

5 Year Anniversary! Two Houses and a Bus!



Volunteer Drivers Wanted - Call Chris

Many thanks to Immanuel Lutheran Church, East Aurora for parking it for us!

Read what's new at...



FALL 2010
NEWSLETTER

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Independence Foundation is dedicated to providing support and assistance to children and individuals with physical disabilities so that they may live independent, self-directed lives.

The Independence Foundation was formed **March 2005!**
The first Independence House has been open since **July of 2007!**
The second Independence House opened **January 2010!**
The Independence Bus was purchased in the **Summer of 2010!**

These are the tangible results of your generous donations to The Independence Foundation!

Thank you for your ongoing support!

To be added to our e-mail list and receive updates on The Independence Foundation

Please contact Chris at

685-3976 or e-mail to missblubug@yahoo.com

2010 Walk for Independence Raises \$36,000



Thank you to all who participated in this year's Walk for Independence! The event was held at the beautiful Elma Village Green. A perfect day – God smiles on us again!



294 walkers, 22 wheelchairs, 1 wagon, 3 bikes, 6 dogs!
And in just over an hour that it takes to participate, more than \$36,000 was raised for our programs!



Many Thanks to our Sponsors:

Applied Industrial Technologies, Lancaster Depew Pediatrics, UFCW Steamfitters, Gullo's, Marilla Kiwanis, Dove Medical, Physician Services, Weimer Over, East Aurora PT, Cy's Pharmacy, Elma United Methodist Church, Marilla United Methodist Church, Rich's, Ticor Title, Conax, Liazon, Hodgson Russ, Georgetown, Inergex, Meryl Lynch, Chaimpou, Travis, Beesaw & Kirchner, People Inc, Premium Finance Services, M & T Bank, Health Now, Parent Network, First Niagara Bank, Superior Technical Resources, Uniland.

And our wonderful music by Joe Donohue!

Thank you to the Town of Elma for the use of the beautiful park!

Thank you to Sahlens for the hot dogs and to Stroehmanns for the rolls!

Thank you to all of our wonderful Volunteers!

The Independence House made possible by our Staff

Thank you to:

Michele, Frauke, Camille, Ashley, Susan, Olivia, Beth, Holly, Navot, Barb, Mary, Nick, Sarah, Adam, Nicole, Rikki, Jon, Jennifer, Chelsea, Molly, Nancy, Cassie, Amanda, Horeja, Sharon, Emily, Brittney, Ann, Barb, Karen, Joan and Chris!



If you would like to work in one of our houses - please contact us at 716.685.3976

Editors Note:



The first fall Ben lived in his new home – we took a picture under the huge tree, covered in fall leaves! Each year since – when that tree is at its peak – we take another photo. This is the fourth year we have had this amazing opportunity! I thank God for the many blessing he has poured upon us – especially that Ben (and now 6 others!) can live independently! This Thanksgiving season, followed by the Christmas season – give thanks for the many miracles that are all around us! Some that happen effortlessly – and others that seem to be unreachable – and then suddenly appear!

The *face* of an Angel!!!

Have you seen the FACE of Family Centered Care?
Have you seen the FACE of Excellence?

As a member of the Family Advisory Council of Women & Children's Hospital I had to share this news...

Family Advisory Council: F.A.C.E. Award

The Women and Children's Hospital FACE award program began in November 2009, as a way for members on the hospital's Family Advisory Council to recognize and reward staff of Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo.

The FACE (Family Advisory Council for Excellence) award recognizes hospital employees whose actions, advocacy, and attitudes promote and support Family Centered Care. They put a "FACE" on the core concepts, values, and philosophy of Family Centered Care.



The FACE award for September goes to:
DR. DAN SHEEHAN

Excerpts from family nominations for Dr. Sheehan...

Dr. Sheehan has helped families in countless ways!

