

Indian Creek Foundation is quickly approaching our 50th year of serving individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities and Autism. What started as one family's effort to provide worship, social, employment, and residential opportunities for their son has grown into a thriving organization that serves over 1200 people per year.

Much of the success of Indian Creek Foundation as a service provider and employer can be attributed to the Mennonite philosophies upon which our organization was founded. We were born out of an era that saw the end of institutionalization, but not enough replacement resources, for people with disabilities. Indian Creek was intentional from the very beginning about compassion and dignity for the individuals both in our care and in our employ.

Our commitment to those values has never wavered, and it never will. Over the past two years, we engaged in many interviews with staff members, service recipients, and families of the individuals we serve. In conversation after conversation, our interviewers heard some variation of the same sentiments:

- Everyone treats everyone like family; they all truly care about each other
- The energy is always positive and fun; I can't wait to get here
- Everyone here has something to offer
- I wish everyone knew what a great organization this is

We are both humbled and proud to know that our dedication to treating every single person with respect has resulted in a legacy of meaningful relationships, a superior standard of care, and career satisfaction.

As a nonprofit organization that has enjoyed strong leadership from within the Mennonite community for our entire lifespan, we are happy to share that we have a long-standing record of fiscal responsibility, leadership development, and organizational goal achievement. This year, we welcomed two new Directors who have proven to be impressive additions to our leadership team. We have also administered several internal staff promotions, multiple professional development opportunities, and an enriching summer internship for one local college student.

Our Development department expertly produced three major fundraisers in 2024. These included BINGO in March, a Sporting Clays Challenge in May, and our 33rd Annual Roll Stroll & Run in June. In total, the events raised \$120,000 for our Behavioral Health, Day, and Residential and Community Services Programs.

We also launched a campaign in January of this year called The Mission to Serve Every ONE, which is based on the idea that by prioritizing each person, we will meet the needs of many in our community. The mission goal is to raise \$2 million so that we can continue operating at a level of funding that ensures we consistently have exceptional staff and programs. We have raised one half of our goal to date, and we are confident that we will surpass all expectations due to the generous support of our community, churches, businesses, and individual donors.

Thank you for welcoming Indian Creek Foundation to the 2024 Conference Assembly. I invite you to visit us at our 420 Cowpath Road Campus for a tour and more information about our organization.

Blessings,
Dean Stoesz