

# PROSPECTIVE

November 2017

2 Edition

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## Message from the Board...

The Board of Directors of Living Independently for Everyone, Inc. (LIFE) would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuous support. Thus far this year, we have had some truly great experiences offering various events and opportunities to the community. The best is yet to come; LIFE Inc. is in the process of developing some awesome programs to assist individuals in accomplishing their independent living goals. In closing, we would like to express our appreciation for you taking the time to stay in contact with us and further partnering with us to enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities. As we embark on the holidays, we hope that you're surrounded with the love of your family and dear ones on this festive season.

## Community Message ...

LIFE, Inc. would like to inform you of an event, which our friends from Safeway are hosting on **November 22**. A Feast for Sharing is an awesome event which provides individuals in need with free Thanksgiving meal. Please review the information below.



**SAFeway**

# FEAST of SHARING

AT THE WALTER E. WASHINGTON CONVENTION CENTER



Join us as we celebrate the season of giving!

A wonderful day featuring a delicious  
**Free Thanksgiving Meal**  
for those in need, live musical entertainment, free health screenings,  
community service exhibitors, fun door prizes and more.

**Wednesday, November 22, 2017**  
**9:30 am - 1:00 pm**  
**9:30 am** Community Services and Health Expo (West Salon)  
**11:30 am • 12:00 pm • 12:30 pm** Meal Seating Sessions (Hall D)

Walter E. Washington Convention Center  
801 Mount Vernon Place, NW Washington, DC

**M** THIS EVENT IS METRO ACCESSIBLE  
(The closest stations are Mt. Vernon Square 7th Street-Convention Center  
(Green/Yellow Lines) and Gallery Place (Red Line)

#SAFewayFEAST

events **DC onUp** **SENTRI** **THE SAFEWAY STORE** **DOING THE MOST GOOD** **UNITY**

**Centerplate** **PROJECTION** **CBS RADIO**  
Washington, DC



## *What's New....*

### **Employment Forum**

LIFE, Inc. & I3S Foundation are hosting an unique twist on the typical employment forum. This event will provide a platform for individuals with disabilities to engage in an open dialogue with employers. Discussion will be centered around developing strategies to breakdown employment barriers.

For this event we will have employers from a variety of departments and programs grace the panel. The panel will range of hiring and employment specialists from the federal government, private sector, agencies supporting individuals with visual and cognitive impairments, and etc.

Directly following lunch will be a Recognition Ceremony. The ceremony will honor individuals from the community who have displayed the fortitude to breakdown barriers in employment. Our speaker for this wonderful event will be Patrick McCarthy, from Senator Van Hollen's office. This event is made possible through the sponsorship of the Prince Georges Department of Aging and Disability.

### *Art Showcase 2017...*

On September 22, 2017, LIFE, Inc. celebrated its second annual art showcase. This is an amazing event established to highlight the cultural diversity and skillful artists who have been impacted by a disability. This year five extraordinary artists throughout the state of Maryland were recognized for their

magnanimous artistry. Those artists are: Nicole Brown, Nathaniel Gibbs, Mary Lear, Bruce Ramsey, and Tommy Roberts. Again this year, LIFE, Inc. was honored to partner with the Department of Accessible Programs at the National Gallery of Art.

The organization received a distinguish recognition from the Montgomery County Council and the County Executive in the form of the proclamation for promoting cultural inclusiveness.



Also, the organization receives an acknowledgment from the First Lady of Maryland, Yumi Hogan. In late December the artists highlighted in this year's event will be featured in a pop-up promotion on Maryland Public Television.

### *Bowl A Thon....*

In celebration of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), LIFE, Inc. had decided to partner with Disability Partnerships to provide a fun yet supportive event to raise funds to provide assistance to individuals with disabilities in obtaining employment.

On October 9, both organizations sponsored a Bowl A Thon, to acknowledge the contributions of workers with disabilities and to educate others



about the values of a diverse work force inclusive of employees with disabilities skills and talents. Proceeds from this event, received by LIFE, Inc., would go towards purchasing additional technical equipment for a

potential computer lab. This event further promoted that too small nonprofits with similar missions to enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities can do great things working together.

### *Upcoming Events / Programs...*

#### **Women's Empowerment Workshops**

Coming in March 2018, LIFE. Inc. will implement a program established to enhance the life skills and opportunities for women impacted by a disability. The Women's Empowerment program will take place over the course of four quarterly meetings.

During each of these gatherings, the participants will discuss and learn topics intended to cultivate their ability to navigate their environment, access available opportunities/services/support, and live independently. Further the participants will contribute to topics and the content of the specific meetings.

Areas of focus may include, but are not limited to the following: entrepreneurship, investing, personal care assistance, health and wellness, socializing, and travel. For more information or to participate in this program please refer to the organization's website.

#### **Accessible Computer Lab**

We are honored and thrilled to announce that LIFE, Inc. will be able to offer residents and both Montgomery and Prince George's County access to an accessible computer lab. Through a gracious donation LIFE, Inc. will be able to provide individuals with disabilities access to the latest software and technical equipment to assist them in a variety of ways.

Organization will provide monthly trainings in various software and programs. Please continue to refer to the organization's website for updates on the grand opening of our computer lab and to sign up for various classes.



## *Tis the Season 2017*

**REMEMBER :** All donations are tax deductible. Consider pledging your support to LIFE, Inc. & help promote the empowerment of individuals with disabilities.



**How You May Help...** LIFE, Inc. greatly appreciates being contributions for our friends. There are several ways which you may help support our efforts in promoting full inclusion for persons with disabilities. First, you may give a monetary contribution, by simply clicking on the home page of our website. Second, in-kind donations of office equipment, supplies, software, etc. are always needed. Please contact our Executive Director to provide information of your donation and to receive a receipt. 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 contact our Executive Director and go on our website to fill out an application.

**Board of Directors:** David C. Sharp (President), Richard J. Moore (Treasurer), Raymond Smith, John Quinn, Carolyn Bellamy

**Staff and Volunteers:** Farah Habib, Marcy Bournman, Balaji Fapohunda, Komla Tekpor, Doug Pool

**Executive Director:** Denise R Thomas

*Helping individuals with disabilities to establish preferences to live self sufficiently within their community.*