

**For Immediate Release**



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**BECOMING INDEPENDENT WINS COUNTY OF SONOMA SHREDDING BUSINESS**

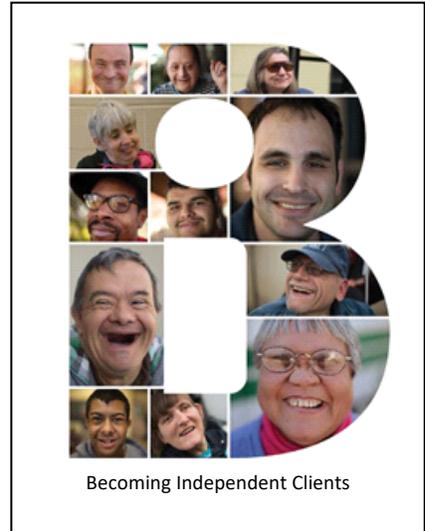
*New contract with BI expands program to 52 new county office locations  
BI's new mobile shredding truck will optimize efficiency*

*Free "Shred-a-Thon" on Friday, January 10, 10 am-1 pm, is open to the public*

**Santa Rosa, Calif. (January 2, 2020)** – [Becoming Independent](https://becomingindependent.org) (BI), the Santa Rosa-based nonprofit social impact organization that supports adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), has reached an agreement with County of Sonoma to be the exclusive shredding vendor to the county. This contract expands the relationship to 52 new locations throughout the county.

**To celebrate this new contract, and the new year, BI is hosting a free "Shred-a-thon" on Friday, January 10 at 1425 Corporate Center Parkway in Santa Rosa. From 10am until 1pm,** anyone in the community can bring up to three banker's boxes of documents for free secure shredding and environmentally responsible disposal. Event details at <https://becomingindependent.org/event/shred>.

BI has operated a successful confidential document-shredding business since 1999, employing adults with disabilities in every aspect of the service. In early 2019, BI purchased through grant funding a mobile document destruction truck that provides enhanced security and efficiency to meet the needs of their growing customer base. BI already provides shredding services to St. Joseph Medical Group, GHD, as well as other area organizations.



"We're excited about growing our shredding enterprise and being able to provide more employment and training opportunities to BI clients," said **Luana Vaetoe**, CEO of Becoming Independent. "The recent addition of our mobile shred truck provides us with infrastructure and operational capacity to efficiently and effectively service customers at a single location, as well as those with multiple locations across county lines."

The contract is effective immediately and runs through November 30, 2020, with an option to extend another year.

BI's confidential document shredding services are just one part of BI's growing social enterprise division, which also includes the operation of all concessions on the SMART train and the BI Buzz Café inside Kaiser Permanente's new Mercury Way Medical Office Building in Santa Rosa. These services build on BI's long history of partnering with local and regional businesses and community organizations. They match the real business needs of the community with the desire of BI's program participants to be active and productive members of their community, while generating revenue that provides critical support to all of BI's programs.

### **About Becoming Independent**

Becoming Independent (BI) is one of the North Bay's strongest nonprofit organizations serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Established more than 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.

For information on how to sign up for BI's shredding or other social enterprise services, or for enrollment in BI's services, please contact BI at [info@becomingindependent.org](mailto:info@becomingindependent.org) or 707.524.6600. Learn more at <http://becomingindependent.org>.

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### **FOR CALENDAR EDITORS**

## **BECOMING INDEPENDENT TO HOST FREE DOCUMENT "SHRED-A-THON"**

*Community invited to free secured document shredding Jan. 10*

**WHAT:** [Becoming Independent](http://becomingindependent.org), a nonprofit that supports adults with developmental disabilities live meaningful and independent lives, is hosting a document "Shred-a-Thon." It is **free to the public**.

Start the New Year right by getting rid of old documents from home or office. BI will be offering free shredding from their Mobile Shred Truck. (*Restrictions: Must be 100 percent paper – no plastics, metal or other waste. Limit is three banker boxes per person*). Details at <https://becomingindependent.org/event/shred>

**WHEN:** **Friday, January 10**  
10:00 AM – ribbon cutting of shredding trucks

10:30 AM – 1 PM—Shred-A-Thon

**WHERE:** Becoming Independent  
1425 Corporate Center Parkway  
Santa Rosa, CA 94507

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