



Independence, Inc.  
2001 Haskell Avenue  
Lawrence, KS 66046

# Independence Advocate

www.independenceinc.org

January, 2009

*Our vision is to work together in transforming our communities to be the best places for people with disabilities to live, learn, and work.*

## E-NEWS ALERT!

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please contact Meghan Kinley at 785.841.033 ext. 236.

Or, email at

mkinley@independenceinc.org

E-News saves paper and postage and helps everyone GO GREEN!

You may also contact Meghan for changes in your information!

## A HUGE thanks to the community

Independence, Inc. could not be successful without our community partners. A huge thank you goes out to the following businesses, which support employment for people with disabilities:

Aimee's Café  
American Equipment Sales  
Ballard Center  
Beauty Brands  
Bradley Animal Hospital  
Brandon Woods  
Checkers  
Community Mercantile  
Das Autohas  
Designers Beauty Salon  
Englewood Florist  
First Presbyterian Pre-School  
Fleetwood  
Golf Course Superintendents of America Association  
Great Clips Salon  
Habitat ReStore  
Hastings

Hillcrest Styling Salon  
HyVee  
KinderCare Daycare  
KU Athletics Association  
KU-Hilltop Child Development Center  
KU-Library Services  
KU-The Underground  
KU-Transition Coalition/  
Special Education Department  
Laird Noller Automotive  
Lawrence Arts Center  
Lawrence High School  
Lawrence Humane Society  
Lawrence Memorial Hospital  
Liberty Hall  
Local Burger  
Mustard Seed Church  
Neu Physical Therapy  
Penn House  
Pet World  
Physician's Billing Office  
Pinnacle Career Institute  
Pioneer Ridge  
Royal Crest Bowling

Second Chance  
Slimmer's Automotive  
Stone Creek Restaurant  
TJ Maxx  
Van Go Mobile Arts  
Wakarusa Fire Department  
Wal-Mart  
Warrender Physical Therapy  
Watkins Museum  
Waxman's Candles  
Westlake Hardware

These businesses support employment for people with disabilities, our Youth Employment Program, as well as Disability Mentoring Day. A big thank you to Wal-Mart for donating \$100.00 to Disability Mentoring Day, as well as Jannah Laing and Family who donated \$100.00 to cover costs of the event.

## Thank you to our Donors!

### Friends

Ernest and Margaret Angina  
Kathleen Ashe  
Shirley Brown  
Caroljean Brune  
Central National Bank  
Marilyn Chamberlin  
Sheryle D'Amico  
Mary and John Davidson  
Paul Davis  
Tamara Dutton  
Hilda Enoch  
Thomas Fritzel  
Bill Getz  
Helen Gilles  
Matthew Gough  
Karen Heeb  
Maureen Horowitz  
David and Diana Ice  
Jane and Mickey Imber  
Charles and Carol Jones

James Krause  
Ronald Liebman  
Rep. Ann Mah  
Jeff Martin  
K. David Newell  
Christopher Ogle  
Jeff Peterson  
Richard Raney  
Linda Rissman  
Marian Root  
Barbara and Dick Schowen  
Philip Schrodt  
Karen Seibel  
Carol Seivley  
Roger Shimomura  
Joe Shobe  
Fred and Lilian Six  
T. Skrtic  
Dana Spitzer  
Donald Stephens, Jr.  
Chris Taylor

Blanch Timmerberg  
Nancy Vogel  
Michele Williams  
Mike Yoder

### Supporters

Sandra Brungardt  
William Burroughs  
Golf Course Superintendents  
Douglas County Banks  
Doris Stage Dort  
Jane Getto  
Stephen J. Gish  
Dennis 'Boog' Highberger  
Larry Irick  
Cathy Knight  
John and Nicki Listerman  
Lois Orth Lopes and Steve Lopes  
Mark and Mary Jane Mangino  
Michael and Cynthia Maude  
Charles and Mary Michener

Mary Ann Rasnak  
Ranjbar Orthodontics  
RCIL  
Michael Roark  
Michael Saleebey  
Bill and Cindy Self  
Austin and Ruth Turney  
George and Eleanor Woodyard  
Del and Carol Zhiri  
Nina Zuna

### Access Level

communityworks  
Hallmark Cards  
Kevan and Gail Vick  
Glen White

### Advocates

Don and Jene Herron

### Independence Level

William Dann

# Spring computer classes available

## Going Green!

Independence, Inc. joined the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce *Grow Green* program in November 2008. We were able to meet most of the items on a checklist provided by the Chamber such as: providing safe, secure parking for bicycles; encouraging use of public transportation for employees; having up to date and green utility systems in place; ride sharing; renting energy efficient vehicles when needed and other 'green' initiatives. Independence, Inc. will continue to self educate and put into place more 'grow green' aspects in coming months. Suggestions are always welcome for us to become more green.