Dr. Sheehan is the main reason our son is alive today! He has made it his mission to care for children with Muscular Dystrophy - researching new treatments, being an active part in protocols and care guidelines, educating the medical profession about this disease. He goes above and beyond each day!

We have seen Dr Sheehan supporting his patients fund raising events on his days off, have heard from families about his compassion, empathy, skill, knowledge and expertise. We have received phone calls from Dr Sheehan about community supports and services for his patients – this is far beyond the scope of his role. Dr. Sheehan is a true gem and he deserves to be acknowledged for his extraordinary care to patients.

Dr. Sheehan came to our hospital room and sat with us for hours one night to see what was going on and to help our daughter.

We truly believe that because of Dr. Sheehan and his care – our son is alive today!



Congratulations Dr. Sheehan!

Thank You....



Thank you to the **Girl Scouts** who worked tirelessly on our Second Independence House! They did landscaping, yard clean up, gardening, even built a wheelchair accessible garden! and made a fire pit!

Many thanks to Grace Rodgers, Jessica Vaccare, and Nikole Wurts!

A HUGE thank you to all at New Apostolic Church

The wonderful group from The New Apostolic Church made several meals for the freezer, replaced a set of old steps, painted doors, and did much needed yard work including trimming, weeding, and planting fall flowers. Thank you to all who gave of their time and talents to help our guys live a more independent life!

Thank you

To our new Volunteer Accountant, Casey Czamara

Haunted House and Wheelchair Accessible Hayride!
Thank you to Bowmansville Fire Dept and the Stahrr Family! \$900 in proceeds from this event went to our Christmas Wish Program!



THANK YOU



Fall is on it's way!

keep warm with a coat that covers the entire wheelchair.

Tips – attach snaps or Velcro to the coat and chair to keep it from blowing up on windy days.

Website:
www.AdaptationsbyAdrian.com
<http://www.silverts.com>

CHRISTMAS HOMECOMING

A MUSICAL EVENING
TO BENEFIT

THE INDEPENDENCE FOUNDATION

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 4
7PM



TICKET
DONATION
\$10

PRESENTED BY
THE HERITAGE CHOIR
AT
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
6540 MAIN ST. WILLIAMSVILLE, NY 14221

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

CHRISTMASHOMECOMING@GMAIL.COM

OR CALL: (716) 685-3976

CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO: THE INDEPENDENCE FOUNDATION

EQUIPMENT LOAN CLOSET

Are you on our e-mail lists and are you receiving notices about the volumes of equipment that gets donated and placed.

We accept donations of:



POWER WHEELCHAIRS
STANDERS
MANUAL WHEELCHAIRS
LIFTAVATORS
AND WHEELCHAIR
ACCESSIBLE VANS.

To be added to our e-mail list serve – please contact us at missblubug@yahoo.com.

Festival of Trees The Independence Foundation visits the FESTIVAL OF TREES

FRIDAY
NOV 26, 2010

12 P.M. TO 2 P.M.

AT THE
HYATT DOWNTOWN

TOTALLY FREE!

TREAT BAGS WILL
BE GIVEN OUT!

EVERYONE INVITED!

RSVP Chris at 716.685.3976

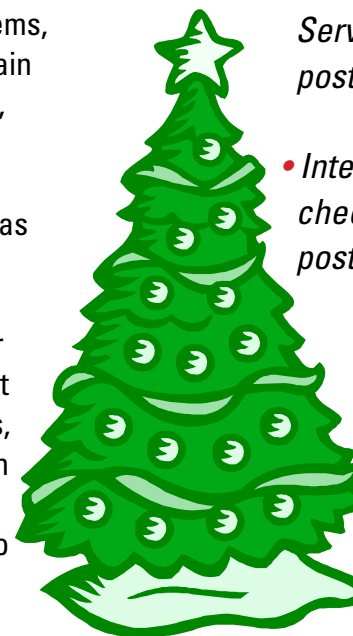


Christmas *wish* List

Thank you to all who helped make Christmas wishes come true last year!

