

INDEPENDENT CARE SYSTEM

ICS to Launch New Disabilities Program

On April 1, Independence Care System will open the first and only "health home" in New York State specializing in helping people with physical disabilities stay healthy and independent, in their communities. A "health home" is not a place where people live; it is an organization that coordinates healthcare, social and community-based services, and public benefits like food stamps or housing assistance. New York State charters health homes to assist people with multiple health conditions, which is true of many people with physical disabilities. Health home care managers may help schedule medical appointments and make sure that a member's doctors are working together and sharing important information; they may educate members about their conditions so they can take better care of themselves, or help members apply for public benefits and advocate for themselves. The ICS mission remains the same. ICS was created almost 20 years ago in order to help New Yorkers with disabilities get the services they need to live outside of institutions and to thrive in their

communities. ICS put into practice the belief that disability rights are human rights, including the right to choose how and where to live. The new ICS health home will carry that mission forward. It is the result of many months of discussion with the State Department of Health about how to make sure that ICS's disability expertise will continue benefitting New Yorkers with disabilities when ICS closes its managed long-term care (MLTC) plan, now scheduled for March 31. "DOH worked with us over many months to ensure that we will be able to use the specialized knowledge and skills we have developed to continue serving New Yorkers with disabilities, some of whom have been ICS members for almost two decades," said ICS Chief Operating Officer Regina Estela. "We are thrilled that ICS will be able to continue filling the critical need for comprehensive disability-expert care coordination." ICS President Rick Surpin added, "ICS has an impressive record of helping our members avoid disability-related health crises and unnecessary hospitalizations and

nursing home stays. What we do, not only saves public health dollars, it is vital to ensuring that New Yorkers with disabilities are able to live safely and independently in their communities, which lies at the heart of the ICS mission." You can learn more about the new ICS health home on the organization's website: www.icsny.org • 877-427-2525

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Alpha Care is a family-owned business established 25 years ago as a regional durable medical equipment provider. Today, Alpha is a provider of accessibility solutions in the entire metro-NYC region including the 5 boroughs, Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, and Yonkers. The company specializes in various types of access applications: modular ramps, portable ramps, ramp systems, stair lifts, patient lifts, wheelchair lifts, home elevators and even provides fully ADA compliant bathroom/home modifications. Clients include residential users, institutions, houses of worship, event planners, schools, universities, property management companies, etc. Equipment is often rented to educational facilities

ties that require access products for short-term needs such as commencement exercises, concerts, and fundraising/benefit events, etc. In-depth residential and facility evaluations are offered free of charge with no obligation. Primary emphasis is placed on safety and ease-of-use by end users and/or care-givers. As a well-stocked brick and mortar supplier of access ramp systems and lifts, emergency needs can be resolved quickly. Alpha is also an approved vendor for NYC Build-it-Back Sandy Recovery project and NYS FIDA insurance program. Used equipment is also available and is offered at reduced prices based on availability. Properly licensed and insured, Alpha Care is an approved vendor for federal, state and local government agencies.

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Independence care system

CENTER FOR INDEP. OF DISABLED, N.Y.
CIDNY Helps With Benefits

Center for Independence of the disabled, New York (CIDNY) conducts comprehensive benefit screenings for health care, SNAP (formerly food stamps), heating assistance, Social Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability (SSDI), tax benefits, veteran's benefits, housing subsidies, Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE), Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE), various waiver programs, prescription assistance, unemployment insurance, subsidized transit, among other benefits. We provide information on these programs, help with applications, explain the appeals process, and make referrals to the appropriate New York City agencies.

WE HELP PEOPLE:

- find income or other supports including healthcare, housing, transportation, education, and food that makes their lives better.
- understand how to look for housing and use the rental support programs that can make it possible for them to live in the community.
- transition from institutions to living in the community so that they can resume their lives.
- understand how moving into the world of work will affect their lives.
- navigate complicated systems and solve difficult problems to get the health services they need.

www.cidny.org • 212 674-2300

ing. During the summer more than 150 campers attend the camp. They interact with their peers, gain new confidence and return home with memories and new friends. The camp is a not-for-profit organization and scholarships are available. For information contact David Billingham.

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CIDNY's Benefits Check-Up



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- * Health Insurance Options
- * Housing: DRIE/SCRIE, HEAP
- * Transportation: Access-A-Ride, 1/2 Fare Card
- * SNAP
- * SSDI
- And more...

For more information call CIDNY and ask to speak to a benefits counselor.

ASL, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Spanish-speaking counselors are available.

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 841 Broadway
 Ste 301
 New York, NY 10003
 212/674-2300 (tel)
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