**Our Values**

**Our Beliefs**

We believe our pioneering model has and always will break barriers to a life of dignity and fulfillment.

We believe that beauty and potential exist in each of us. Enriched when we invest in one another.

We believe we are all connected and our community is strengthened when we stand for the rights of all people, the right to live free from discrimination.

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**Our Purpose**

Elevating human abilities for the mutual benefit of our Community.

**Our History**

Our [History](#) provides an overview of the key milestones and events that have shaped our organization. From our founding in 1980, to the opening of the Skills Training Center in 1986, and the introduction of Tailored Employment Services in 1992, our mission has remained steadfast to provide meaningful service and support to the community. In 1995, BI was recognized for swift and efficient response to individuals living independently affected by the 6.0 magnitude Northridge earthquake. The following year, 1996, we were awarded the first Community Activity Program in Sonoma County. In 1998, BI became one of the first in the North Bay to offer Tailored Employment Services. In 1999, the North Bay Business Journal named BI as one of the Top Places to Work! In 2000, BI opened the Bay Area's first Community Day Training Services. In 2002, BI was the first in the North Bay to offer Supported Living Arrangements, to assist people with disabilities. In 2005, BI was honored with the North Bay Business Journal's prestigious Best Places to Work! award. As we look to the future, we will continue to innovate and adapt to meet the changing needs of our community.
Many Thanks
Becoming Independent thanks its followers for their support and generous donations throughout the past very fiscal year.

Very Special Thanks to
The Joes Walk Legacy Circle:

J. Snell & CO., INC.

Thanks to

*Deceased

Executive Administrator

Annual Report

2014-2015