INDEPENDENTWORKS

INTERDEPENDENT LIVING & LEARNING

Winter 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 last published a newsletter in the Fall, and since then our organization has continued to be active, and hope this newsletter will keep you informed and involved!

Welcome to our Newest Board Member!



Marguerite Rhodes has been active with IndependentWorks for several years along with her daughter Emily. Marguerite has an MA in Rehab Counseling and a BA in Education which has prepared her to work as a teacher, employment specialist, and a curriculum coordinator at a day program for neurodiverse individuals. She has been a strong advocate for issues pertaining to inequality in housing, employment and livable wages for direct care professionals. We are very happy that Marguerite is willing to give so much of her time and effort to working with us!

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>>**

New Hanover Community Endowment Announces Recipients of Grants Totaling More than $9 Million

On December 9, the New Hanover Community Endowment announced the first recipients of grants from the 1.2 billion dollars resulting from the sale of New Hanover Regional Medical Center. 291 grant applications were received in just 30 days, and we are thrilled to report that IndependentWorks was chosen for two different applications!

The first grant was for **$1,000** to help offset the cost of our new associate partnership with the Harrelson Center For Non-Profits. We are now holding board meetings at the center located on the corner of 4th and Market Street in downtown Wilmington.

The second grant was awarded to us in a joint effort called **CityPlace** . This grant was for **$49,000** and is dedicated to finding a potential building site, with all the associated preparation costs. As part of this project, we are kicking off a series of **Community Focus Groups** to talk to prospective residents about the project and receive feedback. We believe that this marks a turning point in making our housing community a reality!

First Community Focus Group Meeting

IndependentWorks began partnering this year with City Place, a non-profit that has a very similar model to create a housing community for adults with neuro-diversities, combined with senior citizens. **We are holding our first focus group on Tuesday, February 21st at the New Hanover Room in the Main Library at the corner of 2nd Street and Chestnut.** If you have a family member who might be a prospective resident of the supportive housing community that we are trying to build, this will be a great opportunity to learn what progress has been made and to give your 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)

If you can't make it to our Community Focus group in February, don't worry we will have another one in the series on Tuesday, March 21st at 2pm- 3:30pm

Senior Resource Center
2222 South College Road
Wilmington, NC 28403

Email: IndependentWorks.ilm@gmail.com to register

Neurodiverse Symposium and Resource Fair

We are sponsoring a day of learning from speakers, providers and support services in our community. This will be held on **Friday, May 12th from 9 AM to 3 PM at the Harrelson Center's Plaza on Princess at 410 Princess Street.** The registration cost will be $5 per individual. Look out for information on how to register soon. Breakfast and lunch will be provided by **Blue Willow Cafe**, a terrific new café on 17th Street that provides supported employment for neurodiverse individuals. All are welcome! A great opportunity to network with people in our community and state.

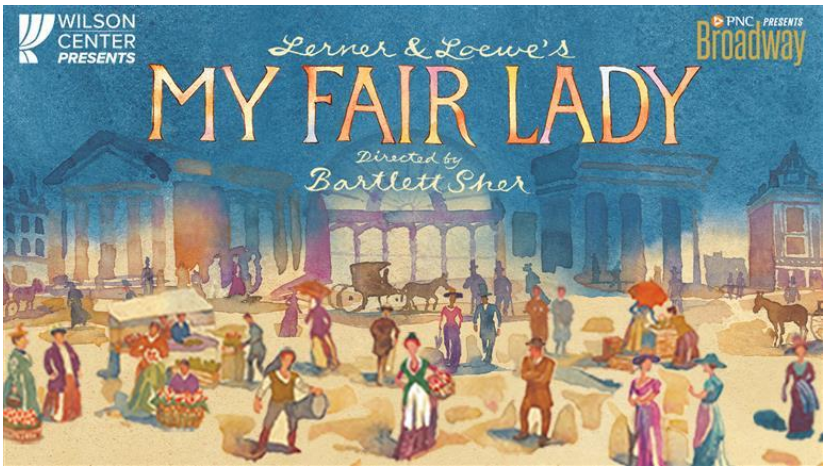
We would love to give a shout out to **Shelly Vaccaro** for her help with this event. She is a Wilmington native and the newest volunteer member of our team. She has a son, Stratton, who was diagnosed with ASD at age 3 and is now 20. Shelly's passion is helping folks like her son to navigate all the complexities of the system while reaching towards his full potential and helping others do the same. **Shelly is spearheading the resource fair!**

If you would like to be a vendor at the resource fair, please contact: **Independentworks.ilm@gmail.com for a registration link.**

We need volunteers at the event. Please sign up here: Volunteer

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UPCOMING EVENTS



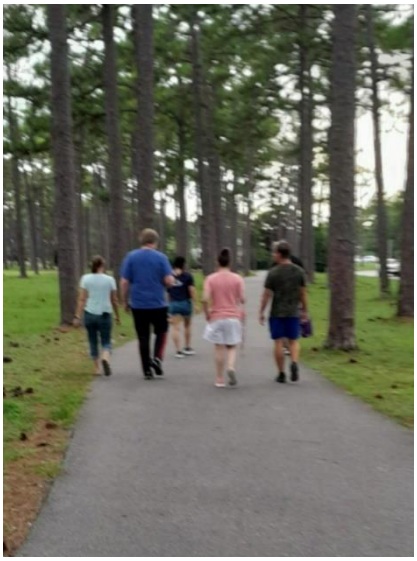
IndependentWorks received a grant from **Broadway for a Better World**, for a limited number of FREE tickets to see **My Fair Lady on Saturday, May 6 at 7:30 PM** at the Wilson Center. We were awarded the same grant last year and our collection of friends and family recently saw the Blue Man Group. It was a great outing and a terrific show! Tickets are limited to 2 per family/caregiver, and you can register here if interested:

REGISTER

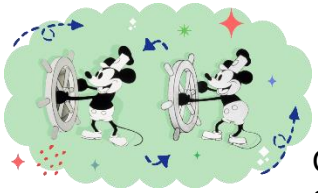
Monthly Events

Monthly movies at The Pointe 14 Cinema: 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 *Amazing Maurice*. It is only $9 per person, and this also includes 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 Tuesday at 9:00 AM & every Thursday at our Fall/winter time 4:30 PM** weather permitting. Join us for a walk and some conversation. We typically walk the outer loop which takes about 30-45 minutes.



NEW!!
Animated Movie Trivia Night

Do you love animated movies? If so, join us at the Blue Willow Cafe on **Tuesday, February 28th at 4 PM** for a trivia contest. There will be multiple choice questions to be answered by teams, with a prize for the winners! The cafe is located at: 2547A 17th Street, Wilmington with snacks provided with food available for purchase. Please register for this event here: **Trivia Night Registration**

Fundraising

THANK YOU!!!

Walmart

New Hanover Community Endowment:

Broadway for a Better World:

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We hope to a new Text block ready for your content.

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