

■ ■ ■ a special thank you

Cumulative Gifts between
July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2009

Independence Supporters - \$500 to \$999

Teresa Aartman
Buffington Foundation
Capital Group Companies Charitable
Foundation
K. Maling
Patt Nicol
Orange Coast Unitarian Church
Orange County United Way
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Stacey Stern Von Berg

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Robert Sechler
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Barbara and Kurt Yeager

Gold Supporters - \$10,000 and Above

Alternative Office Solutions
Marilyn Donovan
HBLA
Lee and Jerry Keatings
Debra Marsteller
Weingart Foundation

your donations allowed us to...

Start a transition program for people over 55 living with their elderly parents. This program will provide individuals with assessments and support, and help them develop future plans.

Collaborate with Cal State Fullerton Interns to record stories of courage and determination from 30 years ago, when people moved out of state hospitals, learned skills and became part of the fabric of their communities.

Furnish our multipurpose room and add a kitchen so community groups have a place to meet. Regularly scheduled meetings include Family Futures Planning, a consumer advocacy group, Access to Adventure as well as First Aid and CPR classes.

Provide 24 hour emergency cell phones for both Independent Living Programs and Supported Employment. Anytime, day or night, if someone needs us, a trained person is available.

Include resources on our website to help families, employers and individuals with developmental disabilities have access to the latest research and information.

Pay for celebrations and recreation opportunities our people couldn't afford without subsidies. Sometimes it really is the little things that make life enjoyable!

Loan people money, to cover the cost of rent through our Rental Assistance Program (managed in collaboration with the Regional Center).



The Independence Report

Fall 2009

■ ■ ■ the year in review

We moved into our own building, saving \$7,500 a month in expenses. We completed the merger by finally sharing space.

We've partnered with Grandparent Autism Network to train volunteers to help with our Full Employment Initiative, one of a dozen collaborations that improve lives of people with disabilities.

We began the "Collected Stories" project. Volunteers are recording the stories of our earliest clients so that their stories from 30 years ago—moving into the first apartments, getting real jobs, joining community life—can all be told.

We supported 370 people in employment, in all manner of job sites, from dog walking to child care, from 5 to 40 hours a week.

Project Independence helped 28 people move into new apartments, while supporting 178 people so they could maintain their apartments.

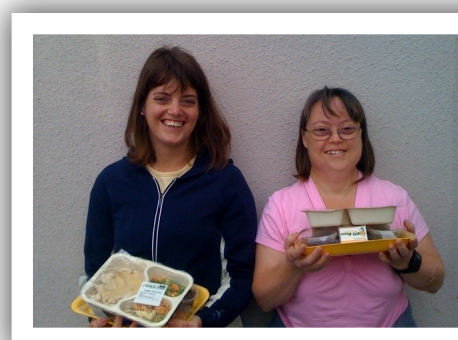
We have a high employee retention rate, the best training and the most passionate, caring and professional staff. Our staff's average tenure is more than five years. In 2009, we reached our 634th day with no reported injuries.

Access to Adventure provided dozens of social and recreational opportunities to Project Independence people with help

from over 100 volunteers and thousands of volunteer hours. Events included karaoke nights, a Caribbean Cruise and everything in between.

Community donations worth thousands of dollars provided materials and furniture to our new building in Costa Mesa, allowing us to use our money for direct service projects.

Meals on Wheels provides 200 meals weekly, in 8 cities.



Mission

Project Independence's mission is to promote civil rights for people with developmental disabilities through services which expand independence and choice.

Board Of Directors

Executive Board

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Jaimie Gardner
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Contact Us Project Independence

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www.proindependence.org

Walk for Independence 2010

Sunday, January 17th, 2010

The 1st annual
Walk for Independence

To sign up or for additional information, visit

www.projectindependencewalk.org



■ ■ ■ Jeff: a success story

Jeff moved into his own apartment 20 years ago Nov 5th. He was a little nervous but his friend Ted encouraged him to make the leap of faith in himself. Ted had lived in his own apartment for over a year and was doing great, with help from his Project Independence staff and family. It seemed to Jeff, he was as ready as he was ever going to get. His parents were skeptical, "I gave him three months



before I expected him back at home," reports his mother. Jeff flourished. Today he has a very comfortable and tidy place. He is surrounded by neighbors that look out for one another. He works for a local drug store and has an extensive social network. Building on his helpful tendencies and expert directional abilities, Jeff is planning to join Ameri-corp this winter as a volunteer bus companion. Now that's dedication.

■ ■ ■ PI in the news

CalOptima awarded Project Independence a special recognition award for excellence. Both state and federal legislators joined CalOptima to salute awardees at a luncheon at the Doubletree in Orange on August 26, 2009. The Circle of Care Award recognizes health care professionals who demonstrate excellence in the delivery of high quality health care services to CalOptima members.

In addition to the Circle of Care Award, Project Independence has received 2 other

major awards this year. The Regional Center Spotlight Award for Day and Behavior Support Services was presented to PI November 5, 2009 for demonstrating excellence in support for people with developmental disabilities by creating programs that are responsive to individual choice, dignity and quality of life. PI Executive Director Deb Marsteller also recently received the California Wellness Foundation Leadership Sabbatical Award.



Myth: Down syndrome is a rare genetic disorder.

