

ENDEPENDENCE CENTER NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

Annual Participant Holiday Party – see page 2

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 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

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 FRI** **Silent Dinner 5:00pm – 8:00pm**
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 FRI** **Participant-Led Event 12noon – 2:30pm**
Buffalo Wild Wings (420 Monticello Ave., Suite 150, Norfolk)
This event is organized by participants.

December 2023



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



Disability Advocacy & Services

Endeppendence Center, Inc.
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Phone:

(757) 461-8007 Voice
(757) 461-7527 TDD

E-Mail:

ecinorf@endependence.org

Website:

www.endependence.org

Newsletter alternate format:

contact (757) 351-1598 or
ehoapili@endependence.org

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Schedule Changes

Check the ECI website:
www.endependence.org
or call
(757) 461-8007, option 4

Accommodations

To request accommodations
for ECI activities:
(757) 351-1586 voice
(757) 461-7527 TDD
tmano@endependence.org

Social Media

Facebook: Endeppendence
Center, Inc.-Norfolk, Virginia