



Annual Report
for 2012-2013 Fiscal Year

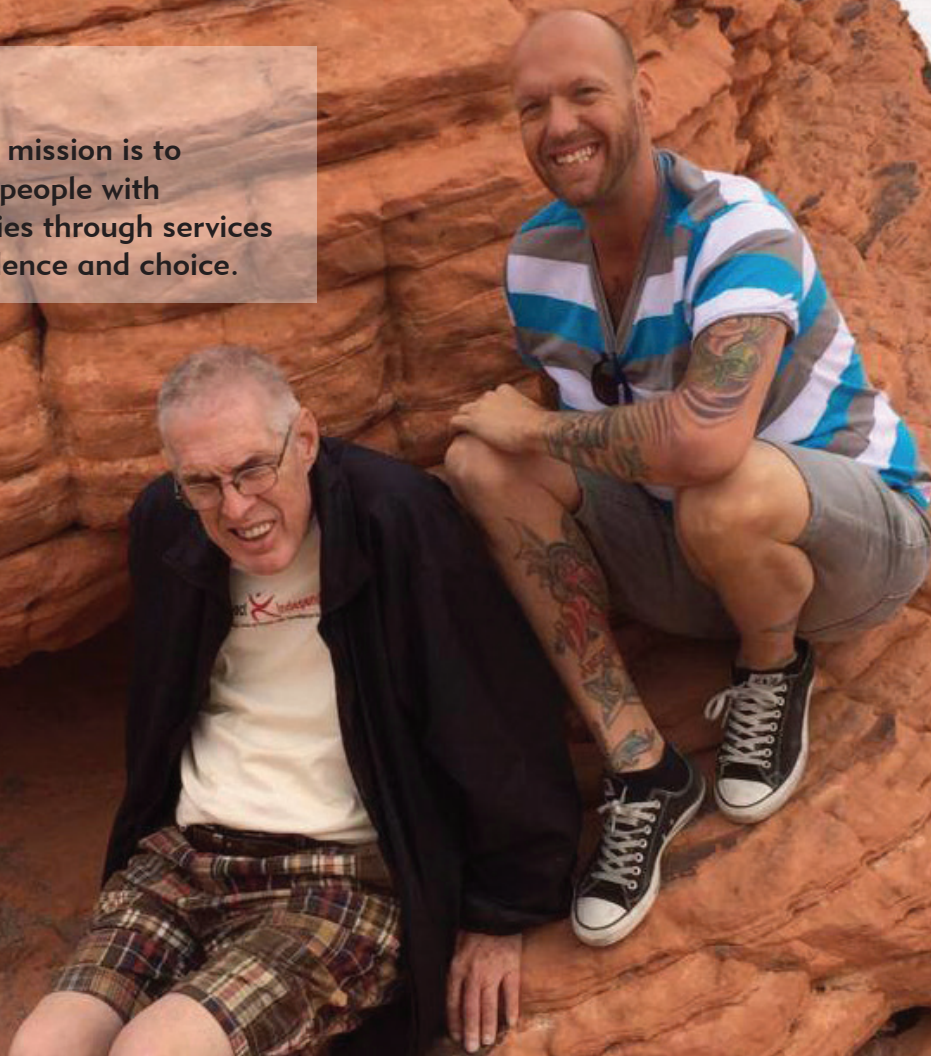
Making our own choices,

Following our own dreams.



Our Mission

Project Independence's mission is to promote civil rights for people with developmental disabilities through services which expand independence and choice.



From the Executive Director

Dear Friends;

Over thirty-five years ago a small group of caring individuals had a vision ... to establish a sustainable source of support for much needed services for adults with developmental disabilities. Ahead of their time, these advocates wanted a life for people that was respectful and individualized; where they could have their own apartments, employment, and friends.

Fast forward 35 years and today Project Independence is, in fact, a leading not-for-profit organization dedicated to comprehensive supports for people with developmental disabilities in Orange County. While we are hopeful about the future, we also recognize the challenges we face. 85% of people with developmental disabilities do not have employment. Funding that could go to support people living in the community is often siphoned off to archaic and old fashioned institutions. This report is dedicated to all the people who lived in institutions and came out to celebrate life with their non-disabled peers. For those who endured prison based on IQ in a society that just didn't know better. For people who fought for themselves every day. These are true heroes.

We have a lot of BIG ideas and together we know we can make a difference. So thank you to our board, our volunteers, our dedicated staff, families and especially the people we are here to serve.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Debra Marsteller".

Debra Marsteller, Executive Director

Making a Positive Impact



Sharon has been working at Albertsons for the last 8 years. She works Monday-Thursday for 4 hours each day. Some of her duties include cart returns, bagging customer's groceries, sweeping, and keeping areas within the store clean and organized. Sharon loves her job, but understands and admits that she needs help to stay focused and "do things the right way."