Truth: Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring genetic condition. One in every 733 live births is a child with Down syndrome, representing approximately **5,000 births** per year in the United States alone. Today, more than **400,000** people in the United States have Down syndrome.

Myth: People with Down syndrome have a short life span.

Truth: Life expectancy for individuals with Down syndrome has **increased** dramatically in recent years, with the average **life expectancy** approaching that of peers without Down syndrome.

Myth: People with Down syndrome are severely "retarded."

Truth: Most people with Down syndrome have IQs that fall in the mild to moderate range of intellectual disability (formerly known as "retardation"). Children with Down syndrome **fully participate** in public and private educational programs.

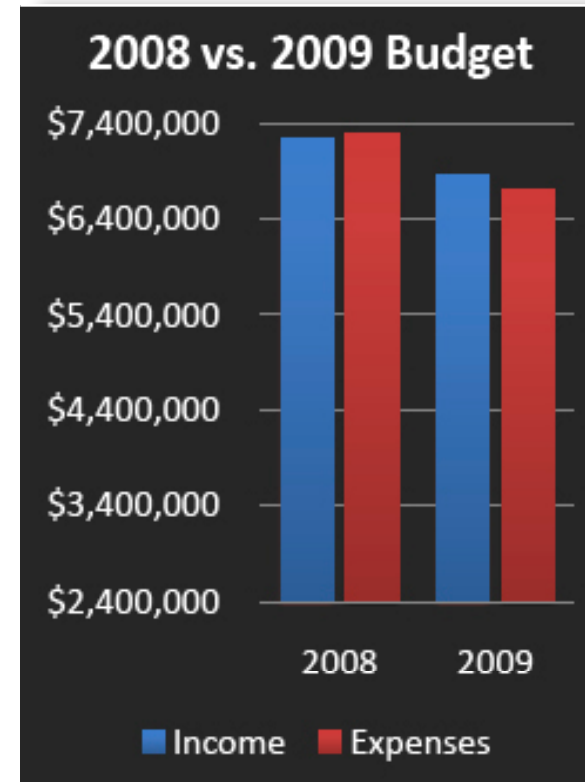
Myth: Most people with Down syndrome are institutionalized.

Truth: Today people with Down syndrome live at home with their families and are active participants in educational, vocational, social, and recreational activities. People with Down syndrome are **valued members** of their families and their communities, contributing to society in a variety of ways.

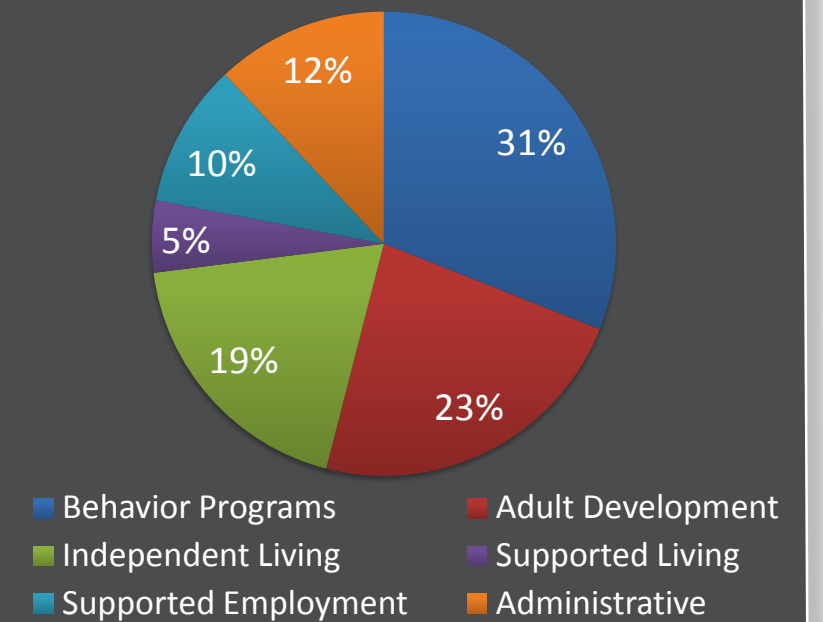
Myth: Adults with Down syndrome are unemployable.

Truth: Businesses are seeking young adults with Down syndrome for a variety of positions in a variety of environments and industries. People with Down syndrome bring to their jobs **enthusiasm, reliability** and **dedication**.

■ ■ ■ financial overview



Expenses for Year Ending June 2009



■ ■ ■ 2010 Project Highlights

Elevator Installation

Install elevator in Costa Mesa office: Fulfilling a promise to the people we serve, we are committed to making the building fully accessible.

State-wide Advocacy

Collaborate with legislators, regional centers, advocacy groups and families to close state hospitals and commit to adequate community supports, upholding the Lanterman Act. Advocate for reinstatement of adequate state reimbursement for services.

Technology Upgrades

Upgrading technology to promote better, more cost effective data collection and reporting.

Healthy Living Program

Expand opportunities for exercise and nutritional programs for both day and independent living programs.

wish list

- Elevator in our new office building
- 4-6 computers for computer lab
- Smart screen for computer training
- Volunteers for A2A activities & outings
- Fund development committee volunteers
- Audit committee volunteers
- Healthy Living Volunteers
- "Collected Stories" interviewers
- Contractor to make sidewalk accessible
- 6-8 laptops for entitlement specialists