



**Project
Independence**

STAND UP

2017 Annual Report



40 years of
Advocacy for people with
Developmental Disabilities

Bobby

Quite simply, Bobby Spitzberg is unforgettable. People who underestimate him- like judging a book by its cover – do so at their loss. But those who take the time to meet him quickly realize that he is the walking, talking epitome of Project Independence, which was founded on the belief that people like Bobby who have disabilities still possess the potential to live productive lives and interact in their communities. While Project Independence celebrates its 40th anniversary, Bobby celebrates his own 40th anniversary of working as an award-winning employee at Marriott Hotel. Join as we celebrate Bobby, a integral part of the Project Independence family.



People with disabilities have a right to fully participate in the community and that participation both enlightens and strengthens the community.



By listening to the hopes and dreams of people we serve, we can help them realize those dreams and lead fulfilling lives.



Services are focused on the individual and presented in a dignified and respectful manner.



Having a job, friends, and home of your own are all intrinsic to a healthy, happy life.

40 Years of Empowerment

Project Independence

1977

Founded the first independent living program in Orange Country.



1980-1989

Established federally funded program to assist with independent housing & pioneered Supported Employment Program.



1990-1999

Team Independence competed in Newport-Ensenada Regatta & Access to Adventure program kicks off with Mt. Whitney climb.



2000-2006

Launched entitlement specialists program to assist clients and families with benefits & received federal grant for affordable housing project.



Vantage Foundation

Vantage Foundation established as a school for at-risk children.

1977

Started first community-based day program for people with complex behaviors & opened satellite offices in Anaheim and South County.

1980-1989

Named exemplary program by the state for focus on employment for all and Day Program has 100% employment.

1990-1999

Received grants to purchase accessible vans for programs & establish Harmony Program for seniors with I/DD.

2000-2006

2007-2017

Project Independence and Vantage merged to strengthen mission. Purchased and renovated offices at 3505 Cadillac. Healthy Living Program established through a grant from Pacific Life and Irvine Foundation. Support Service Vendor Award presented to Day Program by Regional Center of Orange County. Created annual Walk for Independence as signature fundraising event.

Message from the President



Strong people stand up for themselves; stronger people stand up for others. We cherish our mission here at Project Independence. Our goal is to promote civil rights for people with developmental disabilities through services which expand freedom and choice. As we look toward our next 40 years, we ask you to stand with us. Thank you.

Debbie

Where Your Money Goes

Stand With Us

With your support combined with the Project Independence Family, we can ensure that those who need us most carry this season's giving spirit into the New Year.

- You will help build lives of true independence.
- You will help create friendships, achievement, and inclusion.
- You will be part of a world of possibilities.

Join us now and become part of the Project Independence Family. This is a team effort. We cannot do this without You! Make a donation at www.proindependence.org/donate.

