

2024/2025

ANNUAL REPORT



**AT PROJECT
INDEPENDENCE,
WE BELIEVE
EVERYONE
DESERVES THE
CHANCE TO LIVE
WITH DIGNITY,
PURPOSE, AND
CONNECTION.**



CEO Message

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Bob Watson, CEO

As we look back over the past year, we are proud to share the accomplishments that demonstrate the strength, resilience, and impact made by our community. Together, we continue to expand opportunities, strengthen programs, and deepen our commitment to those we serve.

Improved Job Placement Partnerships

We increased access to our services by partnering with the Department of Rehabilitation to provide job placement for individuals who are uniquely able to participate in the job market. Because we believe deeply in this mission, we have also employed three clients as staff members, who now have the support and resources needed to help them achieve a greater quality of life.

Strategic Downsizing

In April and August of 2024, we made the strategic decision to not renew our leases on our Anaheim and Laguna Hills offices and consolidate all operations into our Costa Mesa office. In October we also sold two of our office units at the Costa Mesa facilities. This allowed us to increase our starting wage and do a 401-k match to benefit our staff.

Community Support

We built new collaborations with local businesses, schools, and organizations expanding opportunities for training, employment, and community integration. Volunteers from one of our new partners, Harbor Trinity Church, regularly provide arts and crafts days and lunches for our day program participants.

Success Stories Every Day

Most importantly, we witnessed countless individual successes - moments where someone we serve took a new step forward, made a decision with confidence, or embraced a dream once thought out of reach.



These accomplishments remind us that progress is not measured only in numbers but in lives transformed. None of this would be possible without the dedication of our staff, the generosity of our donors, and the trust of the individuals and families we serve.

As we reflect on this year's successes, we are also energized for the road ahead. With your continued support, we will keep building a future where everyone has the power of choice and the opportunity to thrive.

Bob Watson

Robert Watson

President and Chief Executive Officer

Project Independence





RYAN'S STORY

Ryan Scobell has been receiving job coaching services from Project Independence since July 2001.

He has worked for Hyundai Motor Corp in the mail room at the Fountain Valley location since he finished high school. Ryan's tasks include delivering packages, copying, picking up and stamping outgoing mail, and scanning packages. Ryan knows just about every one of his co-workers and he greets them all with a smile. Ryan enjoys his job at Hyundai and takes great pride in his work.



Ryan receives job coaching assistance in the areas of keeping his work cart tidy and organized before going to deliver the mail throughout the building and with learning new procedures for logging, delivering, and receiving signatures for packages each time the technology changes.

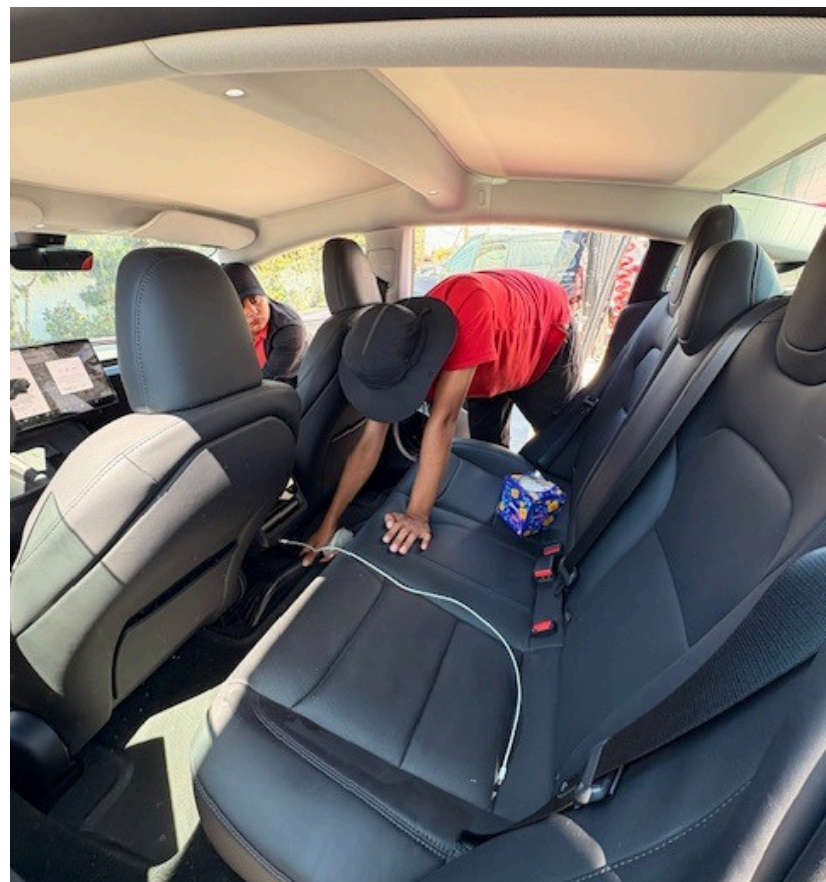
Ryan has seen many changes at Hyundai over the last 24 years, and he has met them all with a smile and a great attitude!