## LOAN BANK DRIVE!

Independence, Inc. accepts donations of durable medical equipment (wheelchairs, canes, commodes, etc.) and consumable medical supplies (diabetes test strips, etc.). These are lent or given to the public on a sliding fee schedule. This program serves the entire community, as people from all walks of life come to us to check out equipment to meet the short-term needs.

*The Loan Bank currently needs: Wheelchairs, Powerchairs, Scooters, in home bath items, like commodes, benches, chairs, seats, and grab bars, etc., grabbers, reachers, canes, and walkers.*

We ask that items donated are clean and in a fair to good condition!  
THANK YOU!

## Class Catalog:

### Introduction to Computers I

4 week class, 4 days a week  
Fee \$175 *Learn the fundamentals of using a computer: using a mouse, basic word processing, saving and managing files, navigating around the computer, basic internet and email, and more...*

### Introduction to Excel

3 week class, 4 days a week  
Fee \$130  
*Students will learn how to create a spreadsheet, enter data, manipulate cells, use formulas, create charts and graphs, and more...*

### Introduction to Word

4 week class, 4 days a week  
Fee \$175  
*Basics of Microsoft Word. Subjects covered will include working with text, paragraphs, managing files, using tables, using columns, working with pictures and graphs, and more...*

### Introduction to Computers II

4 week class, 4 days a week  
Fee \$175  
*Particularly for those who own or will own a computer. Learn more about your computer and how to keep it running; computer terms, firewall, malware, custom desktop, other settings, and more...*

### Internet –Tips & Protocols

1 week class, 4 days a week  
Fee \$40  
*Professional skills on the internet: how to do an advanced search, create professional quality emails, how to add attachments, and much more...*

### Introduction to PowerPoint

1 week class, 4 days a week  
Fee \$50  
*Students will learn how to create PowerPoint presentations, including some of the fancy "bells & whistles" features included in this program.*

### Introduction to Access

2 weeks class, 4 days a week  
Fee \$90  
*This class will cover the basic or beginner level of the Microsoft database program. Subjects covered will include creating tables, forms, entering data, running reports and simple queries.*

### Social Networking

1 week class, 4 days a week  
Fee \$50  
*Learn to create your very own social networking page on My Space and/or Face Book. Access the technology that wins elections.*

### Résumé Workshop

2 week workshop, 4 days a Week; Fee \$75  
*This workshop is designed to teach theory and technique. Create your resume, cover letter, and/or to improve your existing resume. Lots of individual support will be available.*

### Spring 2009 Vocational Course Office Assistant

Tuesdays through Fridays, 8:30 - 10:20 AM, Jan 13 - May 8  
*The Office Assistant program is designed to train people in office skills. Classroom focus is mainly on Microsoft Word and Excel, and will cover such things as formatting documents, inserting pictures, clip art, graphs and charts; using columns; creating tables, creating a tri-fold brochure, mail merge; formatting worksheets, modifying cell sizes and borders; creating, applying and naming ranges; using functions, adding borders and shading, merging cells and rotating text; etc.*

To register for classes, please contact Mark Creamer at 841.0333, ext. 237

Please check our website, [www.independenceinc.org](http://www.independenceinc.org) for a complete class schedule.

\*Independence, Inc. offers classes on an income based sliding fee, just contact our office\*

## Food Assistance Outreach Update

Independence, Inc. is pleased to continue our partnership with SRS to provide and help our community with Food Assistance Outreach in 2009.

Independence, Inc. will assist the community with applying for and understanding the Food Assistance Program in our state. We have a computer in our Jean T. Hetherington Library which is dedicated to anyone wanting to apply for Food Assistance on-

Line; no appointment is needed.

