INDEPENDENTWORKS

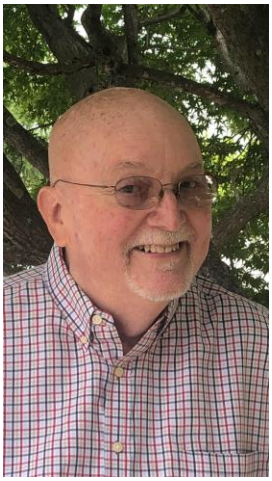
INTERDEPENDENT LIVING & LEARNING

# *FALL 2023 Newsletter*

Some of you have been able to keep up with the activities of IndependentWorks on Facebook while others have attended our monthly activities. We hope this newsletter will keep you informed and involved!

---

## Welcome to our Newest Board Member!



Johnny has a BS in Industrial Engineering and completed the Duke University Non-Profit Management Program. He has been directly involved with the I/DD community for 37 years. During this time he has been recognized as New Hanover County "Human Relations Man of the Year" and received UNCW's Clarence Award when he received his Angel's Wings. Johnny has served on numerous boards, including founding First in Families of SE NC, (providing small family grants to individuals with I/DD and special Christmas celebrations); disAbility Resource Center, serving as board chair; The Ability Garden; Creative Wilmington and the Wilmington Arts Council; Cameron Art Museum; several spiritual organizations; and has helped establish several food banks.

## *How You Can Help*

We are looking to expand the Board of Directors plus we are forming an Advisory Council. IndependentWorks volunteers also host monthly activities and attend many other events. Do you have a set of skills and/or the time to help? We are particularly looking for help with marketing, fundraising, social media, and legal help. We could use talented people like you to help our team! Sign-Up Here>>

---

## ACTIVITIES

---

### *Community Focus Group Meetings*

IndependentWorks began partnering this year with City Place, a non-profit that a very similar model to create a housing community for adults with neuro-diversities, combined with senior citizens. We held a series of meetings with many people attending, completing surveys, and providing valuable feedback.



**"Home for a Lifetime"**

A Collaborative series brought to you by
Aging in Place & IndependentWorks

**Community Focus Group**

- Are you or a family member a senior burdened by housing costs in New Hanover County?
- Do you worry that your adult son or daughter with a disability will struggle to live independently?
- Do you, your senior family member, or your adult son or daughter need intermittent supports to live successfully in the community?
- Do you or they want to remain in the community rather than moving to a facility or more restrictive environment?

**Come learn about an affordable housing-with-supports project in development**

**Join us to share your feedback**

AGING IN PLACE

Tuesday February 21, 2023
1:30pm - 3:00pm
*Main Library · New Hanover Room*
3rd & Chestnut Street
*Free 2 hour parking on the ground level of the deck on 2nd Street between Chestnut and Grace*

INDEPENDENTWORKS

*Please RSVP: AgingInPlaceDowntown@hotmail.com, Indpendentworks.ilm@gmail.com*
*Or 910-805-HOME (4663)*

---

## *CityPlace*

We believe that we are close to signing a ground-lease agreement with a local church that would then give us the opportunity to build a group of primary two-story homes with a backyard "accessory dwelling unit" (like a one-bedroom guest house). This would accommodate up to 40 residents who would be a mix of seniors and adults with autism and other neurodiversities, at affordable rents. The location would be in downtown Wilmington, close to public transportation and in walking distance to many city highlights. We are currently applying for significant grant funds to help pay for the initial phases of construction while the LS3P Architecture firm is working on the plans. Stay tuned for more information coming soon!



## *Neurodiverse Symposium*

Independent Works hosted our first Symposium in May. The goal was to provide up-to-date information from expert speakers and to highlight the resources in our area. We had a great turn out of over 50 participants at the Harrelson Center.
The topics included: Legal advice and guardianship, Employment Preparation, Plantation Village Employment Story, College Preparation, Work Together NC initiative, Autism Housing Panel and Focus Group. Thanks to our great speakers for providing us with important information.

