INDEPENDENTWORKS

INTERDEPENDENT LIVING & LEARNING

Fall 2022 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 Spring, and since then our organization has continued to be active, and hope this newsletter will keep you informed and involved!

How You Can Help

Our Board of Directors currently consists of four individuals. 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>>**



UNCW Volunteer Fair

This event had not been held in person since 2019, and IndependentWorks was glad to participate. Over 100 students came to the event with about 25 organizations showcasing their services and signing up potential volunteers. We had interest from several students to help us run new events we are considering such as trivia night and bingo. If you are interested, you can always volunteer by filling out the form on our website by clicking this link: **VOLUNTEER**



Thanks to Zhen Tu, IndependentWorks received a grant from **Broadway for a Better World**, for 20 tickets to see the Blue Man Group on **Wednesday, January 18th 2023 at 7:30 PM** at the Wilson Center. The show was cancelled due to Covid breaking out amongst the cast. **We will let you know as we get closer if there are any remaining tickets available to share.**

New Collaborations

New Hanover Community Endowment Foundation Grant

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 very excited to announce that we have applied with City Place for a substantial grant from the New Hanover Community Endowment Foundation (funded by the sale of New Hanover Regional Medical Center). We were able to apply for the grant thanks to **Cape Fear Collective**, a larger non-profit that will act as our "fiscal sponsor". Cape Fear Collective has an interest in developing affordable housing, and this requested grant is to help us identify property for our housing community and complete pre-construction tasks such as planning and zoning. We are very excited about this opportunity - it might be the most important step to create our community!

Plantation Village - work and future residence?

We have also been working with **Indie Tree**, another non-profit with similar goals to develop a housing community in Charlotte and in Wilmington. Together we have pursued discussions with local organizations that will bring our mutual visions to life. As a result, a number of prospective residents of our hoped-for housing

community have started **jobs at Plantation Village** after a group of about 12 families met with the HR director along with the Board Chair. **Plantation Village** is a continuing care community for senior citizens, located in Porters Neck. The jobs have included positions such as dining-room servers and assistant servers, laundry, maintenance, kitchen, and housekeeping - they are available for part and full-time with competitive pay rates. The entire staff has been wonderful with their new hires, and the schedules have been very flexible. It is possible that the relationship with Plantation Village will evolve into a shared housing community for our prospective residents with all of the potential amenities including meals, laundry, housekeeping, on-site pools, recreation, and transportation - all for much reduced costs. If you are interested in learning more and perhaps applying for a job, contact IndependentWorks by email at ***IndependentWorks.ilm@gmail.com***

DISTRICT C

District C is a teaching model at UNCW in which students work to help local business solve problems. Professor Alicia Sellon selected IndependentWorks for her teams of social work students. They will work with us on two issues: (1) How can we reach more individuals who might be candidates for interdependent living, especially from underserved communities? and (2) How can we increase awareness amongst local leaders of the hidden housing crisis with the neurodiverse population? The students will pitch their ideas to us in November. **District C**

THE HARRELSON CENTER

The Harrelson Center (**http://harrelsoncenter.org/**) is a Wilmington non-profit organization that supports and partners with other non-profit organizations to meet the needs of the community in areas such as affordable housing, education, employment, health, and family support. The center has a campus at 20 North 4th Street and many of the member organizations have offices there. IndependentWorks will be an associate member and be able to use office space there on an as-needed basis. We will also benefit from their marketing and fundraising talents with excellent opportunities for networking with other non-profits that have missions that intersect with ours. As a result, we hope to increase our board size to seven members while also increasing our volunteer pool. Associate membership costs $1,200 per year, and we have applied for a grant to cover this extra cost.

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 Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile. It is only $7 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 NEW time 6:00 PM** weather permitting. Join us for a walk and some conversation. We typically walk the outer loop which takes about 30-45 minutes.



Fundraising



W

Wave Pop-up Market:

THANK YOU for your Support!!!

Sam's Club

A Community Thrives/Gannett Foundation

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DONATE

VOLUNTEER

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Local friends and families, its not too late to join us at this upcoming event. Friday October 21 @ 6pm. Details below:

Autism Society of North Carolina

New Hanover Chapter



Panel Discussion

Friday, October 21 | 6:00 – 7:30pm

ASNC Office: 705 S. Kerr Ave., Wilmington

Guardianship Processes and Alternatives

Panelists:

Teresa Mebane, *ASNC Autism Resource Specialist*

Abby Adams, *Guardian Ad Litem*

Tina Ivins, *Executive Director of Family Support Network of Southeastern NC*

Carolina Matt, *IndependentWorks founder*

Grelynn Bradley, *ASNC New Hanover Chapter Leader*

Please feel free to bring a snack or sandwich, and we will provide beverages.

To learn more about this Autism Society of North Carolina Chapter, contact newhanoverchapter@autismsociety-nc.org or join the Facebook group at facebook.com/groups/asnc.newhanover.

Two of our board members will be attending the upcoming **Inclusive Housing Summit on November 10th** at The Friday Center in Chapel Hill, NC. Although tickets are sold out, they have started a waitlist for interested individuals. You can contact ***Laura Wells at lauraw@hopenorthcarolina.org to be added to that waitlist.***



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