CRISTIAN'S STORY

Cristian recently secured his first job with Russell Fischer Car Wash. Motivated by his goal to save for college, he came to Project Independence seeking job placement assistance after experiencing challenges in finding employment on his own. Through our collaborative efforts and the support of Russell Fischer Car Wash, he is now gainfully employed and thriving in his role.

Since joining the team, his dedication, strong work ethic, and positive attitude have made a lasting impression on both his coworkers and management, who speak highly of his performance. He has quickly become a valued member of the team, and he is thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to gain valuable work experience while taking steps toward his future goals.

“We are so proud to see him succeed in his first job,” said Benito, manager at Russell Fischer Car Wash. “He shows up eager to learn every day, and his positive energy has been a great addition to our team.”



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Our Programs

Our programs empower people with disabilities to achieve their goals, whether that's mastering daily life skills, building meaningful careers, or finding community and friendship.

Independent Living



Supported Employment



Day Program



Supported Independent Living



Healthy Living Program

AMERICAN GOLF FOUNDATION

Huge thanks to the American Golf Foundation and everyone who came out to swing, smile, and support us at a golf tournament last month.

We're so grateful to be part of their Adopt-A-Charity program, and even more thankful for the incredible community rallying behind adults with developmental disabilities.



WALK FOR INDEPENDENCE 2025

What a fantastic day at TeWinkle Park! Our 15th Annual Walk for Independence was filled with smiles, laughter, and community spirit.

Thank you to our generous sponsors - CalOptima, Cordell Surfboards, Newport Center Urgent Care, Pelican Ocean Therapy, Raising Cane's, Orange County Business Journal, Robert H. Murphy Foundation, The Louise Gladyce Foster Family Foundation, A Little Help Foundation, Recreation Park 9 Golf, Penjoyon Produce, and Descanso Taqueria for making it possible for Project Independence to continue empowering adults with developmental disabilities.



And a huge thanks to our participants, families, supporters, staff, and volunteers whose energy and heart made this celebration of community, inclusion, and independence unforgettable!



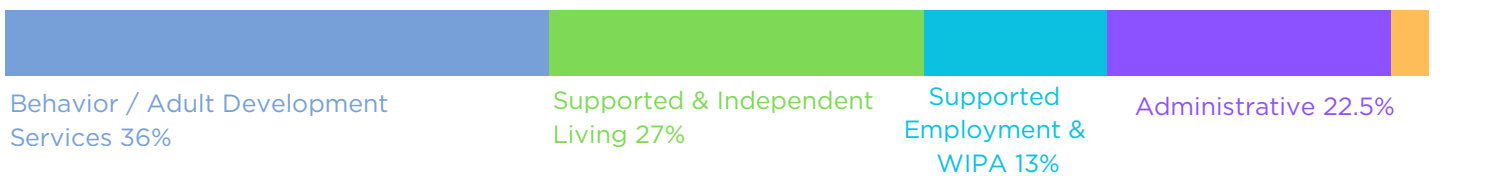
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1ST 2024 - JUNE 30TH, 2025

INCOME TOTAL INCOME: \$3,820,802.00 (Fiscal Year 2024/2025)

Investment Income &
Gain on Sale of Asset 23%



EXPENSES TOTAL EXPENSES: \$3,058,804.00 (Fiscal Year 2024/2025)



BOARD MEMBERS

Dan Pittman, Chairman
President
Dan Pittman and Associates
Public Relations

Kurt Yeager, Vice Chair
Retired Attorney, Stradling,
Yocca, Carlson & Rauth

Del Hart, Treasurer
Financial Consultant
Crown Capital Securities, L.P.

Diane Pritchett, Secretary
Executive Director
South Coast Metro Alliance

Judy Cole
Retired, Regional Manager
Social Security
Administration

Debbie Miller, Member
President
Social Hospitality

Harry Stahl, Member
Attorney
Law Offices of Harry Stahl,
P.C.

Nick Westphalen, Member
Client
Project Independence

ACCREDITATION

We are proud to announce that Project Independence has earned a three-year accreditation from CARF International, recognizing our commitment to excellence, accountability, and continuous improvement.

This honor highlights our dedication to providing high-quality, person-centered services that empower adults with developmental disabilities to live more independent and fulfilling lives.

Who We Serve

Over 300 individuals with physical and developmental disabilities throughout Southern California, ages 22 - 78.



Our 2025/2026 Goals

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GOAL 1

Expand and diversify our board of directors to strengthen leadership, enhance community representation, and build strategic partnerships that advance independence for people with developmental disabilities.

GOAL 2

Develop comprehensive staff training and technical assistance to enhance program quality, strengthen service delivery, and ensure consistent, person-centered support for every individual we serve.

GOAL 3

Drive growth and innovation by strategically identifying and responding to evolving community needs, expanding programs, and creating new opportunities for independence and inclusion.

GOAL 4

Formalize our Healthy Living Program to expand wellness for people with disabilities through cooking classes, fitness activities, and community outings that build lifelong skills for independence.

