

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide all the services and resources a person with a serious and persistent mental illness needs, to manage their symptoms, find belonging and purpose, and gain the independence to live a healthy, quality life.



Donate Online Now at
IndependenceCenter.org

4245 Forest Park Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63108
314.533.4245

For general information,
call our Clubhouse
314.880.5476

For donation information,
call our Development Office
314.880.5402

If you or a family member need services,
call our Welcome Center
314.533.4163





BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

Employment plays a central role in life and helps form a person's sense of identity and self-worth. In addition to financial independence, work gives us purpose and connects us to those around us. Society, however, can stigmatize people living with mental illness, making it challenging to find or maintain a job.

Independence Center's Clubhouse, a psychosocial rehabilitation program, partners with top St. Louis corporations and business owners to meet their employment needs. Our Clubhouse program is one of 350 such programs world-wide.

Independence Center's employment program is designed to remove obstacles and provide individualized support so that members have success on the job.

HOW WE PREPARE OUR MEMBERS FOR WORK

Independence Center Clubhouse is organized around a structured system called the work ordered day. The work ordered day parallels the typical business hours and functions of the working community. Our members come to the Clubhouse each day to volunteer in a variety of jobs that are essential to the operation of the Clubhouse.

We believe in the dignity of work and know that work is one of the best ways to develop a sense of worth and value. In our program, members go from isolation to community and learn to manage their symptoms. They understand what is needed and expected at a job and develop a strong sense of responsibility to it.

**"WORK IS ESSENTIAL...
IT IS THE GLUE THAT BINDS US TO SOCIETY."**

Bob Harvey, Founding Director

TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Fully-trained part-time employees
and guaranteed job coverage

Recruiting and training are one of the highest costs within an organization. Our Transitional Employment (TE) program solves this problem with fully trained, supported part-time employees.

We even guarantee job coverage in the event our member is unable to make it to work.

Employers Benefit From:

- Prescreened, qualified and highly motivated workers
- Reduced training costs as our staff provide recruitment, on the job training and support
- Elimination of benefit costs due to part-time employment
- Reduced loss of productivity due to job coverage

Members Benefit From:

- The opportunity to gain work experience and build confidence
- Establishing current references for future work opportunities
- Intensive support from Clubhouse staff
- The purpose, self-worth and connection to others and the sense of dignity and pride that employment provides

Transitional Employment positions are designed to be time-limited so that once a member has completed the six to nine month position they have the confidence to obtain a permanent job in the field of their choice. This provides another member an opportunity to take their place and be trained by Independence Center staff.



SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

Qualified permanent employees
to meet your needs

Employers looking for qualified permanent employees can take advantage of our Supported Employment (SE) program.

Our members have diverse skills, education, and experience that often make them the most valuable employees.

Employers Benefit From:

- Motivated, qualified and dedicated employees
- A committed Independence Center staff available to support the employer, as well as the member
- Satisfaction of providing an opportunity to someone who deserves a chance to prove themselves

Members Benefit From:

- Assistance with the job search, securing the position, and navigating the onboarding process
- Training, as needed, when members start the job
- Ongoing support from Clubhouse staff throughout their employment

If you hire someone from our Supported Employment program you will find that this is not just a job for our members – it's a turning point in their lives. Our members take nothing for granted and truly value the opportunity to have permanent work.

65%

of members who expressed interest
in finding employment were
employed within six months or less.

WHY EMPLOYERS LIKE TO PARTNER WITH INDEPENDENCE CENTER

Excellent Employees

Our members are dedicated, motivated, reliable and enthusiastic, which leads to lower turnover and increased productivity.

Time & Cost Savings

Our staff provides recruiting, training and support at no cost to you.

Work Force Diversity

Our members come from all walks of life from all over the community and will enrich your work environment.

Community Engagement and Exposure

Partnering with Independence Center shows your commitment to the larger community and enhances exposure for your business. We actively promote our employment partnerships during our public events, on our social media platforms, during facility tours and in many of our marketing materials.

Independence Center provides employment services to over

245 people each year.



WHAT OUR EMPLOYMENT PARTNERS SAY

Rx Outreach

"Independence Center has given us the opportunity to work and grow alongside assiduous souls who have helped to transform our culture at Rx Outreach.

Our partnership with the Independence Center has enriched our corporate culture in many ways. We are extremely proud and happy to be one of the partnering organizations paving the way for unique opportunities for those living with mental illnesses."

*Alexis Collier,
Operations Manager
RX Outreach*



Equifax

"I could not be more proud of our partnership with Independence Center. I have seen many members come through Equifax and each of them has done amazing work.

The TE role is one that is responsible for heavy e-mail volume and time sensitive material. Every day the work is handled efficiently and accurately. The role they are in definitely provides great support to my teams. We greatly appreciate the TE's and it is such a pleasure having a small part in their development and watching them grow not only professionally but personally."