Thanks also to the vendors that participated: Easter Seals, Power Up Therapy, Community Care NC, Trillium, Special Pedals, Coastal BUDS, Clinic for Special Children, Jason Cone, BCCPS, PLLC, A Caring Heart Case Management, Transitions Foundation-NC, Autism Society of NC, KINCAID & ASSOCIATES, TEACCH, Vocational Rehabilitation, Harrelson Center. A special Thank you to Shelly Vaccaro who volunteered to organize the resource fair and to The Blue Willow Cafe for keeping everyone well-fed!

---

# *UPCOMING EVENTS*

BOWSTRING

BURGERS & BREWYARD

## Tuesday, October 10 - 5:30 PM
## 1002 Princess Street, Wilmington

**IndependentWorks** will host an enjoyable and informative gathering of supporters and anyone interested in our work to create a housing community for people with autism and other neuro-diversities, while also sponsoring regular social activities.

Join us for beer, cocktails, and a great selection of burgers! Five percent of the proceeds help to fund our programs and kick off our October fundraising campaign!

There will be pinball, outdoor games, and a trivia contest that starts at 7 PM. Check out Wilmington's newest brewpub at: https://wilm.bowstringbrewyard.com/



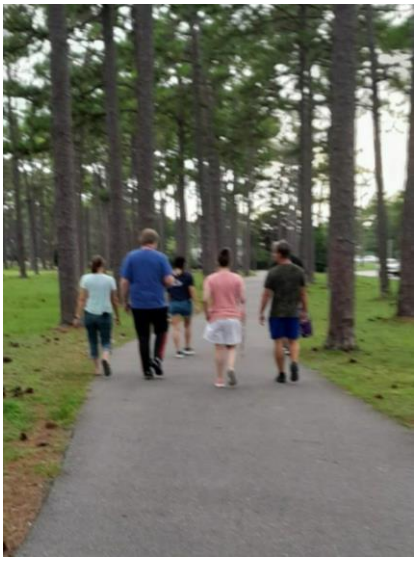
IndependentWorks received another grant from **Broadway for a Better World**, for a limited number of FREE tickets to see **THE ILLUSIONISTS on Wednesday, December 13th** at the Wilson Center. This is a thrilling show with incredible magic by some of the best illusionists on Earth! We will open up reservations for this show in November - watch your email inbox!

---

# *Monthly Events*




**Monthly movies at The Pointe 14 Cinema** (2223 Blockbuster Road, Wilmington)**:** This is very popular with 20-30 prospective residents, family and friends attending. It is at **4:30 PM every 2nd Wednesday** of each month with first rate movies - most recently *Blue Beetle*. It is only $6 per person or $9 including a small drink and popcorn! Watch our IndependentWorks Facebook page for updates. Come and enjoy a social outing!



**Weekly Walking Club:** In collaboration with the Charles Lea Center, we meet at Shelter #5 at Long Leaf Park **every Thursday at 5:30** weather permitting. Join us for a walk and some conversation. We typically walk the outer loop which takes about 30-45 minutes.










**GAME NIGHT** is every month on the fourth Tuesday at 4:30 PM, at our new location at the First Baptist Activity Center in room 205 on the second floor. Sometimes we play trivia games, sometimes UNO, and this Tuesday September 26th we are trying something new - **musical guessing games**. We hope you can join us to play for an hour or more! Water and snacks are provided.



**PARENT CONNECT GROUP** is held monthly on the first Tuesday, starting at 5:30 PM at the Northeast Library's Oak Room (1241 Military Cutoff Road, Wilmington). The group meets informally to discuss any concerns and questions relevant to families in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. All are welcome!

## *Fundraising*

### THANK YOU!!!

Walmart: We received a community support grant of $500 from Walmart on Sigmon Road in Wilmington. We also received a $1,000 grant from Walmart on Carolina Beach Road in Wilmington.

Broadway for a Better World: 15 tickets to see The Illusionists, with a value of about $1,600

We are developing our **October Surprise Fundraising** Plan now, but one thing is certain:

We need your help both through volunteering and through donations. If you can, please DONATE to IndependentWorks or sign-up as a VOLUNTEER. Thanks for your help in supporting our work and vision!

**Our Contact Information**
IndependentWorks
PO Box 3533
Wilmington, NC 28412
9106223320
http://www.independentworks.org



Unsubscribe | Manage email preferences