Vickie is the one who helps her do just that! Sharon sometimes gets frazzled and Vickie patiently helps her calm down and get back on track. She has also helped her establish routines that have made her more successful day-to-day. Vickie regularly assists Sharon when she has problems with Access which is her main source of transportation to

and from work. However, providing basic Supported Employment Services is just the beginning. In Sharon's words, "Vickie goes way beyond the call of duty." When Sharon lost her mother last year, Vickie was there every step of the way to listen, encourage, and care for Sharon and her family.

Her support helped Sharon get through a very difficult time in her life. Sharon described Vickie as "a bright star" in her life and is thankful for her consistent patience and understanding.

Project Independence is thankful for staff like Vickie, whose impact on the lives of our clients goes way beyond the program they are in!

“**Sharon understands the value of a happy customer and does everything possible to**



Supported Employment

Our Supported Employment program has helped hundreds of individuals work at real jobs for real pay.

always provide excellent customer service.” - Vickie Stamm

Community Day Services

Community Day Services provides employment, volunteer opportunities and community integration training to clients who require a higher level of support.



PI Accomplishments

Employment Program

Job Developer, Carla Compton, successfully placed 24 people in community businesses in 2013. Our CARF certified employment program now supports a total of 190 people in local businesses.

The iPad Project

Thanks to the grant from California Communications Access Foundation, Project Independence has purchased 57 iPads. Staff are trained to utilize this tool in conjunction with other self-management systems and behavioral supports to enhance employability, increase community integration through normalization, and to foster independence. We will be expanding the utilization of this technology to all staff in the coming year.

Collaborations

Collaborating with students at UCI, we developed our comprehensive Healthy Living Program enabling our clients to choose active and nutritious alternatives. Students at UCLA developed a donation maximization and retention research project for us. This helped us expose our programs to a new generation of college students. As we become more and more dependent on fund development, these collaborations become even more beneficial.

Access to Adventure

Despite cuts that eliminated all funding for our Access to Adventure program, this volunteer supported program has provided 730 hours of social and recreational support for 341 people. An amazing 4,379 hours of volunteer time, under the leadership of Kristen Cook, our Director of Human Resources, was provided to keep this much needed resource afloat.

Day Programs

Day program staff supported 50 people in paid employment, along with 152 people doing volunteer work at food banks, libraries, thrift stores, hospitals, and parks all over Orange County.

Thank You to Our Donors

Lifetime Major Gift Donors

(as of November 15, 2013)

Teresa Aartman
Alternative Office Solutions
Patricia Arthur
California Communications Access
Foundation
The California Wellness Foundation
Marilyn Donovan
HBLA
Jerry & Lee Keating
Debra Marsteller
Weingart Foundation
Kurt & Barbara Yeager

Major Gift Donors 2012-2013

(from July 1st, 2012 - June 30th, 2013)

Teresa Aartman
Patricia Arthur
California Communications Access
Foundation
Kathy Christman
Solomon Cohen
Michael Donovan

Edwards Lifesciences Foundation
Sid & Barbara Egbert
Employees Community Fund of
Boeing California
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Jerry & Lee Keating/SKS Die Casting
Mitsubishi Electric
Pacific Life Foundation
Mickey & Barbara Shubin/Serv-Well
Disposal Recycling
Dwight Spiers
TV Ears
Union Bank
Virtual Office Solutions
Kurt & Barbara Yeager

"I Will" Club

Robert Watson

Club Independence

(from July 1st, 2012 - June 30th, 2013)

Visionary Members:

Joe & Janette Albertini

Dennis & Carol Berryman
Dale Carson
John Catoe
Colton Company
Don & Joyce Enders
Cole Kinney/G2 Insurance
Richard Lemm
John & Mary Alice McKenna
Ed & Louise McNew
Robert Miller & Candice Somme
John O'Brien
Ronald & Constance Robertson
Paul & Stacey Von Berg

Ambassador Members

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Costa Mesa Newport Harbor Lion's Club
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Russell & Elizabeth Harding
Mark & Mary Huebsch
Robert & Linda Hull
Ron Jadwin
Walter & Carol Jakl
Rick Kapko

Peter & Elisa Keating
Pat Lindner
Microsoft Store in Costa Mesa
Robert Miller
Dolores Ohler
Sandra Sewell
Harry & Susan Stahl