*Lee A. Miles, Senior Manager,
Claim Services,
Workforce Solutions*

EQUIFAX

The Chase Park Plaza

"Our employment partnership with the Independence Center has enriched our corporate culture in so many ways and made us better at what we do. The members and the staff from the IC have reminded us all of the importance of recognizing every employee as an individual; with unique abilities, skills, experience, and perhaps most importantly, potential."

*Courtney Bell,
HR Manager*



MEMBER **SUCCESS** STORIES

"I was broke, homeless, struggling... Today I have a compass and direction in life."
Mark Brodz

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES LIVES

Mark Brodz, Independence Center Member

My name is Mark and I've been a member of Independence Center since November of 2009. I didn't come to the Independence Center on a winning streak.

I was broke, homeless, and just out of one of my many hospitalizations for mental health issues and suicide attempts. Like many people with mental illness, I had been struggling to get well for a very long time with many failed attempts at a correct diagnosis and medication.

Originally, all I wanted from the Clubhouse was computer access and a job. As far as doing anything for anybody else, forget about it – that was my mind set at the time. Sadly, this mindset persisted for 5 years and it was painful – for everyone.

In 2014, Dr. Charles Conway with Independence Center's Health Group correctly diagnosed my illness and put me on a medication regimen that works for me. He also prescribed other non-negotiable actions to take. Some actions included daily attendance at the Clubhouse and involvement in the work ordered day.

So, I attended the morning meeting where we volunteered for jobs. Cleaning bathrooms is a humbling experience. It can also be humorous with some surprising encounters – trust me.

Looking back, that is where my darkness started to lift - cleaning toilets with the staff, side by side. That, my friends, is real teamwork and relationship building. Eventually, I started giving tours and found out that there was more that the Clubhouse had to offer.

I started attending the employment meetings in search of a job. Fall of 2017, a TE was opening at one of our employment partners,

Equifax Workforce Solutions. Never at 55 years old did I think I would be an intern, but it worked for Robert De Niro in "The Intern," so I gave it a shot.

A few months into my TE job, my boss and I had a talk. I explained my plans for getting off of disability and that I wanted full-time employment. She asked if I would consider Equifax. I said of course and that I had been looking at the job openings, but, even though I had a degree, it didn't look like I had the qualifications or experience listed for the positions. She smiled and said, no one knows how to do what we do until we train you.

As my TE position was ending, I was able to secure full-time employment as an Unemployment Insurance Specialist at Equifax. Now, I am a Senior Client Service Representative.

Today, I have a compass and direction in life. Independence Center, Dr. Conway, and the medical team saved my life and Equifax has given me a lifestyle I didn't think was going to be possible again.

Lauren Wood (Equifax)
and Mark Brodz
(IC Member)



MEMBER **SUCCESS** STORIES

"I didn't know I had skills and potential to succeed, but the Clubhouse showed me that I did." Lisa Clay

Lisa Clay, Independence Center Member

I have been a member at Independence Center for two years, and so many things have changed.

Before coming in, I was in a dark and gloomy place. I was doing nothing with my life but eating and sleeping. That was my life for 24 years.

I didn't see anything in myself until I came to Independence Center.

On June 5th 2017, my life changed drastically for the better. That day, at Independence Center, I was introduced to a place that brought the life I have today into existence.

Things really started changing when I started to attend the Clubhouse. I was just here to go to Weight Watchers classes, but getting more involved in the unit was what really changed things.

I didn't know that I had skills and potential to succeed, but the Clubhouse showed me that I did. It's amazing when someone tells you that you do something well. Coming to the Clubhouse has boosted my confidence and given me purpose in life. It gave me something to do other than sleep. I built a routine at the Clubhouse and it gave me skills that I could use in the real world.

Eventually, I got my first TE at Panera and completed a six month position. Immediately following, I accepted my second TE at Rx Outreach and completed a nine month position. What I like about Rx Outreach is that it teaches you to give to others, because it's a non-profit organization. It's helping people in need, and I love helping people.

One of the things that I enjoy most about working is the relationships that I build with my coworkers and my employers. There is a whole other world out there that I didn't know about before Independence Center.

I like having a routine and schedule, being expected somewhere at a certain time, and being relied upon to complete a certain task. Now, I'm doing things that I never thought I could achieve.

WE HAVE A GREAT WORK FORCE

Let's Put it to Work for You

If you're ready to partner with Independence Center or want to know more about our programs, please call us at **314.880.5476**.

Or visit our website at **IndependenceCenter.org**.



Accreditations

- Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities
- Clubhouse International
- Missouri Department of Mental Health
- Missouri Department of Vocational Rehabilitation



Special Awards

- Johnson & Johnson Dartmouth Transformation Award for increasing Supported Employment opportunities for people with mental illness.
- Robert Wood Johnson Employment Award

Alexis Collier
(Rx Outreach) and
Lisa Clay (IC Member)

