ENDEPENDENCE CENTER NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

***Annual Participant Holiday Party – see page 2***

# Picture of Cheryl Simpson smiling, wearing necklace and "Support IL" button.ECI Honors Cheryl Simpson for 40 Years of Service

***A message from ECI Executive Director, Nichole Davis***

Cheryl Simpson has been vital to the Endependence Center for the past 40 years. Though we are sad to see her retire, we can say that she was a critical part of the Endependence Center and will be missed. It is hard to imagine a time when she was not around to have the answer to operational questions, resolve a technology issue, or answer any question about programs Endependence Center provides that help support people with disabilities with obtaining employment, as well as help advocate and ensure that when emergency planning happens, people with disabilities are a part of those conversations. Cheryl Simpson was around when Endependence Center was starting, and helped see it grow and be part of how Endependence Center has impacted the Tidewater community. Throughout her time here, the Endependence Center has grown from a staff of less than 10 to over 25.  She was an employee who believed in the mission and vision of the Endependence Center, but also understood how vital operations and support were to ensure that all the various grants, programs, and services that helped meet the mission happened. It was not unusual that when a staff member had a question about a programmatic or operational need, “ask Cheryl” was a standard answer. ECI is sad to see her go, but after 40 years of HARD WORK, we wish her a Happy Retirement.

**ECI Mailing List Updates**

ECI is updating the newsletter mailing list. Participants working on goals will remain on the mailing list; you do not need to do anything. Everyone else – please let us know by December 5 if you want to continue receiving the newsletter (we hope you do!). Send an email to [kmarinier@endependence.org](mailto:kmarinier@endependence.org) or call 757-351-1569 if you want to continue receiving the newsletter. Please leave a message with your name and request to remain on the mailing list. If you now receive a mailed copy of the newsletter and would prefer to receive it by email, please provide your email address in the message.

**DECEMBER 2023**

# Annual Participant Holiday Party

***Gold border over white background with faint glitter stripe diagonal across, from top left corner to bottom right. 
Text reading “Annual ECI Participantt”
Script reading “holiday party” on an angle
Text reading “December 13, 12noon – 4:00pm, Entry ticket $5, Registration Required"
Gold ribbon tied in bow stretched across invite
***

**December 13, 2023**

**12noon – 4:00pm**

**Doubletree by Hilton Norfolk**

**1500 N. Military Highway, Norfolk**

The party is open to CENTER PARTICIPANTS only.

Participants may register one guest for $5.

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Register by December 6.**

**Call 757-461-8007 (TDD: 461-7527)**

The cost is $5.00 per person and payable at the door by cash, check, or debit or credit card.

Music, Pictures, Karaoke, Dancing, and Door Prizes

Menu: Mediterranean Chicken entrée with side salad (vegetarian option available upon request)

*You are encouraged to be responsible for your own transportation to and from the party.*

Community Events & News

*Transportation tickets are NOT provided to attend community events.*

**1ST Silent Dinner 5:00pm – 8:00pm**

**FRI Lynnhaven Mall (701 Lynnhaven Parkway, Virginia Beach)**

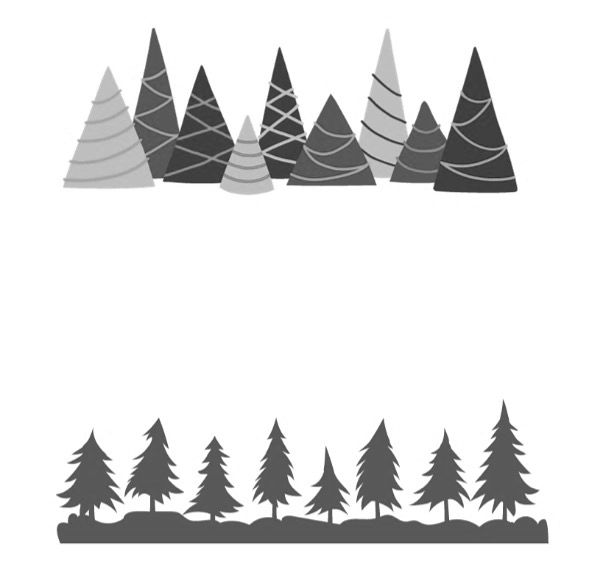
Southside Silent Dinner is a silent, social, family-friendly event for the deaf community, CODA (Child of Deaf Adult), ASL beginners and students, and others interested in ASL.

**19th Participant-Led Event 12noon – 2:30pm**

**FRI Buffalo Wild Wings (420 Monticello Ave., Suite 150, Norfolk)**

This event is organized by participants.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SUNDAY** | **MONDAY** | **TUESDAY** | **WEDNESDAY** | **THURSDAY** | **FRIDAY** | **SATURDAY** |
|  |  |  |  |  | **1** | **2** |
| ***\*These events are not organized by ECI. Bus and paratransit tickets will not be provided by ECI.*** |  |  |  |  | **Silent Dinner\***  **@ Lynnhaven Mall**  **5:00pm – 8:00pm** |  |
| **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** |
|  |  |  |  | ***ECI CLOSED FOR STAFF EVENT*** |  |  |
| **10** | **11** | **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** | **16** |
|  |  |  | **Participant Holiday Party**  **@ Hilton, Norfolk**  **12noon – 4:00pm**  ***ECI OFFICE CLOSED*** |  |  |  |
| **17** | **18** | **19** | **20** | **21** | **22** | **23** |
|  |  | **Participant-Led Event\***  **@ Buffalo Wild Wings, Norfolk**  **12noon – 2:30pm** |  |  | ***ECI CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF HOLIDAY*** |  |
| **24** | **25** | **26** | **27** | **28** | **29** | **30** |
|  | ***ECI CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF HOLIDAY*** |  |  |  |  |  |

December 2023

ECI LogoDisability Advocacy & Services

Endependence Center, Inc.

6300 East Virginia Beach Blvd  
Norfolk, VA 23502

***Phone:***

(757) 461-8007 Voice

(757) 461-7527 TDD

***E-Mail:***

[ecinorf@endependence.org](mailto:ecinorf@endependence.org)

***Website:***

[www.endependence.org](http://www.endependence.org)

***Newsletter alternate format:***

contact (757) 351-1598 or [ehoapili@endependence.org](mailto:ehoapili@endependence.org)

**Schedule Changes**

Check the ECI website: [www.endependence.org](http://www.endependence.org)

or call

(757) 461-8007, option 4

**ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Accommodations**

To request accommodations

for ECI activities:

(757) 351-1586 voice

(757) 461-7527 TDD

[tmanno@endependence.org](mailto:tmanno@endependence.org)

**Non-Profit Org.**

**U.S. Postage**

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