



Helping the physically handicapped live independent and self directed lives

2220 Hall Road, Elma, NY 14059 716-685-3976

February Newsletter

We are a 501c3 not-for-profit organization.

Hello All,

February, 2006

Independence House update:

The team from Albany is coming to Buffalo to meet with us. They would like **STRONG** representation, from the people interested in living in this house, at this meeting.

The meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 13th at 1PM**
DDSO Complex, East & West Rd, Building #16 room #153

If you are on the house list, on the wait list - or may ever be interested in this type of living for people with physical disabilities - I urge you to come. Part of the issue in Albany is that they can't imagine who would want to live here - if there were vacancies. Talk with others you know - maybe they would be interested too. (Physically disabled, mentally alert individuals) Forward this to someone who may be interested.

This is an update of recent events and where we are at this point:

- The last set of **questions from the state** were answered and returned to the team in Albany in November. We have been waiting for another set of questions.
- Wed, Jan 4th – **Conference Call with Self-Advocate team.** The report was sent to Albany.
- Monday, January 9th - Ben and I met with **Senator Volker's office.** Senator Volker sent a letter of support to Commissioner Maul on January 12.
- Thursday, Jan 12 - **Brainstorming meeting.** Went well - lots of ideas, lots of interested people. Rick & Ed will get together with the builder and architect to develop a drawing and budget for the house.
- Monday, January 23 - **Grant Writing Party.** We doled out the grant applications and will gather again on Feb 13 to get them sent out. We are seeking funding for the house.
- This week - I asked you all to **write letters to Commissioner Maul** and ask for the approval of Opts #147. MANY letters have already been mailed.
- Today (Thursday, Jan 26)- we found out about the meeting with the Albany team.
- I will let you know if there are any more questions we can be prepared for.

This is our chance to convince the Albany team that this is a viable project -
PLEASE try to be there.

Power Wheelchair Soccer - THANK YOU to the Visiting Nurses Assoc. for the snacks and free stuff at the last game. They came and showed up respiratory equipment.
Come and watch, Sunday, February 12, 4 – 6 PM at the Elma Boys & Girls Club. The new power w/c soccer schedule is posted on the website. We will play once a month until May. Always open to new players, just come to any game. Welcome Patrick, Holly, Courtney, & Matthew!

Social Gatherings:

BOWLING - Friday February 17th, 6-8 PM at the AMF Lancaster Lanes, 4319 Transit Rd. near Losson Rd. Games are \$2.00 each. The whole family can come! There are ramps for w/c bowlers.
RSVP to Chris at 716-685-3976.



REC EXPO March 4th – see enclosed flyer

Next Mom's only Dinner:
Coming soon – watch the website for more info.

E-MAIL – If you have e-mail make sure I have your address. I send out information and updates all the time.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS:

The new application is posted on the website for the 06 – 07 College year, with a deadline of April 1st.

WEBSITE COMING SOON:

We will soon have new additions to the website –

- an equipment page – where you can sell, trade, or give away equipment.
- an employment page – where you can post yourself looking for a job
- an on-line registration opportunity to register for the Bike for Ben (available March 1st)
- pay-pay for on-line donations

BIKE FOR BEN – will be Saturday, July 15th - mark your calendars.

FAMILY DIRECTORY – We have a Family Directory for information sharing purposes between families. If you do not already have one – call Chris to get on the list and get your copy.

Check out our website: www.TheIndependenceFoundation.org

We also now have a brochure!

Looking forward to seeing you –

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