



Helping the physically handicapped live independent and self directed lives

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

March Newsletter

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

Hello All,

March, 2006

Independence House update:

The team from Albany came to Buffalo on Monday, February 13th, 2006

We received the approval for The Independence House from the OMRDD on February 24th!

We stopped for a moment to celebrate this monumental accomplishment on Monday, March 13 at the Alden Whistle Stop Café. We were presented with a stepping stone that holds the names of the people who will live in the house, and a dove etched in to represent Marc Swiatkowski – as he is with us every step of the way!

What does the approval mean?

A major goal of The Independence Foundation is to establish a community where physically disabled, mentally alert people can live independently. Current options include living at home with parents or living in a traditional group home setting.

Our vision for the community includes a house, a Life Center building (to meet the specific needs of these individuals), 24 hour aide care, house government with consumer control and employment help. This project will be the first of its kind in Western New York!

We have received an approval for this project from the State of New York Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD). This means that the state will help with funding to build the house and the operational costs. The fundraising efforts of The Independence Foundation will supplement the costs involved that are not funded by the OMRDD.

We are actively looking for land. We will keep you posted.

If you would like to get on the wait list for The Independence House – let us know.



Happy Birthday to The Independence Foundation! As of March 25 – we are one year old!

Who knew that in just a short year – we would accomplish so much? I was driving the other day and listening to the radio – they were talking about how March is the season of Equinox – a time of new beginnings, and a time of balance restored to the world! I would like to think that the new beginning of The Independence Foundation has restored a small slice of balance to our world!

Bike for Ben – July 15, 2006

This is our annual fundraiser – and we are planning already! **Online registration** is currently available 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, get your group to participate, volunteer, get sponsors, help collate, or help in any other way – call us. Jon Gardner designed our T-shirts for this year, wait till you see them!

JonzGraphicWorld - Jon's website - for all your label, printing, and graphic needs.

OTHER FUNDRAISERS include:

Dress Down Day – Hold a dress down day for The Independence Foundation – flyer on the website or call us. **Phoneraiser** – collect used cell phones for us – print a collection box flyer on the website or call us for more details.

Power Wheelchair Soccer Game - against a Rochester power soccer team! We will play in Brockport - May 20 - more info to come! Next w/c soccer game is **April 23rd** in Elma.

Practices stepped up for the game:

April 30, May 7, May 14 all 4 – 6 PM at the Elma Boys & Girls Club



Social Gatherings & Other Happenings:

We will take a break for Easter during April with more Bowling and fun stuff to come in May.

Next Mom's only Dinner: You get an extra hour this day! Use it to catch up with us!
Sunday, April 2nd 6PM at the Olive Garden MCKINLEY MALL. (We changed the location to accommodate those coming from the southtowns) RSVP please to Chris at 685-3976.

Wanna Play cards? Social group for guys and gals who wish to play poker, euchre, etc. once a month. What night works for you? Call Chris to sign up and for more information.

DD Day - Thursday, May 18th Buffalo Convention Center area vendors, agencies, and many others will be there to showcase what's available for individuals with developmental disabilities. We will have a table there! More info to come.

National Disability Awareness Day - Wed, October 18th, companies across the nation will provide mentoring opportunities for developmentally disabled individuals. To become involved, as a mentor, as a company, as a participant - contact Monica Moshenko. moshenko@eng.buffalo.edu

Date to be announced -

Inergex "Giving Back" Day - There will be **job shadowing** opportunities for individuals involved with The Independence Foundation. Contact Chris for more info.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS:

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

****Watch the **website** for great changes and more dates and info coming soon!

Great job Justin! www.TheIndependenceFoundation.org

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

Looking forward to seeing you –

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