Recently, Independence, Inc. mailed a survey to 600 consumers concerning the Food Assistance program and if anyone did not receive a survey, but would like to receive an application or assistance in signing up for the program, or if they have any questions about eligibility requirements for the program, please contact:

Daniel Brown  
Information and  
Referral Specialist  
841.0333 ext. 258



## Holiday party fun for all



Independence, Inc. staff members enjoyed a potluck and white elephant gift exchange to celebrate the holiday season.

## For more information...

If you would like to be a part of the Independence, Inc. newsletter, please contact Meghan Kinley at 785.841.0333 ext. 236, or [mkinley@independenceinc.org](mailto:mkinley@independenceinc.org).

The submission of articles, letters to the editor, consumer compositions, and classified ads is encouraged. The staff reserves the right to edit or reject material submitted to accommodate space or content concerns. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of Independence, Inc.

For taped or large print versions, please call 785.841.0333.

## Youth Employment Program Update

The Youth Employment Program is a partnership between Independence Inc. and the Lawrence Public Schools to promote positive attitudes toward employment for youth with disabilities. Our goal is to increase employment options and outcomes for students age 15 to 21. The program is funded by the Kansas

Health Policy Authority. Independence, Inc. is happy to announce a new business partner for the program, Golf Course Superintendents of America Association!

If you are a youth with a disability in Douglas, Jefferson, and Franklin coun-

ties between the age of 15-21 and you would like to the opportunity to develop your job skills...the Youth Employment Program of Independence, Inc. is for YOU!

Or, if you're an employer who would like to participate in YEP, please contact Ranita Wilks at Independence, Inc. at 785.841.0333, ext. 219.



Sandy Slemp receives her first paycheck through the YEP Program at Independence, Inc.

## Independence, Inc. WORKs Statewide

For the past year and a half, Independence, Inc. has been able to reach people not just in northeast Kansas, but across the state. In July 2007 Independence, Inc. was awarded a contract by the Kansas Health Policy Authority to conduct the assessments for the entire state for their new WORK program.

WORK is an innovative program that enables people with disabilities who need personal care attendants to use Medicaid to pay for both their personal care and health insurance while they work in competitive

jobs in the community. WORK participants must pay a premium, similar to a health insurance premium, for the service.

Kansas has typically been on the cutting edge with its approaches to community services for people with disabilities, and this is the first program of its kind in the nation.

Kansas Medicaid Director Andy Allison said, "Kansas is the only state that designed a package for

people with disabilities that includes personal assistance services, in addition to Medicaid services, to help them live and work in the community. That shows our commitment to Kansans with disabilities and their value to the workplace."

Independence, Inc. is excited to be able to be a part of the WORK program. One reason we wanted to participate was to ensure

assessments for the program would be conducted with the in-

dependent living philosophy in mind.

Since the program began Independence, Inc. has conducted 110 assessments everywhere from Parsons to St. Francis and Garden City to Sabetha. Our new experience has added to our understanding of the scope of services available to Kansans with disabilities across our great state.

Please visit [www.workinghealthy.org](http://www.workinghealthy.org) for more information about WORK.





Independence, Inc.  
2001 Haskell Avenue  
Lawrence, KS 66046

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit 188  
Lawrence, KS

## Support Independence, Inc. through annual giving

### Did you know?

A \$100 gift would supply the cooking club with supplies for one year.

A \$250 gift would furnish one wheelchair for our equipment loan bank.

A \$500 gift would provide gas for one bus for one week.

A \$1,000 gift would allow us to purchase a new computer for our Computer Learning Center.

### Independence, Inc.

Yes! I want to help provide advocacy, services, and education for people with disabilities and our communities with a 100% tax deductible gift!

- \$1,000 Independence
- \$500 Advocacy
- \$250 Access
- \$100 Supporter
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Friend of Independence, Inc.

Enclosed is my check payable to **Independence, Inc.**

Please bill me in \_\_\_\_\_ monthly installments.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me information on:

- Other Giving Opportunities
- Matching Corporate Gift Programs
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Consumer Services

Please return this reply card with your donation in the enclosed envelope or mail it to:

Independence, Inc.  
2001 Haskell Avenue  
Lawrence, KS 66046

*Thank you for your continued support and  
involvement with Independence, Inc.!*