Gmail **Robert Ferber <docferber@gmail.com>**

IndependentWorks Fall 2024 Newsletter

1 message

IndependentWorks <IndependentWorks@mailman.bloomerang-mail.com> Wed, Sep 4, 2024 at 11:57 AM
Reply-To: independentworks.ilm@gmail.com
To: Robert Ferber <docferber@gmail.com>

INDEPENDENTWORKS

INTERDEPENDENT LIVING & LEARNING

FALL 2024 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!

Housing Community Progress



STREETSCAPE CONCEPT RENDERING

CITYPLACE LS3P

- **IndependentWorks and Comprehensive Care of Wilmington collaborated to form a new non-profit organization called CityPlace Connected Community (C3).**
- **C3 has signed a Letter of Intent for a long-term ground lease with St. Luke AME Zion Church, located at South 7th and Church Streets.**
- **C3 is working with Wesley Community Development Corporation (a Methodist Church ministry that develops affordable housing) to re-apply for $300,000 in pre-construction financing from the New Hanover Community Endowment.**
- **IndependentWorks received nearly $20,000 in funding from New Hanover County to put towards the CityPlace project, which should house a mix of about 24 people with neurodiverse conditions and 10 seniors in homes of 1-4 bedrooms.**
- **We are in discussion with Habitat for Humanity to serve as General Contractor, which will save considerably on construction costs.**
- **If all goes well, construction could begin within one year.**



Building Independence/Green Level:

- Board members, led by Mary Beth Bobek, went to Raleigh to visit and learn about an existing housing project for neurodiverse individuals called Building Independence.
- The Serving Cup (similar to IndependentWorks), Habitat for Humanity of Wake County, and Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC) collaborated to build these developments which are then managed by LSC.
- Mary Beth has continued ongoing talks with LSC in New Hanover County (they built and operate Trinity Landing adult community here), The Serving Cup, and Habitat for Humanity of Cape Fear.
- You can watch a two-minute video trailer about the project at the link below.

Building Independence Video Link

Other Projects:

- Board member Mike Alberts has formed an exploratory group that has been actively meeting for approximately one year. The group has found two properties that would be suitable to providing affordable housing in an integrated community with emphasis on those with IDD. One property consisting of approximately 4 acres would be a long-term lease with an area church. The other property contains approximately 2.6 acres was purchased through an LLC created by a couple of the members. The group has been in contact with builders, land engineers, surveyors, NC DHHS, NHC Planning Department among others.
- The group has also spent extensive time discussing how these communities could be structured and to further define how neurodiverse individuals with varying needs from moderate to significant could be accommodated and served in the community.

- IndependentWorks firmly believes that all these efforts will eventually result in multiple choices and housing opportunities for individuals with a variety of needs and interests.



A **Special Advisory Board** (SAB) of neurodiverse supporters of IndependentWorks, has been meeting monthly. Members participating so far include: Ali Young, Shane Francis, Lucas Belew, Jesaya Hargrove, Robert Lang, and Joshua Pulliam. The SAB has given invaluable advice regarding our monthly activities and is planning a trip to visit another housing community in South Carolina - Oak Tree Farm.

UPCOMING EVENTS



IndependentWorks will have a table at the Cape Fear Latinos Festival to promote our organization. The Festival consists of a fun-filled day with music, dance, traditional costumes, and wonderful food trucks. **We are looking for volunteers to represent us to the community.** You do not have to speak Spanish, though it might be helpful! **Please sign-up below and we will contact you to arrange a block of time for your help.**

Register to Volunteer at IndependentWorks' Table at Festival

IndependentWorks will have a table at Coastal BUDS' Buddy Walk fundraiser. We hope to promote our work and help to make sure that other members of the neurodiverse community are aware of our mission and activities. **If you would like to volunteer to help out at our table, you can sign-up below. If you would also like to register as a participant in the walk, the information is on the flyer.**



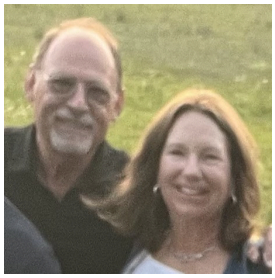
Register to Volunteer at IndependentWorks' Table at Buddy Walk



IndependentWorks received a grant from **Hello Arts!**, for a limited number of FREE tickets to see **Spider-Man - Across the Spider-Verse** movie, but accompanied by a full orchestra, DJ, and electronic synthesizers on **Wednesday, September 18th at 7 PM at the Wilson Center**. This should be a thrilling show - adding music to a great movie! We only have sixteen tickets, and sign-up is first-come, first-served. Please limit to two tickets per family. Sign-up below.

Sign-up for Spiderman - Across the Spiderverse Movie/Concert

Welcome to our Newest Board Member!



Mike Alberts is our newest board member who has recently retired after a 40-year career as a financial advisor. He and his wife Cathy have three children. Their eldest son Kyle (35) was born with Lowe Syndrome which is a rare genetic disease. Mike has been an advocate for those in the IDD community since Kyle's birth serving on various boards and committees both in the nonprofit and in the community sectors. Notably he introduced TopSoccer, a program dedicated to providing soccer and exercise opportunities for individuals with intellectual and development disabilities in an inclusionary setting to the Cape Fear region. He managed TopSoccer for 18 seasons. Mike and Cathy have been actively working on ways of providing independent, permanent and affordable housing in an integrated community with an emphasis on those with IDD. They have attended workshops, visited housing communities across the state and are currently active in several ongoing housing and human service coalitions throughout NC.

Monthly Events



GAME NIGHT is every 4th Tuesday of each month at 4:30-6 PM, at The Cove at the First Baptist Church Activity Center. There is pool, ping-pong, foosball, air hockey and arcade games. Each night we also set aside time for a special activity - UNO, Karaoke, Trivia and more. Snacks, water, and a door prize provided.



MOVIE NIGHT is restarting on September 10, and will continue the second Tuesday of each month, starting at 4:30 PM at The Cove at the First Baptist Church Activity Center. The movies will be selected by the Special Advisory Board members based on surveys and a suggestion box. No tickets needed! Free snacks!



PARENT CONNECTION NIGHT is held every 1st Tuesday of each month at the Northeast Library, beginning at 5:30 PM. The meetings provide an opportunity for parents of neurodiverse adults to meet and share concerns and knowledge. Sometimes speakers are arranged to address particular areas of interest.

Fundraising

THANK YOU!!!

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

Hello Arts!: 16 tickets to see Spider-man in the Spider-Verse - in Concert, at The Wilson Center.

New Hanover County approved a grant for nearly $20,000, restricted to pre-construction costs at CityPlace.

We are developing our **Fall 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!

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

Our Contact Information
IndependentWorks
PO Box 3533
Wilmington, NC 28406
302-228-3039
http://www.independentworks.org



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