



independence<sup>INC</sup>

# EMPOWERED

[em·pow·er·ed]

\im-'paü(-ə)rd\  
(adjective)

having the knowledge, confidence, means, or ability to do things or make decisions for oneself

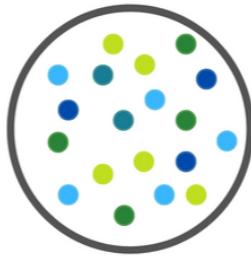
INDEPENDENCE, INC. 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



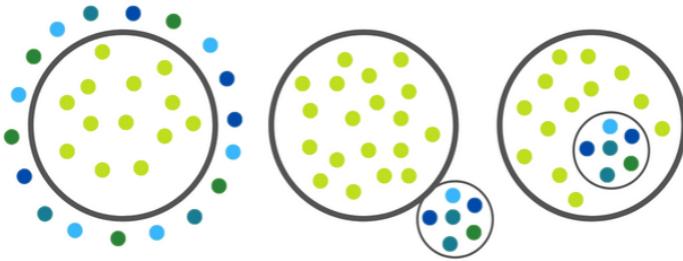
# Empowered...

There are endless barriers to independence and accessibility in our world and right here in our own communities. At Independence, Inc., our tool box is full of resources, programs and services to help people self-direct their independent living needs. Here at Independence, Inc., we promote independence through the philosophy and practice of self-empowerment. The programs and services we offer - from advocacy to accessibility, transportation to technology - are all tools to accompany the choices, plans and actions set into place by each consumer that calls or comes into our office. We are resources. We are support. We are assistance. And we are committed to independent living through self-choice and self-direction. This is EMPOWERED.

*above: Independence, Inc. Independent Living Counselors, Jennifer Moore and Zack Terhune spend some collaboration time preparing to support consumers in the Working Healthy/WORK program.*



INCLUSION



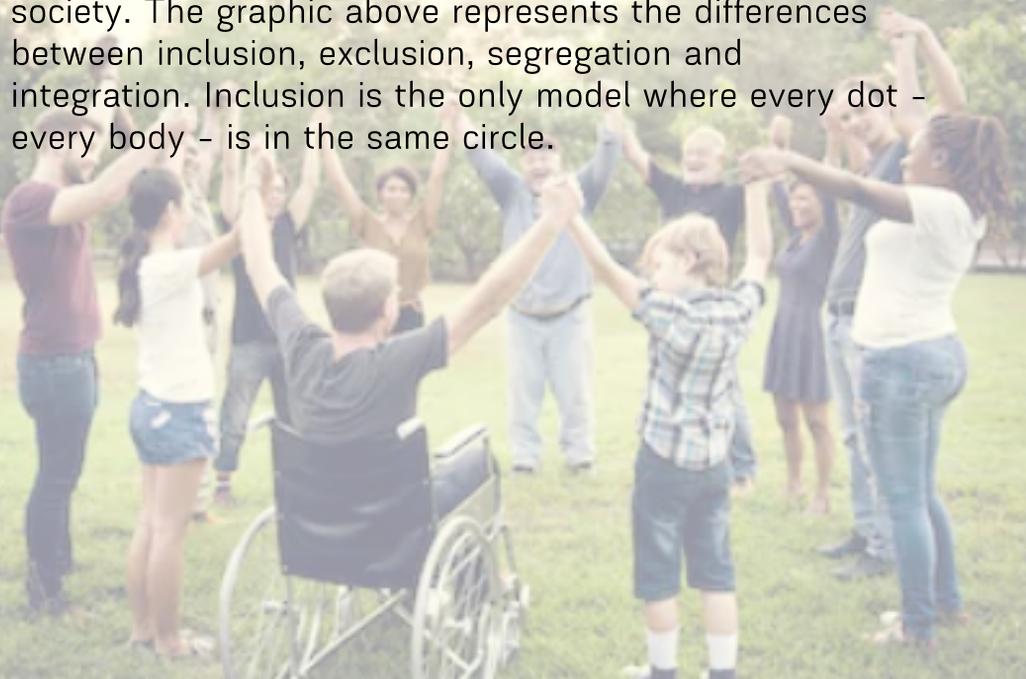
exclusion

segregation

integration

# Included...

Every individual, regardless of his or her disability, has the right to be incorporated fully into the fabric of society. The graphic above represents the differences between inclusion, exclusion, segregation and integration. Inclusion is the only model where every dot - every body - is in the same circle.





## Core Services

The ability to choose and direct one's own services is essential to independent living. With core services like Advocacy, Peer Support, Training, Transportation and Community Education, every consumer can choose and direct the services that are right for them.

**1,837**

Total Services  
Provided in  
2019

"These people have restored my faith in the goodness and caring of humanity. They genuinely care - the entire staff, drivers and office folks. I am able to get food and do what I need as a disabled person, as a human being, with some dignity because of Independence Inc."  
-Independence, Inc. consumer review

Above: members of the Seoul Welfare Foundation met with Independence, Inc. staff to collaborate and discuss strengths-based approach to Independent Living Services

# Youth Services

"I participated in a workshop that cleans dinosaur bones and learned how to make a replica of a bone. I also learned to build confidence by trying new things and to start by taking small steps to get where I want to be."

