



40th

Independence of Portage County, Inc.
161 E. Main Street • Ravenna, OH 44266
Phone (330) 296-2851 • Fax (330) 296-8631

2015—Independence's 40th Year

At Independence of Portage County, we believe that each developmentally disabled person is entitled to the rights and dignity afforded to all persons, and to be served in the least restrictive manner. With this philosophical base in mind, the Agency's mission is to:

- Recognize individual needs and goals, while providing services and support in an enriched environment which fosters independence. This environment of teaching and growth focuses on quality of life, decision-making, development of friendships, interests and activities, and the modeling of behaviors which promote community inclusion.
- Advocate for those we serve, acknowledge the role of family, friends and community supports and coordinate services between providers.
- Provide residential services in a safe, comfortable and family-like atmosphere.
- Increase awareness and involve the community in the lives of those with special challenges.

40th Independence Post

October 2015

The Annual Independence Day Picnic

On July 2nd, 2015 we celebrated Independence Day with our annual picnic, and it was a day full of fun and sun! Both staff and our clients had an opportunity to participate in the day's activities; we had fishing, bubble blowing, face-painting, and Bocce. Not only were we celebrating our country's independence, but also 40 years of service to individuals with developmental disabilities. Thank you to everyone who helped make this day a success!



Independence, Inc.
161 East Main Street
Ravenna, Ohio 44266

Administrative Office
(330) 296 2851

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(330) 296-8631

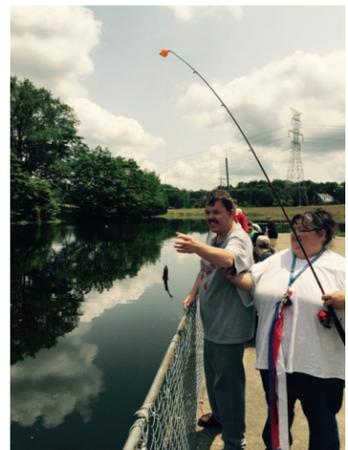
Website
www.indport.org

P.E.A.C.E.
126 East Main Street
Ravenna, Ohio 44266
(330) 296-2409

Treats and Treasures
(330) 297-2625

The Gathering Rooms
126 East Main Street
Ravenna, Ohio 44266
(330) 296-2851

*Providing Support
Services
TO
People with Disabilities
in our Community*



CELEBRATE!



Billy's 50th Birthday

The room was filled with laughter and the joyous sounds of music, as now 50 year old William (aka Billy) admired his purple, green and blue birthday balloons. On Friday, June 26th, family and friends came together at the P.E.A.C.E. Gathering Room to celebrate his 50th birthday.

The cheerful William greeted his guests with a hug and a smile as they arrived. This was no ordinary birthday party as guest performers ShadowTekk and Barefeet Dance Tribe of Kent State provided live entertainment. William danced the night away to the sounds of his own personal DJ, including the Chicken Dance, the Cha-Cha Slide, and Michael Jackson's Thriller. This was truly the birthday of a lifetime.

Congratulations to our **ROCKSTAR** employees...



- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Darla Basar (N.Diamond) | Amanda Boley (PEACE) |
| Mike Bowker (Lake) | Jill Bryant (Float) |
| Darla Cadle (Main) | Shawn Dean (McKinley) |
| Julie Etz (Lor-Ron) | Yvonne Gabel (Trumbull) |
| Doug Mayfield (Sabin) | Tim Morris (Cleveland) |
| Rumbie Mupinga (Meridian) | Taylor Walters (Highland) |
| Purdie Welker (Alexander) | |

Characteristics of Independence Employees

Please unscramble the words below



1. AETPINT _____
2. TOIPVEIS _____
3. ILNFYERD _____
4. SNGHIRA _____
5. CAGNRI _____



This year Sharon P. is celebrating her 15th year working at Pizza Hut. In recognition of this milestone, she was invited to select her own reward through their program. She is the proud owner of a brand new tablet, way to go Sharon!



Tom R. also celebrated a birthday this past June, and was treated to a cake made entirely of suckers!

Andrea H. has accepted a new position, working at Burger King.

Happy to announce that Matt W. has earned his driver's license this summer.

INDEPENDENCE EMPLOYEE REFERRAL BONUS\$

Success



Refer a new employee between August 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015 and after 6 months of employment the referring staff member will receive a \$50.00 Giant Eagle Card. (Contact HR to learn more)

REFERRAL PROGRAM

Our Wish List...

Independence is seeking financial assistance in order to make several necessary and very expensive purchases. Please contact our offices at 330-296-2851 if you are able to make a donation, all inquiries will be directed to either Anna Barrett or Bill Ullman. The following are just a few of the items needed for our day program and residences:

- * Stackable arm chairs and recliners for our day program
- * Height adjustable tables
- * A patio table and chairs
- * Digital wheelchair scales
- * Replacement of our bus
- * 3-Wheel adult bike
- * Pulse Oximeters



The newest members of our Management Team!



