



**For Immediate Release**

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**BECOMING INDEPENDENT SIGNS LEASE ON SPACE IN SAN RAFAEL,  
ENABLING SERVICE EXPANSION TO MARIN COUNTY**

**Santa Rosa, Calif. (October 3, 2019)** – [Becoming Independent](#) (BI), the Sonoma County based non-profit that supports people with disabilities lead meaningful and productive lives, has signed a lease on a 1,945 square foot space at 777 Grand Avenue, Suite 101 in San Rafael. This new location will allow BI to extend its day services to clients in Marin County beginning in fall 2019. A community open house and grand opening celebration is envisioned for later this year, details to be announced.

The expansion into San Rafael became possible through an arrangement with Stephanie Plante, president and CEO of [CPi Developers](#), who has deep roots in the San Rafael community.

“We’ve heard from people in the San Rafael area for years, asking us to bring Becoming Independent’s services further south. We are so thankful for our newfound partnership with Stephanie Plante and look forward to becoming an important part of the Marin community,” said **Luna Vaetoe**, CEO of Becoming Independent.

The Grand Avenue space will serve as BI’s Marin County home base, and renovations will commence immediately. Once the new facility opens, 30 people will be able to participate in BI’s day services and benefit from the smaller staff-to-client ratios that distinguish BI’s services. This person-centered approach enables BI’s clients to explore their personal interests through inclusive community activities. Individuals are encouraged to actively engage in their own discovery process and to advocate for themselves on their aspiration to becoming active members of their local communities, while meeting their own personal and professional goals.

“We are so pleased to have the opportunity to welcome BI’s wonderful services to our community, where there is such a great need,” said **Stephanie Plante**. “CPi Developers are deeply involved with Marin non-profits, and BI’s mission carries a particular resonance for us. We look forward to BI joining and supporting this community.”

For information on enrollment in BI’s new San Rafael day services, please contact us at [info@becomingindependent.org](mailto:info@becomingindependent.org) or 707.524.6600.

**About Becoming Independent**

Becoming Independent (BI) is one of the North Bay's strongest nonprofit organizations serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Established over 50 years ago by a group of parents determined to create an alternative to institutionalization for their adult children with disabilities, BI helps people live meaningful and productive lives as engaged and productive members of their community. Additionally, BI has been recognized for program innovations such as developing a cutting edge program for adults with autism, as well as creating three social enterprise businesses that offer competitive employment opportunities for clients, exposure for people with disabilities in the business community, and income that helps supplement BI's budget. Learn more at <http://becomingindependent.org>.

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