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A Different Sensibility: ICS Founder Rick Surpin

ICS founder and President Rick Surpin was recently honored by the Medicare Rights Center. In explaining why Rick was chosen for this award, the Center's President, Joe Baker, said, "Rick is a pioneer and a visionary leader. Long before 'patient-centered' became a catchphrase, Rick was committed to making sure that those who are the most vulnerable because they may have a disability or have become frail with age—that care was really focused on them. He has been an innovator by being someone who has always listened to consumers, plan members and patients and asked – what do you need to live life to the fullest – not just to get better or be okay – but to actually live life fully."

Now, a recent episode of Independence Radio gives people

anywhere the chance to listen to Rick. In this fascinating interview he talks about what led him to found ICS and describes one of the defining experiences of his life: seeing, as a young person, what life was like for residents of the notorious Willowbrook State School for people with disabilities on his native Staten Island.

Later, joining with others to help people forgotten at Willowbrook move back to their communities set the stage for Rick's pioneering work at ICS. One of the earliest ICS members was a member of the Willowbrook class.

To listen to Rick's interview and other great stories from the ICS community, visit Independence Radio at <http://soundcloud.com/icsny> or just search for "Independence Radio on SoundCloud" online.

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