

Independence Post

40TH

Hello Disney



Independence, Inc.

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Administrative Office

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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

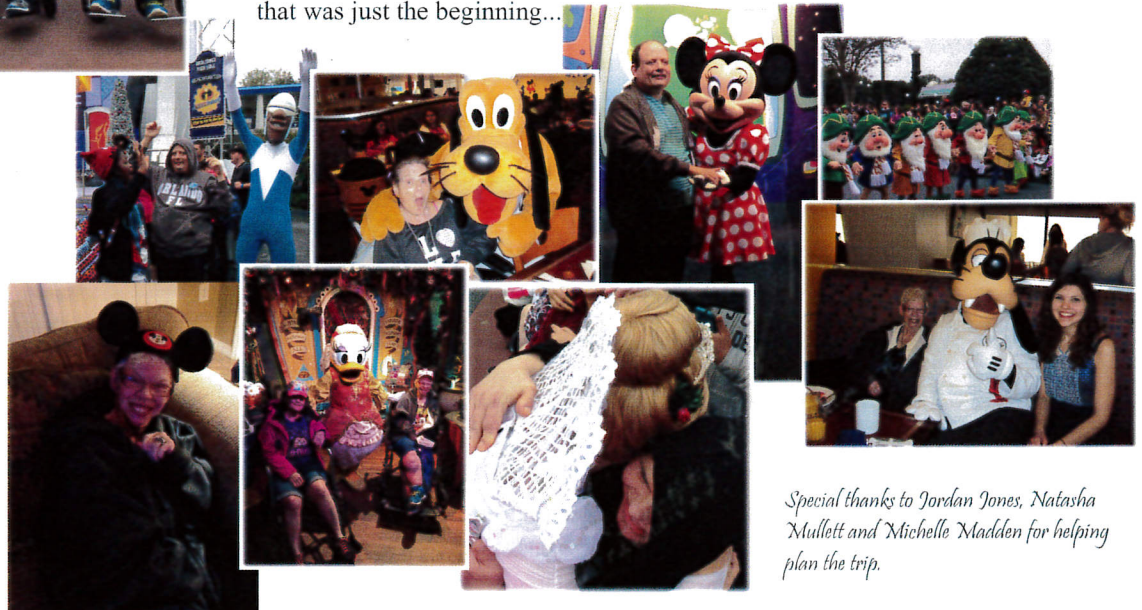
A few months ago, four people were given the opportunity of a life time. Billy, Michael, Dianne, and Wendy, had hoped to see the wonderful world that Walt Disney had envisioned. It was just a dream until we found the *Pixie Dust*. Taking intrepid staff members (Pris, Rumbi, Matt, and Marissa) with them, they flew to Florida (second star to the right, straight on until morning) and relished in the rewards that sometimes comes from life. Call it karma, luck or whatever you want; these four know it as the *Magic of Disney*.



The Dream Team (on the beach)



Loud cheers were heard when the entryway was seen. And that was just the beginning...



Special thanks to Jordan Jones, Natasha Mullett and Michelle Madden for helping plan the trip.

Community Employment Services

For more than 4 years, Hunter Thomas Mills worked as a dough maker at Little Caesar's. Not a bad job, but not what he wanted. With a BS in Animation and Design and a MA in Technology from Kent State, Hunter wanted more.



Independence's new Community Employment Program was a perfect fit! Hunter was able to find a position with Dave Sommers and Associates, an architecture firm, and is now "creating our Rovit 3-dimensional model family library."



Joy Montz
Development Specialist

A Community Based Assessment is a great way for someone to find a niche. It gives people a few weeks to display their talents and experience the work first hand. Especially if someone is trying to enter or return to the workforce, it can be the experience that guides the next steps.



Direct people to Joy Montz to learn more about setting up an assessment and finding the perfect fit. We have Standing Assessments at CVS and Marc's.



Welcome to Independence!



Ryan Dangerfield
RSS

Shannon
Bernard
RM



David Miller
QIDP



Dan Hronek
QIDP

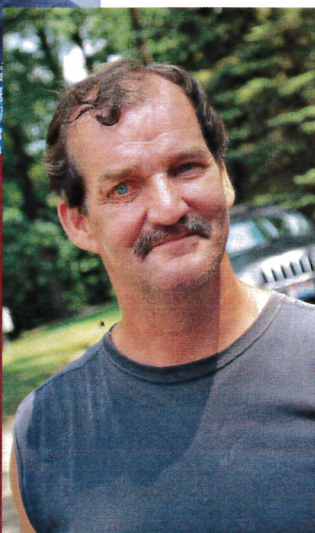
Independence is pleased to welcome new members to our Management team.