Barbaretta Harris
Development
Specialist



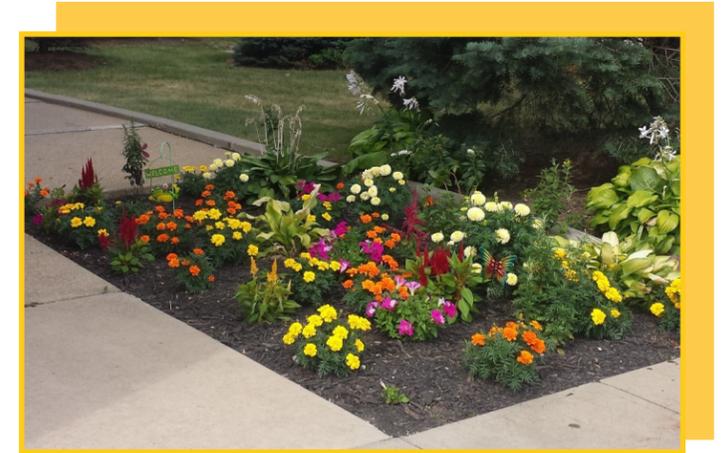
Riajo Loftin
RSS



Kathy Morris
Vocational
Supervisor

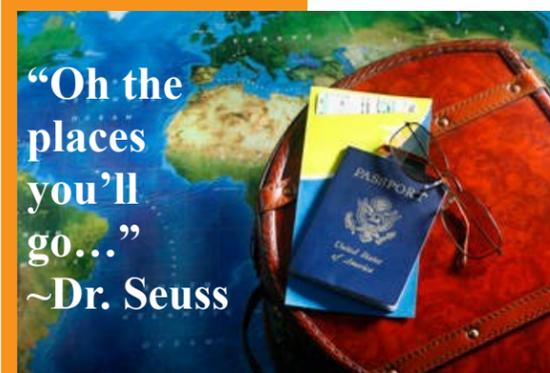


Jerome O'Neal
RM



A special thank you to Andrea H., Marlene H., and Darla C. for their hard work creating and maintaining the beautiful garden that's located in front of our offices!

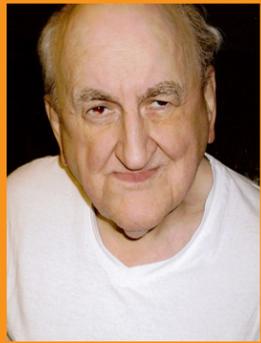
Rick B., Joe C., Calvin G., and Tom R. were also busy gardening this summer, and have reaped rewards of green beans, tomatoes, and peppers for all of their hard work!



- Tim C. & Ron G. visited Kraynaks in Pennsylvania
- Joe C. soaked up some sun in Florida with family
- Teresa S. & Kenny P. also vacationed in Florida
- Ron G. went to see Shrek the Musical
- Billy S. had fun in New York
- Andrea H. visited Texas
- Friday night group dinners-enjoying friends and new restaurants



Remembering those we have lost



Aubrey L. passed away just shy of his 87th birthday, after spending 27 years with us. He appreciated keeping everything in the right place, but mostly he looked forward to all kinds of sweet treats. Aubrey especially enjoyed seeing his friend and childhood neighbor, Diane, who would bring his favorite butterscotch candies when she visited.



Paul H. thoroughly enjoyed going for walks and exploring the area, but he couldn't be happier than when he was dancing. Once he put on his dancing boots, he didn't stop until the music did. He was a true gentleman and a cowboy at heart!



Rubbermaid

When Independence began a relationship with Rubbermaid in December, 2012, 8 Individuals were working one 4 hour shift, Monday-Friday. In January, 2013, we were able to expand to two 4 hour shifts which increased the number of people working to 16 per day. We expanded again in April of 2013, and now more than 20 people are being supported by Independence coaches and working at Rubbermaid Monday - Friday! Independence operates a first shift from 8:00am-12:30pm and a second shift from 1:00pm-5:30pm. Each shift has 10 people on the line. Several of the individuals have been working at Rubbermaid since we started in December of 2012, and they will be celebrating their 3 year anniversary in a couple of months!

Staffing consists of individuals from both Portage and Summit counties working on the line and depending on the job to be completed, regularly includes supplemental staff provided by Rubbermaid. The work consists of assembling and packaging Rubbermaid products at the Gilchrist Road facility in Mogadore, Ohio. Rubbermaid has hundreds of different types of products; therefore, depending on what needs to be shipped to retailers the job can change on a daily basis. The next time you purchase a Rubbermaid product from Target or Walmart, remember there is a good chance it was assembled by individuals supported by Independence!



Direct Support Professionals Week (Sept. 13th-19th)

Independence celebrated DSP Week on Tuesday, 9/22/15. Your hard work and dedication all year long are greatly appreciated! Thank you for ALL you do!!

Ravenna Balloon A-Fair

Independence, Inc. once again participated in Ravenna's Balloon A-Fair Festival, on September 19th. We had a booth setup and entered our fabulous "A Whole New World with Independence" float in this year's parade! Our float was inspired by Aladdin & Jasmine's Magic Carpet Ride and worked well with this year's theme "A Flight to Remember." Thank you to everyone that volunteered their time and helped us to win 1st place for Organizational Floats and the Parade Committee's Choice Award for 2015! Also, a special thank you to Cole Calhoun Construction.



Employment Services

Joy Montz was hired as Independence's first Development Specialist on October 14, 2014. As a Development Specialist, Joy works with the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR) to assist individuals with disabilities prepare for and find employment. Joy wears many hats as a Development Specialist. She assists individuals with resume writing, job search techniques, interview preparation, appropriate workplace dress and etiquette, workplace skills assessment, discovery of different types of work, and above all, getting hired and keeping a job! Since Joy came onto the scene, Independence has received over 25 referrals from BVR, thus far Joy has placed over 10 people in community jobs!

Joy has fostered many successful relationships with local employers and has also developed an excellent reputation from the counselors at BVR, that refer candidates to us.