

PROSPECTIVE

July 2018

3RD Edition



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Recent Successes...

On May 25, 2018, Living Independently for Everyone, Inc. (L.I.F.E., Inc) hosted a financial investment event as part of its Women's Empowerment Program, which strives to increase life skills and enhance opportunities for women with disabilities.

The event was facilitated by Financial Advantage Associates, Inc., one of L.I.F.E., Inc.'s partners. Participants of the event learned about financial investing and investment options. The event also included a question and answer session, which allowed the participants to delve deeper into their own unique financial profile and obtain concrete advice from the facilitators. The event was a success! Participant survey results revealed that the event helped them become a bit wiser on how to invest and save for their future.

Meet L.I.F.E.'s Newest Volunteer...



Ms. Maya Brown joined our team as a Marketing and Communications Specialist in May 2018. She holds a bachelor's in psychology

from the University of Maryland, College Park where she acquired the knowledge and skills required to conduct research in industrial organizational psychology and took a keen interest in exploring the correlations between employee morale and productivity.

Ms. Brown, hoping to use her research insights to achieve favorable outcomes in organizational transformation processes, leveraged her background in industrial organizational psychology to secure work in human capital consulting and brings with her over 10 years of experience providing organizational change management consulting services to the Federal Government. As an Organizational Change Management Consultant, Ms. Brown contributed to the development and execution of strategic communications to promote the adoption of new, improved processes and technologies.

(You may read more about Ms. Brown on the LIFE, Inc website.)

Community News ...



An article presented in The New York Times, "Lauren Ridloff's Quiet Power: 'My Life Has Changed in Every Way'".

(Michael Paulson, 2018) breaks down barriers and demonstrates that individuals living with disabilities should not be stereotyped as belonging to a group of individuals that cannot live full, productive and independent lives.

The article tells the story of Lauren Rifloff who was born without the ability to hear. According to Lauren, at the age of two, her doctor told her parents that her deafness “would limit her educational and professional achievement” (Michael Paulson, 2018); however, her parents had different plans for her future, and Ms. Ridloff went on to attend a Catholic school with hearing children, Model Secondary School for the deaf, study creative writing at California State University, Northridge and to major in education at Hunter College, resulting in her becoming a Kindergarten teacher.

Later, Lauren Ridloff resigned from her teaching profession to care for her children, and, by chance, was approached by Kenny Leon, a theater director, for sign language tutoring lessons. At the time, Mr. Leon was selecting actors for his Broadway play “Children of a Lesser God” and needed someone to fill in during “an early table read” (Michael Paulson, 2018); he turned to Ms. Ridloff for assistance for the reading. During the reading, Mr. Leon, aware that Ms. Ridloff had no theater training, was in awe over her stage presence and how easily she transformed herself into the character. As a result, Ms. Ridloff was offered the lead female role. She described her experience as life changing and spoke out about her apprehension, but later sense of empowerment, to use her voice during a

scene in the play after having not used it in 20 years for fear of being wrongfully judged as unintelligent due to her inability to speak. After the play’s opening, it received astonishing reviews: *The Wall Street Journal* described it as “Stupendously bold and expressive”. Ms. Ridloff was also nominated for the Drama League Award, Outer Critics Circle Award and a Tony Award. All in all, the “Children of a Lesser God” had a powerful, positive impact on the deaf community, bringing awareness to its culture, American Sign Language and set the stage for discussion regarding the limitless achievements made by individuals with disabilities.

Michael Paulson. Lauren Ridloff’s Quiet Power: ‘My Life Has Changed in Every Way’ (2018, May 11), *The New York Times*. Retrieved from: https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/11/theater/lauren-ridloff-children-of-a-lesser-god.html?ref=collection%2Ftimestopic%2FDisabilities&action=click&contentCollection=health®ion=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=8&pgtype=collection

Upcoming Events...

FIVE GUYS® **Giving Back to the Community**
BURGERS and FRIES

On August 29th, join L.I.F.E., Inc. in getting an early start in celebrating Labor Day and supporting its events and programs. This event will take place at the Five Guys restaurant in the Rockville Town Center between the hours of 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. For every purchase made during this time, L.I.F.E., Inc. will receive a percentage of the profit. Just present L.I.F.E., Inc.’s flyer at the cash register. To download the event flyer, visit: <https://www.life-mdinc.org/events--programs.html>

Annual Art Showcase



L.I.F.E., Inc. will host it's 3rd Annual Art Showcase. This year's event will occur on September 21 and 22 in Mitchellville, Maryland. This event is a multi-media, public exhibit, which recognizes the cultural inclusiveness of artists impacted by disability. A call for submissions is open to any artist whose life has been touched or shaped by a disability.

Registration requirements and tickets for the reception can be found here: <https://www.life-mdinc.org/call-for-artists.html>

*****Entry Deadline: September 1, 2018**

Partner Highlight...

L.I.F.E., Inc. sincerely appreciates its partnership with Prince George's Community Resources (PGCR) - The organization was created in 2015 and based at Holy Family Catholic



Church in Mitchellville, MD. They later expanded across the county into Hillcrest Heights, MD through Holy Family Catholic Church. PGCR believes that all persons enrich our community and promote the full inclusion of every person into every aspect of community life. Their mission is to support people with disabilities who have transitioned out of school-based support services by offering innovative therapeutic, educational and recreational programs as well as workshops and social opportunities. It is PGCR's hope that these opportunities will promote healthy lifestyles, friendships and personal development.

How You May Help...

There are several ways in which you may help support L.I.F.E., Inc.'s efforts in promoting full inclusion for persons with disabilities. (1) First, you may give a **monetary contribution** by simply clicking on the home page of their website. (2) Second, **in-kind donations** of office equipment, supplies and software are welcomed. (3) Lastly, the contribution of your skills and time is invaluable. The implementation of events and programs are not possible without the kindness of individuals **volunteering**. If you're interested in volunteering, please visit L.I.F.E., Inc.'s website and complete an application.

For further information, contact the Executive Director, Denise Thomas. You may also contact her to inform her of your donation and to receive a receipt.



*"Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much."
~ Helen Keller*

For more information about L.I.F.E., Inc's inclusion programs and/or to learn about how to get involved, please visit: <https://www.life-mdinc.org/>

