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For Immediate Release

Kansas Association of Centers for Independent Living Receives \$40,000 Quality of Life Grant from Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation for Nursing Home Transition

LAWRENCE, KS, AUGUST 1, 2017 – INDEPENDENCE, INC. is proud to announce that it has received a \$40,000 Nursing Home Transition grant through our State Association, Kansas Association of Centers for Independent Living (KACIL), from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. The award was one of 7 grants totaling \$280,000 awarded by the Reeve Foundation to Centers for Independent Living (CILs) nationwide for nursing home transitions. This grant program is part of the Quality of Life grants program, conceived by the late Dana Reeve, which has awarded over 2,900 grants totaling over \$22 million since 1999. Funding for the grants is made available through the Paralysis Resource Center (PRC) operated by the Reeve Foundation under a cooperative agreement with the Administration for Community Living in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

INDEPENDENCE, INC., along with other Kansas CIL's, will use the grant for transitioning our consumers with paralysis from institutional settings such as nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities, into the community to live independently. Funds will be used for expenses incurred in these transitions including rental and utility deposits, assistive technology, home modifications and other home essentials needed to live with independence.

Independence, Inc. is honored to be among the Centers for Independent Living (CIL's) who have been awarded this grant. We give our greatest thanks to the Reeve Foundation for their vision and nationwide efforts to increase the quality of life for people with disabilities and for supporting the work to transition these consumers from institutional to community-based living.

The PRC's Nursing Home Transition Grant Program funds Centers for Independent Living across the country to transition people with paralysis living in nursing homes back into their homes or a community-based setting of their choice. Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) passed in 2014, CILs are charged with supporting individuals to transition into community-

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based settings as a new core service, but CILs often lack the resources to do so robustly. The PRC's NHT grants serve to supplement the work CILs are already doing to fulfill their responsibilities under WIOA and to help achieve the Reeve Foundation and ACL's shared mission of full community participation for people with disabilities. For this grant, paralysis is functionally defined as a difficulty and/or inability to move one's arms and/or legs due to a neurological condition such as spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, spina bifida, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, ALS, and many other chronic conditions that coexist with developmental, congenital, and acquired disabilities.

"These grants are intended to improve the quality of life for individuals by becoming part of the solution nationwide to decrease the unnecessary segregation and isolation of individuals living with functional paralysis," said Maggie Goldberg, VP of Policy and Programs at the Reeve Foundation. "Our new program funding allows us to further help the aging and paralysis populations and create more community inclusion, which is our ultimate goal. We are excited to have this opportunity to expand our grant program, and hope to work with them again in the future."

About the Reeve Foundation

The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis through grants, information and advocacy. We meet all 20 of the Better Business Bureau's standards for charity accountability and hold the BBB's Charity Seal. The Paralysis Resource Center (PRC) is a program of the Reeve Foundation, and is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Administration for Community Living (cooperative agreement number 90PR3002). For more information, please visit our website at www.ChristopherReeve.org or call 800-539-7309.

Independence Inc., Maximizing the independence of people with disabilities through advocacy, peer support, training, transportation and community education

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