-DMD student participant

**97**  
youth served  
through YEP!  
and DMD

The Independence, Inc. Youth Employment Program (YEP!) and Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) are two of our programs that serve youth with disabilities. YEP! is a work trial program offering paid work opportunities in the community and DMD is our biggest event of the year with a day of job shadowing with a host mentor and a celebration banquet with keynote speaker.

*Below: YEP! participant Logan Bruner sits at a reception desk to welcome and sign in guests during his work trial at the East Lawrence Rec Center*





## Advocacy & Legal Services

Civil and independent living rights are paramount to our purpose, our mission and our work. We assist people who want to educate themselves on their rights and learn how to exercise them through positive communication, mediation, self-advocacy and other paths to empowerment and independence.

67

consumers served  
through advocacy  
& legal services

"The staff at Independence, Inc. are very helpful in a lot of good, positive ways that make life a little less stressful. Many thanks!"  
- Independence, Inc. consumer review

*Above: regulations under the Americans with Disabilities Act were updated in 2010 and include accessible parking standards. Independence, Inc. staff conduct accessibility surveys and advocate for consumer rights in all areas of independent living.*

# Financial Management Services

"They (FMS staff) went above and beyond to help make everything happen quickly and seamlessly. We are thankful that we found Independence Inc. and appreciate the supports Rachel receives so she can live the life she chooses".  
-Jawanda Mast, mom of Rachel

**128**  
consumers served  
through FMS

Through our Financial Management Services (FMS), eligible recipients of Medicaid's Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers, self-direct their personal care by hiring, training and supervising their personal care service workers while we take care of the payroll, file returns and taxes and offer other needed assistance throughout the process.

*Below: Rachel Mast, Independence, Inc. Financial Management Services consumer, poses on the Missouri State University campus where she attends college.*





# Transportation

Mobility is one key to independence and self-empowerment. With fully accessible vans and a well-trained, committed and caring staff, our General Public Transportation department works diligently getting people where they need to go to be the healthiest and most active they can be.

**7,211**

rides given through  
Independence, Inc.  
Transportation

"This place has the kindest & most caring drivers and the transportation department is the best. Thank you all that help with my father. Bless your hearts."  
-Independence, Inc. consumer review

*Above: An Independence, Inc. General Public Transportation driver, assists a consumer out of the van during a medical appointment.*

# Housing

"I really appreciate and enjoy my new ramp. It's really great. Everyone did such a great job.

Thank you so much!"

*-Independence, Inc. Accessibility Housing Program consumer*

46

housing services  
received

Independence, Inc. provides information and services to assist people with disabilities obtain affordable and/or accessible housing. We also provide home modification services through our Accessible Housing Program, assist with transitions from institution to community-based living and work with consumers in understanding their rights under fair housing laws.

*Below: A new wheelchair ramp and deck provide needed accessibility to a consumer's home. Ramp built by Accessibility Solutions, LLC.*





# Equipment Loan Bank

Chances are, we will all need some sort of durable medical equipment in our lives, whether from a disability, injury, illness, childbirth, surgery, aging or other circumstances. Our loan bank is open to the public and includes items such as shower benches, wheelchairs, commodes, walkers, rollators and much more.

**459**

consumers acquired  
equipment through  
our loan bank

"We've used your services twice recently for help for my-mother-in-law. Both times we were very impressed. The first time we needed a medical device. The person in the office was courteous and helpful, she got us exactly what we needed. The second time was for transportation. We will definitely use your services again in the future!" - Google review

*Above: Durable medical equipment is donated to our loan bank and loaned out to anyone in the community in need of such items.*

# Information & Referral

"They take great care to have an inviting and accommodating space, replete with informational posters, pamphlets and whatnot.

Whenever I encountered an employee, they were always very warm and professional."

- Google Review

953

total I&R  
services received  
by consumers

Our knowledgeable staff are here to help the public find the information and resources they need to live independently, whether through our own programs and services, or through other community resources. We listen to your questions and needs and help problem solve to find solutions specific to your circumstances.

*Below: Independence, Inc. volunteer, Athena Johnson, welcomes the public, answers questions and assists with information and referral at the reception desk.*



# Our Mission

Our mission is to maximize the independence of people with disabilities through advocacy, peer support, training, transportation and community education.

## A note from our director...



Dear Friends,

Thank you for the generous support we received in 2019. The support Independence, Inc. receives has a direct impact on our capacity to serve the community and contributions play a key role in empowering our staff and our consumers to advance independent living, opportunity and access through self-choice and self-direction. Your partnership with us has been instrumental as we continue our mission to provide services, advocacy and opportunities for the disability community and the community at large. Together, we are cultivating an inclusive community.

