



# 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.

## Winter 2006 Newsletter

*In Loving Memory of*

*Jared Lane*

*March 4, 1991 - October 27, 2006*



*Jared had a rare form of Muscular Dystrophy called Ataxic Telangiectasia. He had the brightest smile and the happiest outlook on life. He will be sadly missed by his Power Soccer teammates and by all who knew him.*

Memorials may be made to either

AT Childrens Project  
668 S. Military Trail  
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442

Women & Childrens Hospital  
PICU Unit, 219 Bryant St.  
Buffalo, NY 14222.  
Charles A. Castiglia, Director.

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

A purchase offer went out on August 24<sup>th</sup> for land and was signed and accepted end of September. A meeting was held with town officials this past week, and we will not need any re-zoning to put up two houses and a life center. People Inc. continues to work through the contingencies as we move towards a close date. Shortly after that we will begin working with the architect to design the Independence House. If you would like to get on the wait list – call Chris at 685-3976.

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### ***Van donated in Loving Memory of Jerry Polekiewicz***

A 2000 Dodge caravan was donated to The Independence Foundation in Loving Memory of Jerry Polekiewicz. His family generously donated the fully accessible van with wishes that it promote independence for another individual. Applications are now online for this van. The Independence Foundation will accept letters of application from individuals or families who would most benefit from this van. The 2000 Dodge caravan is equipped for a wheelchair user with upper body & arm strength to drive the van, and also has tie downs in the center of the van. The van is fully automated with power doors and power ramp all operated by a key chain switch. We will accept letters of application and our committee will award the van to a worthy recipient. Thank you to Main Mobility for the referral!

**Holiday Cards** – Each year we send out a Holiday Letter – and recently we have sent letters about The Independence Foundation – how it has affected our lives, our hopes, dreams, and especially the anticipation of The Independence House. We enclose a donation envelope for The Independence Foundation with our letters. Would you like to enclose an Independence Foundation gift envelope with your Holiday cards? This is an easy way to help the Foundation and a great way to give loved ones a chance to show their support. For envelopes to include in your holiday mailing, letter suggestions, or information – call Chris.



## **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](http://www.TheIndependenceFoundation.org)
- > \$25 Registration fee includes all equipment. Call 685-3976 for info.

*Welcome Jerry, Danny, and Sam!*

### **Upcoming Wheelchair Soccer Dates:**

**Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> Tonawanda Power Soccer 4 – 6PM, 325 Franklin St., Ton, 14150**

**Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup> Northtowns vs Southtowns Power Wheelchair Soccer  
4 – 6 PM at the Elma Boys & Girls Club, 2080 Girdle Rd., Elma, 14059**

*This game will be played in Loving Memory of Jared Lane.*

*Everyone is encouraged to come and cheer on the teams!*

**Date to be announced - Buffalo vs Rochester Power Wheelchair Soccer  
more details on the website soon**

**Saturday Dec 16<sup>th</sup> Tonawanda Power Soccer 4 – 6PM, 325 Franklin St., Ton, 14150**

**Sunday, Dec 17<sup>th</sup> Southtowns Power Soccer 4 – 6 PM, 2080 Girdle Rd, Elma, 14059**

**Save the date – Jan 5,6,7 Power Wheelchair Soccer weekend – teams coming from NJ, NY & PA**

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

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### **Bowling:**

**Sunday, December 3rd, 3 PM**

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. RSVP to 716-685-3976.

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### **Mom's Only:**

Special December Mom's only! The next gathering of moms will be **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6PM at Butterwood's Williamsville, 5409 Main St., Williamsville, 14221.** After a long day of Holiday Shopping with your gift cards! – come and have a relaxing cup of coffee and an amazing dessert! Pay your own way – rsvp please to Chris at 685-3976.

**January Mom's only – Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>** - let me know where you would like to go.

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## Things we're working on:

Aquatic Therapy / Recreation program, Over 18 camp experience, Card Nites, and more! If you are interested in these programs contact us for more information.

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## Equipment Loan Closet:

Wheelchair down? Looking to borrow equipment, buy or sell equipment, donate, buy or sell a wheelchair van – call Jackie 668-3048 or go to our website under programs. A current list of equipment available is listed on our website. [www.TheIndependenceFoundation.org](http://www.TheIndependenceFoundation.org)

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**Help on the website:** [www.TheIndependenceFoundation.org](http://www.TheIndependenceFoundation.org)

### Need help with eating?

Visit the website for more information.



Eric shares his device

\*Coat for people in wheelchairs from Resident Shoppers Service.

\*Modify pants for wheelchair use

\*Accessible Vacation Spots

\*Transportation Options

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## Gift Card program:

**Remember this opportunity as the holiday shopping season approaches!** The Independence Foundation is participating in a scrip program. We are selling Gift Cards from a number of quality stores and restaurants. We are able to sell them at face-value because we buy them at a discount. Therefore, every Gift Card sold earns a profit for The Independence Foundation!

Recently added – Payless, Pizza Hut and Starbucks! Other stores include: *Applebees, Olive Garden, Smokey Bones, Red Lobster, Quizno's, Boston Market, Old Navy, Gap, Dicks, Home Depot, Bed, Bath & Beyond, Bath & Body Works, Tops and Office Depot.*

E-mail [pbilski@inergex.com](mailto:pbilski@inergex.com) to purchase the cards, or if you would like more information.

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

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Did you know...

- ✓ That we can be listed in your will, receive auto donations, and other bequests?
  - ✓ That you can designate The Independence Foundation as your Donor's Choice through the United Way?
  - ✓ That each time you shop at Tops – you can support The Independence Foundation? Call Chris at 716-685-3976 if you would like more information.
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[www.TheIndependenceFoundation.org](http://www.TheIndependenceFoundation.org)

**Winter tip:  
Carry a snow shovel  
in your van!**