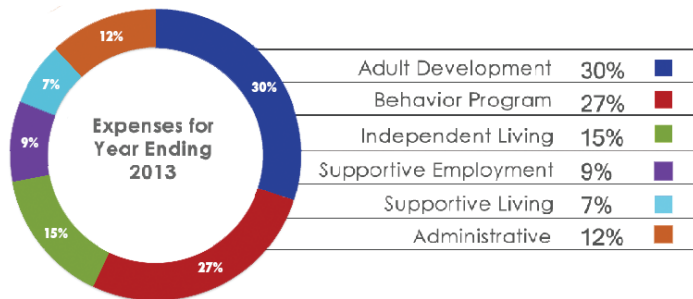
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Brodsky-Acker
Acme Rotary Broom Service
Richard Alexander
Susan Alexander
Gabriel Almario
A & R Powdercoating
Gordon & Inge Austerman
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Charles Bonner
Bower Enterprises
Paul Burnett
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Patricia Carlisle
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Deborah Correa
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Joseph De Carlo
Kerry & Mark De Raad
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Sean Lyons
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Dr. David Rosenblum
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David & Jean Schlesinger
Robert & Sharon Sherwood
Gary & Donna Smith
South Coast Dental Center
Spectrum Catering
Karen & Koshi Tagawa
Marie Thompson
Shirley Tice-Nadel
William & Inge Wallace
Richard & Reba White
Joyce Wood
David Yellin

Financial Highlights



Featured Grants



California Communications Access Foundation

We received a \$40,000 grant to buy IPAD Minis in order to provide augmented communication support to the people we serve.



Edwards

Edwards Lifesciences

A multi-year supporter for our Healthy Living Program, they awarded us a \$5,000 grant to help expand upon the goals of this growing program.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
EDISON®

Edison International

We received a \$5,000 grant to fund additional Job Development support for people with disabilities.



**PACIFIC LIFE
FOUNDATION**

Pacific Life Foundation

We were awarded a \$5,000 grant towards our Healthy Living Program that we will receive in January 2014.

Featured Partners





Community Partners

Eileen, from Mitsubishi, organizes the company's yearly Philanthropic outreach. Project Independence was invited to be one of the highlighted charities at the 2013 Olympic Fundraising Event.

Project Independence

GIVE
GENERATE DRIVING INNOVATION
TO LIFE

MITSUBISHI
ELECTRIC

Independent Living

Our Independent Living Program has enabled thousands of clients to live on their own, while receiving support with daily living skills from budgeting, meal planning, to grocery shopping.



“ I don't even want

A Family's Promise

Stacey Von Berg shared with us the impact that Project Independence has had on her family. Her brother-in-law, Roger, is 64 years old and was born with developmental disabilities. Up until ten years ago his mother was his primary caregiver.

A few years prior his family had tried moving him to an apartment to live independently, but Stacey said the attempt “failed miserably” so he had to move back with his mother. When she could no longer take care of him, the Regional Center helped the family find a group home. This was a difficult transition for Roger.

Later, Project Independence helped him to move into an apartment with a roommate. Staff began to assist Roger with budgeting, grocery shopping, housekeeping, cooking, and doctor appointments. Then about three years ago Roger was able to get a HUD voucher so he could live completely on his own.

Even now, as Roger's capabilities and physical health are declining, Project Independence has stepped up again to help the family manage Roger's needs. Before Roger's mother passed away 8 years ago, Stacey promised her that they would make sure that he was cared for. Stacey shared that our support has taken some of the day-to-day responsibilities off of the family, which allows them to be more productive as well.



to think about what we would do without Project Independence”

- Stacey Von Berg

Upcoming Projects

Healthy Living

Devote more energy to our comprehensive Healthy Living Program; including recipes, workout routines, incentives for those that make strong and bold choices for health, and collaboration with other organizations. We will also expand our focus on reduction of all waste by reducing, reusing, recycling and educating ourselves on greener living options.

Curriculum Expansion

Expand upon our competency based curriculum for teaching skills; from employment and living skills, to self-advocacy and technology.

State Requirements

Project Independence provides annual updates of services provided, individual performance indicators, and outcomes of each of our programs to OC schools. Transition planning support with the Orange County Department of Education includes tours, meetings, and mock job interviews with exiting students to prepare them for transition to adult services.

Walk for Independence

Make our 2014 Walk for Independence, to be held on September 27th, even bigger and better with a greater focus on sponsorship and team development.

OC Marathon

Project Independence is excited to participate again in the Orange County Marathon, which will be held on May 4th, 2014. Our second biggest fundraiser each year; this event helps us increase awareness of our services within the community and ties into the goals of our Healthy Living Program. Our goal this year is to raise \$15,000 to support our programs.

Additional Projects

COAD-OC; Orange County Adult Transition Task Force; Employment Advisory Committee; Association of Supported Work Organizations.

For more information about exciting collaborations with county, state and national organizations, please visit our website at www.proindependence.org



Walk for Independence

At our 2013 Walk for Independence Annie did an incredible job building a team of family & friends who were there to cheer her on and support her healthy living goals.

Board of Directors

Executive Board

Dan Pittman, Chair
Harry Stahl, Vice Chair
Del Hart, Treasurer
Judy Cole, Secretary

Members At Large

John Catoe
Dana Halle
Linda Hull
Roberta Menn
Robert Spitzberg
Kurt Yeager



3505 Cadillac, Suite O-103
Costa Mesa, CA 92626



Enriching Lives of People With Developmental Disabilities