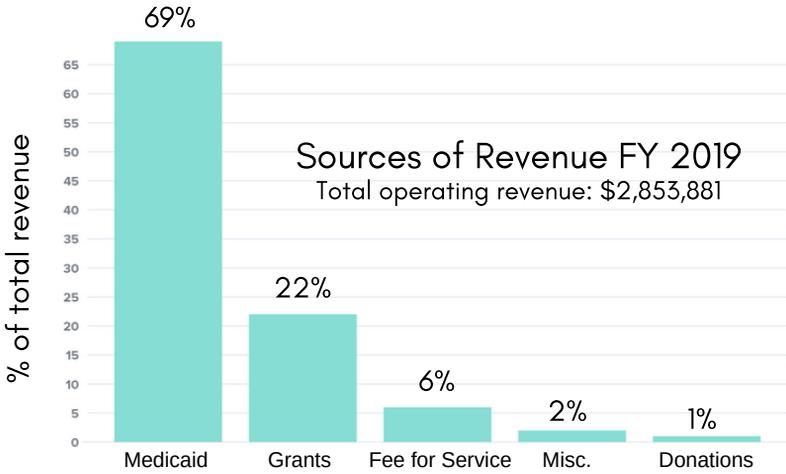
Thank you again,  
Jill Dudley

## Meet our Board...

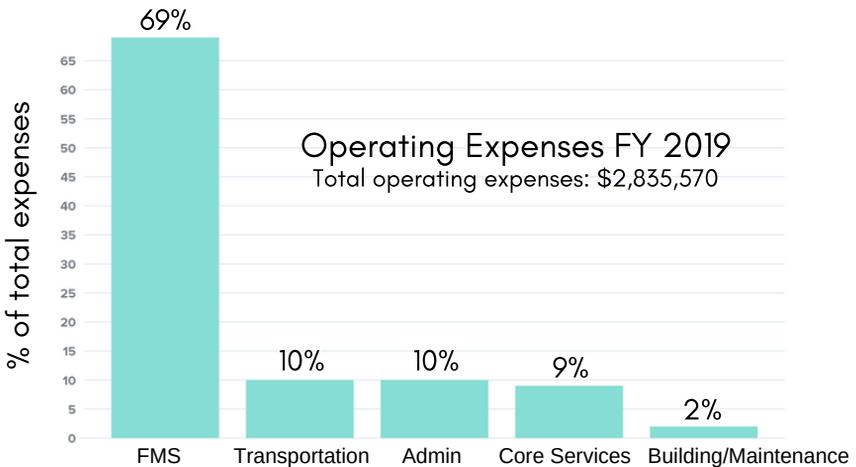
Seth Stillings | President  
Angela Motsinger | Vice President/Treasurer  
Terry Manies | Secretary

**Board Members:**

Susan Farley  
Boog Highberger  
Robert Hutchison  
Dustin Stumblingbear  
Craig Weinaug  
Deb Young



# Financial Statement



# Thank You To our Donors!

Anju & Sanjay Mishra  
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Austin Turney  
Barbara Watkins  
Bernard Judge  
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Bill & Cindy Self  
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David & Diana Ice  
Deb & Bob Werts  
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Dennis Brown Painting  
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Seth Stillings  
Stephen J. & Bobbie Gish  
Terry Manies  
Thomas V. Murray  
Tom Skrtic  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
Venida Chenault  
William Dann

# Community Support - We Need You!

Do you believe in our mission and want to support, encourage and partner with us? We need YOU as we work to advocate for the independent living needs of people with disabilities in our communities. Barriers to independent living are real, they can be complex and they are everywhere. It takes a team to rally for the civil rights of those in our communities and ensure that every body is able to experience inclusion and independence through advocacy, peer support, training, transportation and community education. Won't you join us?

## **Visit our Website & Give online**

Whether a one-time gift or setting up recurring gifts, visit us at [www.independenceinc.org](http://www.independenceinc.org) for safe and secure online giving or visit our FB page for an onsite "donate" button. While you're there, sign up for our quarterly e-newsletter at [www.facebook.com/independenceincCIL/](http://www.facebook.com/independenceincCIL/). And of course, we love getting your checks of support in the mail!

## **Planned Giving**

Leave a legacy and show your lifelong support of disability rights and advocacy by contributing to our mission through a planned gift. Find out how, including the financial benefits to YOU by contacting Chip Blaser, Executive Director, Douglas county Community Foundation.

[chipblaser@dccfoundation.org](mailto:chipblaser@dccfoundation.org) or 785-843-8727 and ask about giving to Independence, Inc.

## **A Note about our Spring Campaign**

In consideration of the COVID-19 outbreak and a community experiencing a myriad of COVID-related struggles, we have decided we will not conduct our formal Spring Campaign this year. We know things are tough all over and instead of adding to any stress, we just want to encourage you and let you know we are here for our community with resources, information and services should you need us! We will resume our fundraising efforts in the fall with our Fall Campaign.



independence<sup>inc.</sup>

For a complete list of our services, contact us, walk-in or visit our website

**Independence, Inc.**

**2001 Haskell Ave. | Lawrence, KS | 66046**

**785-841-0333**

**[www.independenceinc.org](http://www.independenceinc.org)**