccer Tournament in Buffalo

On January 6, 2007, the Independence Foundation sponsored a 2 day soccer clinic at the Erie Community College North campus. Teams from Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Edinboro came to socialize with other soccer players, play in a competitive sport and have a great day doing something exciting and fun! There were referees, coaches, statistics and many volunteers! Mighty Taco was the star player at lunch time! Thank you to Buffalo Wheelchair for the beverages and to Nancy and Patsy for the wonderful lunch! Thank you to Rural Metro Services for a volunteer medical crew.

This tournament was made possible in part with funds received from [The Buffalo Bills Youth Foundation Grant](#), and from funds generously donated by [Uncle Bob's Self Storage](#).

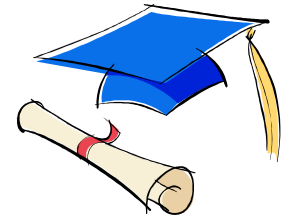
Congratulations to the CNY PS Flyers from Syracuse, NY for winning First Place in Division I and to the Rochester Speed Demons from Rochester, NY for winning First Place in Division II.

Emergency Folders

We recently mailed out our comprehensive Emergency Folders. These folders include tips for emergencies, health care and respiratory information, a refrigerator magnet for emergency personnel, and a health care proxy form, among other things. They also include specific information for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. If you did not receive our folder and would like a copy – please send \$5.00 (to cover mailing & printing costs) to The Independence Foundation, 2220 Hall Road, Elma, NY 14059 and ask for the Emergency Folder.

College Scholarships

Apply online now for The Independence Foundation College Scholarship. We award three \$500 college scholarships to individuals with significant physical disabilities. Applications available at www.TheIndependenceFoundation.org
Deadline for applications is April 1st.



*Happy 2nd Anniversary to
The Independence Foundation!*

As of March 2007 – we are two years old!

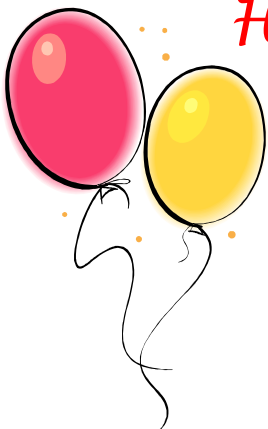
See enclosed flyer for all that we have accomplished!

Sponsor packets will be available for the Bike for Ben.

Come and celebrate with us at Bowling on March 11th!

Free snacks and pop for all!

Everyone invited! (need RSVP's please)



Bowling:

Sunday, March 11th , 1 – 3 PM

Independence Foundation Anniversary Party!

Free snacks and pop for everyone! RSVP to 716-685-3976

Come bowl and celebrate with us at the AMF Lancaster Lanes, 4319 Transit Rd. near Losson Rd. Games are \$2.00 each, pay your own way. The whole family can come! There are ramps for wheelchair bowlers.



Mom's Only: Mothers getting together.

Sunday, March 25th 6PM at Olive Garden, Walden Ave, near the Galleria Mall Pay your own way – rsvp please to Chris at 685-3976. Future Dates will be available on the website.

Recreation Expo Sunday, April 22nd Noon – 4PM (See enclosed flyer)

Adams Mark Hotel Come and see what the options are for Recreation Resources – open to families, service providers, group homes, and the general public. We will have an information table there!

Gift Card program runs all year!

The Independence Foundation is participating in a scrip program. We are selling Gift Cards from a number of quality stores and restaurants. Current list on website. New - Panera Bread & Cheesecake Factory! E-mail pbilski@inergex.com to purchase the cards or for more information.

Collect cell phones or sponsor a Dress Down Day – contact Chris for more info.

We are still collecting cell phones. Dress Down Days continue –

Thank you to Rich Products and Uncle Bob's Self-Storage for their support with recent Dress Down Days.



The Independence Foundation Northtowns / Southtowns Power Soccer

Join a Team Now!

- > **If you can safely maneuver a power wheelchair – you can play! All ages!**
- > Registration Form available at www.TheIndependenceFoundation.org
- > \$25 Registration fee includes all equipment. Call 685-3976 for info.

Welcome Suneel, and Joshua !

Upcoming Wheelchair Soccer Dates:

North: 325 Franklin St. Tonawanda

Sat Feb 10 10 – noon

Sat Feb 24 10 – noon

Sat Mar 10 10 – noon

Sat Mar 24 10 - noon

South: 2361 Bowen Rd, Elma

Sun Feb 18 1 – 3 PM

Sun Mar 25 1 – 3 PM

***note – the March 11th game was changed due to the Anniversary Celebration**

Volunteers – if you would like to help at any of our programs – call Chris 685-3976



Bike for Ben – Save the Date

Saturday July 14, 2007

This is our annual fundraiser – and we are planning already!

Last year's event raised almost \$50,000 for our programs.

Online registration will be available **March 1st** on our website at www.TheIndependenceFoundation.org

When you register – you will be mailed a participation envelope. We have Sponsor packets available, and much more! If you would like to participate (walk, bike, or jog), get your group to participate, volunteer, get sponsors, or help in any other way – contact us at 716-685-3976.

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