

PROSPECTIVE

May 2023

9th Edition

Message from the Board President:

Dear Supporters,

We are just a few months into the New Year, and I am brimming with excitement for the future of Life, Inc. We are looking forward to developing new future programs and initiatives through new committees. We are also welcoming brilliant new board members. Let's keep the momentum going by spreading the word, supporting our fundraisers, and showing the world that Living Independently IS for EVERYONE!

Meet Michelle Howell: A Passionate Advocate for Individuals with Disabilities

We are excited to introduce you to our newest board member, Michelle Howell. Ms. Howell is an experienced educator and passionate advocate for individuals with disabilities (IWD). Read on to learn more about her background, her motivations, and her goals for the future.

From Trinidad to the Big Apple: A Personal Journey

Michelle Howell hails from the beautiful country of Trinidad and Tobago. She is a loving sister to two brothers and a proud mother of two amazing boys and two dogs.

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A Calling to Serve: Master's Degree and Professional Experience

Michelle's passion for advocating for individuals with disabilities led her to pursue a master's degree in special education in 2012. Over the past 11 years, she has worked in various roles, including teacher, teacher leader, Lead Case Manager, Assistant Principal, and Director, in both private schools and charter schools.

A Personal Connection: The Driving Force

Michelle's passion for advocating for IWD stems from her personal experience with her brother, who was



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born with an intellectual disability and speech disorder. Witnessing his determination to be a productive and contributing member of society, despite the challenges he faces, has inspired Michelle to ensure that individuals like him receive the support and opportunities they need throughout their lives.

Joining the LIFE, Inc. Family

Michelle's dedication to advocating for individuals with disabilities led her to join LIFE, Inc.'s board of directors. She was drawn to the organization's commitment to being an advocate and resource for IWD. Through her work with LIFE, Inc., she looks forward to partnering with like-minded individuals who share her passion for supporting IWD and creating opportunities and resources for adults in need. Welcome aboard, Michelle!

Community News

On January 16, 2023, the City of Rockville hosted their annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. The celebration took place at Richard Montgomery High School, where there were features performances, awards, a keynote speaker, and interactive booths. During the event special recognition was bestowed to L.I.F.E. Inc. by Mayor Newton and the members of the Human Rights Commission to for our work in serving the community.

It was an honor to be acknowledged for our efforts in helping to improve the lives of people with disabilities in the City of Rockville, through efforts to improve accessibility or raise public awareness. One of the Founders of L.I.F.E.,Inc. accepted their

accolade by echoing a quote from Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s , Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, "Sooner or later all the people of the world will have to discover a way to live together in peace, and thereby transform this pending cosmic elegy into a creative psalm of brotherhood."

Dr. King's sentiment further promotes L.I.F.E.'s mission is to provide programming and resources

**L.I.F.E., Inc. had been selected
as a recipient of the
City of Rockville's
F. Michael Taff Award.**

**This award is awarded to an
individual, organization, non-
profit employer or business that
has helped improve the lives of
people with disabilities in
the City of Rockville, through
efforts to improve accessibility
or raise public awareness.**

to assist individuals with various disabilities to live self-sufficient within their community; to promote inclusion. We like to thank Mayor Newton and the residents of the City of Rockville, for the acknowledgment and encouragement to continue to make strides in dissolving barriers and promoting equality, for individuals with disabilities. "



Upcoming Events & Programs

We're back and ready to start exploring new adventures! Every year we like to have a new feature added to our programming. This year, we are focusing on the Empowerment Group. We are in the process of establishing a small team of ambassadors who will represent as the leadership of the program. This group will consist of five individuals whom have various disabilities, and are strong advocates for individuals with access and functional limitations. If you (or know of someone else) would like to nominate for this group please fill out the brief survey on our website. More information will shortly follow regarding our first meeting.

[Empowerment Group Membership \(life-mdinc.org\)](http://life-mdinc.org)

We are happy to announce that Mr. C. Skinner has agreed to devote his talent and knowledge as a professional artist, to assist us in the facilitation of the Cultural Diversity in the Arts project and the annual Art Showcase and Reception.

Once again, we are tweaking the program to encompass more forms of artistry. Also, we will explore samples of different forms of art by attending performances and various museum tours. A few of the forms of art that the group will learn more about are:

- drawing/painting
- sculpture
- spoken word
- photography

if you are interested in participating in this workshop please check our website. There will be a registration form to sign up if you would like to participate. In a few months we will advertise the theme for this years Artist Showcase and Reception.