Congratulations to Andrea and Jim!

Both of these diligent workers have made it to THREE years at Rubbermaid. Independence has partnered with Rubbermaid for the last three years, and Andrea and Jim have been there since the beginning. Rubbermaid has long been interested in producing quality products AND providing opportunities for people. We appreciate the partnership.

Independence has been training employees to work on the line at Rubbermaid. This opportunity currently has a few openings, so if you know someone who has an attitude of 'getting the job done!' have them give Linda Drum a call for all the details.



Special Thanks to Omar Nagi, Portage County's new Superintendent. Mr. Nagi visited Independence in February and was quite informative, sharing insights and his vision. We are excited to have such a champion.

Thank You

Holiday Party



Culminating another successful year at Independence, the agency held its annual Holiday Gathering. While longevity was recognized and prizes were awarded, the highlight of the event was the wonderful food, skits and songs.

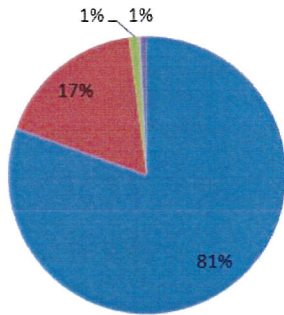


CARF



The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities did a thorough review of the quality of Independence's programs and has awarded us a 3 year Accreditation (the longest they offer). CARF focuses on promoting the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services. Although a difficult review process, our focus is on the success of people, too.

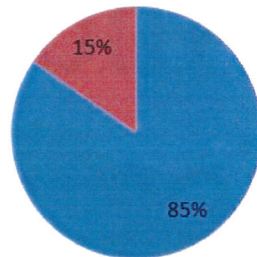
Source of Funds



- State
- County
- Investment
- Other

One of Independence's core values is to "prudently utilize the public resources with which we are entrusted."

Use of Funds



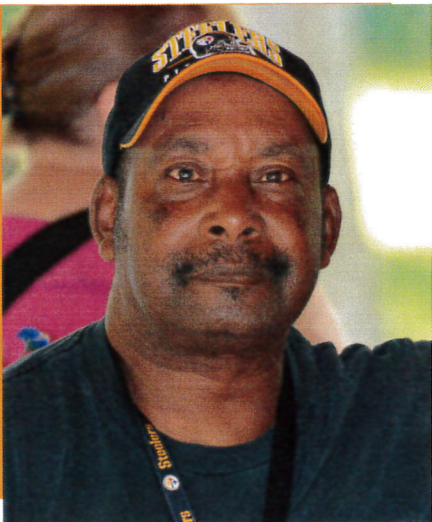
- Program Services
- Management & General

These two charts illustrate from where the money comes and how it is spent.

Memorial

"When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure"... Author Unknown

Buford Meredith will always be remembered as a friend. He always had an attitude of being part of the group and helping everyone have fun. He is already missed.



NEW EMAIL



30 Years?!



Karen Bates has worked for Independence for the last 30 years. Many changes have happened in those 30 years, and Karen saw them all. Good Luck in retirement!

Thank you
Karen, you have
changed many
lives...



Recently, Independence updated its email and computer services. You may notice that our email addresses have changed. Now, to send someone an email at Independence, use the first initial and last name @iopci.org. Quite simple, but quite a change.

Independence Foundation

Every year, through countless donations, fundraisers and the generosity of many people, the Independence Foundation is able to help those that are experiencing extremely limited funds. Your assistance guarantees that Christmas presents, new clothes, replacement furniture, and adaptive equipment reaches the people who need them most.



Thank you

Referral Program

If you know kind, caring, helpful people who would like to make a difference in someone's life, have them contact us. We have openings that fit every schedule. Of course there are some requirements, but we'd love to talk to people interested in being wonderful.

*Refer a Friend
Refer Family
Refer Talent*



Judy Overton Champion Bowler



Judy traveled to Atlantic City recently to compete in a bowling tournament. And came back a champion.



To celebrate 40 years of Independence, please join us for an open house on May 7th!

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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.*