We Belong

Find out more about us online
www.becomingindependent.org
Purpose in Practice

Since its inception, Becoming Independent (BI) has been all about inclusion. We’ve taken this focus to the next level by wrapping up sheltered workshops in favor of fostering opportunities for more meaningful relationships between the people we serve and this community we all share.

This last year, we’ve honed in ever more keenly on how we can best fulfill our organization’s purpose of “elevating human abilities for the mutual benefit of our Community” by adopting a radically person-centered approach. The individuals we serve are not just getting out into the community; they are out and engaging in the activities they have chosen for themselves.

Being person-centered means that we are able to experience our surrounding areas in even smaller groups. As we grow in our activities and relationships, we find that we have moved beyond inclusion, and into a true belonging. The community welcomes us, and we, in turn, welcome our community.

You’re Invited!

You’re invited to attend or participate in our community events!

BI Olympics
If you missed out on our 2018 BI Olympics, held at the Santa Rosa Junior College, be sure to catch us next summer! Athletes from all over Sonoma and Marin counties compete for the gold at this popular community event!

BI Talent Show
Our fall talent show is not to be missed! Last year, we held the all-star competition at the SRJC’s Petaluma campus, with judges including local celebrities and a BI Board Member!

BI Dance
Our BI dances have grown considerably in popularity over the years, and we’ve stepped up our game accordingly, decking out the Flamingo Resort every winter in Santa Rosa for our DJ and dancers!

For more information on any of these events, join our mailing list or check out our website at www.becomingindependent.org!

BI Buzz Café

In partnership with Kaiser Permanente, Becoming Independent will be opening the BI Buzz Café this fall at Kaiser’s new medical office building located in Southwest Santa Rosa. The BI Buzz Café aims to provide healthy, locally sourced food and beverage options to customers. In addition, it will serve as a vocational training site and employment opportunity for people at Becoming Independent who have expressed the desire to obtain a career in the food and beverage industry. Along with Kaiser Permanente, we are elevating human abilities, one cup at a time.

Disability Awareness Training

Becoming Independent was proud to host approximately 230 correctional officers at our first customized training for the Sonoma County Sheriff’s Department. This training, which was presented by our Passport to Independence team, was created to convey best practices around engaging with people with developmental and intellectual disabilities, with a focus on Autism. Topics included how to identify common behaviors that could be easily misinterpreted, and understanding common communication differences and de-escalation strategies when supporting people with disabilities.
BIG Club Perks!

**Convenience**
When an automatic payment option is selected, members are able to “set it and forget it”! Sign up today using the remit envelope!

**Tax Breaks!**
Your monthly donations through the BIG Club are 100% tax-deductible!

**Status!**
Midway through each year, our members receive a gift of appreciation for their support. Go ahead and show it off to any non-members you might know. It’s okay to brag a little!

We believe in the BIG Club!
Each member of our Fund Development Team - and even BI’s Chief Executive Officer - are BIG Club members, and have been for years. Join The Club!

We Are Grateful!

Meet The Maiolini!
Ken & Sharon Maiolini have been strong supporters of BI for over 12 years, and in as many ways. One of the ways they give to BI is through their BIG Club membership. Each month, they give three gifts; one from each of them and one from their daughter who is served in our Life Skills program.

BIG Club stands for Becoming Independent’s Giving Club – our monthly giving club. Members of the BIG Club include families of the people we serve, friends of Becoming Independent, and, of course, staff! Dedicated staff members make up a large portion of our BIG club members, because they see firsthand the impact their gifts make every day.

Success comes from doing small things over and over again.
If every person who receives this newsletter were to give just $10 each month, that would add up to $300,000 each year. Every gift counts!

BI benefits greatly from the regular donations made by our BIG Club members!
Predictable and long-term support is a boon to our organization. Regular donations enable us to plan and project, making sure we are able to stay ahead of the curve in providing innovative and transformative services!
Becoming Independent

September 15, 2018
5:30 PM - 9:00 PM

For more information, contact
Dalton Wiley 707.524.6765
dwiley@becomingindependent.org

Details
Enjoy Polynesian dancers, tropical libations, local beer & wines, and an island inspired dinner buffet!

Location
Becoming Independent
1425 Corporate Center Pkwy
Santa Rosa, CA 95407

Tickets
General: $75 | VIP: $125
(includes VIP seating and 1 drink voucher)

Purchase tickets at BecomingIndependent.org

2018 Annual Gala
Thank you to everyone who made our 26th annual Dinner Under the Stars event a success! Without our guests, our corporate and private sponsors, and our staff working hard behind the scenes, the night would not be possible.

There is another group of people who don’t always get the recognition they very clearly deserve. They start working on this event months in advance. They give up their personal time, lean on their contacts, put in countless hours and valuable resources – all to ensure that this important event is the best it can be. I’m speaking, of course, of our Dinner Under the Stars Committee!

This group of dedicated supporters includes prominent business owners, local community leaders, and members of our wonderful Board of Directors. Allow us to introduce you to this dynamic team!

Dinner Under the Stars Committee
Adele Barclay - Family member served at BI
Lena Bowen - Owner of Let It B Designs; family member served at BI
Nick Caston - President of Golden State Government Relations
Donna Cates - Past BI Board Member; family member served at BI
Nick Dieter - Vice President of Employee Benefits at MOC Insurance Services
Gail Hirsch - Trust Specialist at Exchange Bank
Sharon Maiolini - BI Board Member; family member served at BI
Sylvia Parkinson - Owner of ATL Events
Ann Wallace - Sales & Trade Development for Jackson Family Wines

Gala 2018 Highlights:
• Over $390,000 raised for programs
• Largest paddle pledge, totaling over $200,000!
• Highest sponsor support, resulting in $66,500 raised!
Board of Directors

Bonnie Burrell  
President

Matt Welty  
Vice President/Treasurer

David House  
Secretary

Al Millan  
Deputy Executive Committee Member

Owen Cate

Ileana Enriquez

Ann Hudson

Carol Larson

Sharon Maiolini

Abigail Picache

Bryan Wright

Donations were made in memory of these friends...

Priscilla Best

Todd Thomas Burrell

James Coconas

Kathleen Anne Emery

Rodney Ikegami

Debra Rodriguez

Marge Kirkbride

Sheryl Melendy

Geneva Scheihing-Folsom

Andrew Schochet

Lynn Talafili

Dominic Tantarelli

Lenore (Joe) Vigare

David C. Wirth

Lloyd Zube

Our Purpose

Elevating human abilities for the mutual benefit of our Community.

Who We Are

Leading innovators in the field of human services.

Newsletter Credits

Design: Jeney Pribyl

Reportage: Jeney Pribyl

Remember BI in your will.