During this year, there will be several innovative programs offered to the community from L.I.F.E., Inc. The first of those programs will be an in-depth Career Development Workshop series.

This set of workshops will be facilitated by a Board Certified Coach and National Certified Counselor. The Career Development Workshop Series will encompass such topics as resume writing with peer review, open discussions with various employers, how to effectively use the internet when doing job searches, personal connections and networking, and salary negotiations.

In accompaniment to the Career Development series, there will be an implementation of an internship project which will provide a path which participants can utilize the skills achieved from attending the Career Development workshop to place them into practical use. At the same time providing first hand experience of contributing to the workforce.



Partnerships

*"Great things in business are never done by one person;
they're done by a team"*

~Steve Jobs

Montgomery County Government (MCG) is passionate about making a difference in peoples' lives; and are committed to integrity, innovation, and inclusiveness. MCG employs over 10,000 people and are dedicated to public service excellence.

To showcase this there are two unique initiatives being offered to individuals with disabilities. Their mission is to cultivate strategic partnerships, drive organizational change, and empower our workforce through transformative human resource solutions.

MCG envisions a welcoming workplace, an innovative workforce — a model organization. In their daily work, they strive to embody our REACH values: Results-oriented, Empowering, Agile, Collaborative, and above all, Human-centric.

An example of MCG Human Resources Department aiming to provide opportunities to empower others joining their team via Career Fairs. This is one approach to assist others to explore and learn about how to apply for a variety of rewarding public service positions with Montgomery County.

How May I Help ...

We really appreciate all of the supporters of L.I.F.E., Inc. and their tireless efforts to ensure that the organizations mission is being implemented. Please take a moment to visit our website and take advantage of the opportunities to future contribute. We are always in need of skilled board members, talented volunteers, and generous sponsors. There will be numerous events and campaigns to partake in. Don't forget to contribute to DMV nonprofits working to create positive change in the community .

Here are a few ways which you can choose to donate your time, skills, and resources.

- ♦ United Way of the National Capital Area will host its 11th annual Do More 24 on **May 17, 2023**. We invite all community members and nonprofit partners to join us for the social movement that will bring together individuals and organizations committed to making a difference in our region. If you're interested in learning more about our individual funding opportunities; and like contribute to any one of them you may review our Do More 24 profile page by clicking on the donate button below.

Donor Comment

"I support living independently for everyone , because I agree that individuals can make their own choices , while meeting individual needs " ~E. Ferren

- ♦ On June 29th, L.I.F.E., Inc. will host a Wine and Cheese Social. Please take a moment to join us and unwind from a hard day's work. This will be a lovely event for you and a few close friends to partake in, and meet the staff and board of LIFE, Inc. There will be a live band, special guest speakers, an assortment of beverages and tasty snacks, and a silent gift basket auction. Tickets will be available for purchase shortly. Periodically, click on the donate button below to check on when purchases are available.

Volunteer Needed

PHOTOGRAPHER/ VIDEOGRAPHER

This volunteer is responsible to take pictures of people, events, places and objects, under the direction of the Executive Director. The majority work in general practice, which involves work such as taking pictures and/ or videos of events. Individual will work closely with the Marketing/ Communications staff/ volunteers.





You're Invited to an Elegant Wine & Cheese Tasting Event

JUNE 29th

Come and partake in learning how to pair some of your favorite vintages with an assortment of cheeses, fruit, and other savory treats.



Closing Message from the Executive Director: **Reflection of a Blossoming New Year.**

I would like to take a moment to extend a warm welcome to the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, partners, participants, and supporters of Living Independently for Everyone, Inc. It's been a while since the publication of our newsletter, but hopefully, after reading this latest issue you will agree that there are quite a few energizing expectations on the horizon for the organization. Since the creation of LIFE, Inc., the organization has accomplished milestones has

been able to successfully promote that diversity and full inclusion in communities, as well as, actively engage in community building activities.

As one of the Co-founders and Executive Director of living independently for each, I am honored to lead this organization in raising the bar and break down barriers in the areas of self-empowerment, cultural diversity in the arts, employment, etc.

I look forward to continuing to engage in a year of working with advocates who are strong will and like-minded, developing programming which offer promise and innovation, and developing pathways to strengthen a more inclusive society. I thank all of you for choosing to support the efforts of LIFE, Inc. ***Look-out, there are more exhilarating things to come near future...***



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