Almost all of our 27 wishes were granted. Some were easy – dates, inexpensive items, even expensive equipment – others remain elusive – accessible apartments, respite, and wheelchair vans.

Again this year we will offer Our Christmas Wish List Program - a wish list of sorts - where families that qualify (Have a child in a wheelchair) can apply and post their wish for Christmas - and we then put that out there to churches, families, agencies, dealers, vendors, etc to see what we can do? No cost involved - just like our loan closet - matching needs with people who have something to offer, or want to meet that need.



• Interested Families can have their Service Coordinator fill out our application posted on our website.

• Interested "givers" can contact me or check out our website to see what needs are posted.

*Use this Holiday Season to
make a difference!
We'll identify the needs -
you respond with
"Yes, of course I can help!"*

Look for this TREE on our website, take a family & grant their Christmas Wish!

Social Events... Bowling

Sunday January 23rd @ 12 p.m.

Come bowl with us at the...

AMF Lancaster Lanes

4319 Transit Rd. near Losson Rd.

Games are **\$2.00 each**, pay your own way.

The whole family can come!

There are ramps for wheelchair bowlers.

RSVP to 716.685.3976



Mothers with physically challenged children getting together. (Pay your own way)

MONDAY, JANUARY 10 @ 6 P.M.

at Panera Bread
Transit Rd. near Losson
Lancaster, NY

*Skip December
Happy Holidays!*

November was spa night at Chris's house, a relaxing time was had by all!

The Independence Foundation Power Wheelchair Soccer

Join a Team Now! If you can safely maneuver a power wheelchair - you can play! **All ages!**

www.TheIndependenceFoundation.org
for Location, dates, and registration forms!



\$25 Registration fee, includes all equipment. For information call 716.685.3976

Amity Scholarship



**The Amity Scholarship
was awarded to:**

**KELLY COOPER
OF OWINGS, MD**

Did you Know?

- That in just 5 years The Independence Foundation has raised enough funds to purchase 2 houses where 7 individuals can now live independently - without state funding and regulations!
- Our Website has a whole list of accessible Dentists under the Programs tab.
- Emergency transportation is available if your wheelchair vehicle breaks down provided by volunteer families with wheelchair vans - call me to get on the list to volunteer and /or to receive help.
- If you use breathing equipment or have medical needs that require uninterrupted electric- you can apply for a generator.
- You may qualify for a property tax exemption on part of your home if modifications were made for handicap accessibility.
- If you live alone, receive personal care, and have Medicaid benefits - you may be eligible for a free lifeline service.
- Medicaid allows for urinals, chucks pads, and personal care gloves (One box per month) with a doctors script.
- There is a special form you fill out with your private sector health insurer - that covers your young adults with a disability for life.

Call us if you need more information on any of the above.

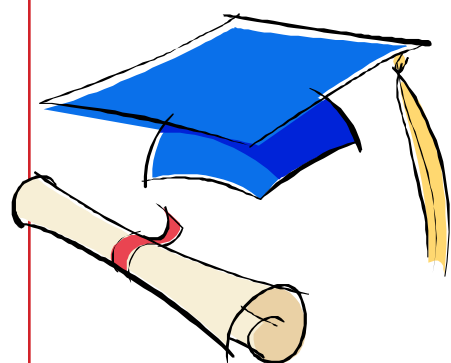
Winter Tips:

As the winter months approach...



- ✓ carry a snow shovel and a blanket in your wheelchair van!
- ✓ have an emergency plan!
- ✓ know how to operate the manual overrides on your vehicle and home lifts.

**Transportation Program info
Chris 685-3976
Equipment Loan Closet info
Jackie 668-3048**



College Scholarships 10-11

College Scholarships this year were awarded to:

Austin Nottingham – Elma, NY

Ashley Jackson – N. Augusta, SC

Kelly Warren – Hamburg, NY

You may make a tax deductible donation to our scholarship fund. **Call Chris 716.685.3976 for more information**