

# *Independent Living Celebrating Independence*



*I want to thank you for the rent assistance. It has been hard since I lost my husband. Inflation and illness in your older years can make it very difficult to make ends meet. You have been a blessing for me.*

*Homelessness Prevention Program Client*

Dear Friend,

You'll notice we skipped the colored ink for our *Celebrate Independence* appeal this year in an effort to economize on printing and ensure that more of the funds we raise go to those in need. Of course, like all of you, we'll still celebrate Independence Day on July 4th and, with your help, we'll continue to celebrate independence all year long by providing the in-home services and affordable housing options older adults and people with disabilities need to live with independence and dignity.

Independent Living, Inc. has been a part of our community, serving Dane County's oldest and most frail citizens for 36 years. We've faced challenges along the way but because you in the community trust in and value our work, we've been able to maintain and expand our services. Programs like *Home Care, Caregiver Respite, Evening Meals on Wheels, Home Safety Modification, Housekeeping, Homelessness Prevention, Friendly Visiting and Financial Counseling, Home Share and Health Advocates* serve clients in their homes. We also offer quality, service-supported housing for older adults at The Gardens and Segoe Gardens in Madison, McKee Park Apartments in Fitchburg and Olympic Village at Sun Prairie.

This year, we've seen a dramatic increase in the need for subsidies in all of our programs. Older adults have watched their pensions diminish, food and gas prices rise and some are facing foreclosure or losing their homes because they can't meet their monthly payment. According to AARP, more than 600,000 older adults are delinquent or in foreclosure nationwide right now. Others, having paid off their mortgages, might want to move to housing with the care and services they need but can't sell their current home in order to do so. Still others are cutting back on food and prescriptions in a last ditch effort to pay their bills.

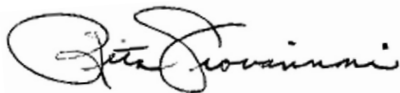
It's heartbreaking to see the generation that learned to be financially prudent in the wake of the Great Depression, who saved diligently, sacrificed for their children and wouldn't dream of buying extravagances, facing insolvency and the loss of their homes. More concerning, we have learned there will be no increases in Social Security next year and, for the majority of these folks, that is their primary source of income. As the oldest in our community watch their incomes decline and their cost of living continue to rise, they are frightened that they will outlive what savings they have left. They know a fall or a catastrophic illness could force them to relinquish their independence and enter a nursing home.

Surely, we can do better by our elderly who have sacrificed so much and now have so little. Independent Living has the programs and the competent, caring staff and volunteers to serve them but we need your help. While the needs are greater than ever, we've unfortunately seen a drastic reduction in public and private sector giving. Unless we can recoup some of those dollars from community donations, we cannot provide the vital services they need.

With your support, we can offer temporary rent subsidies to many on the brink of homelessness until they are eligible for Section 8 vouchers or other programs. You can help us ensure the frail and homebound have at least one hot, nutritious meal a day. Your gift can provide respite to an over-worked family caregiver and, together, we can reach the most isolated to provide a friendly visit from a volunteer or a daily phone call to check on their safety.

This 4th of July, as you celebrate with family and friends, please remember those older adults and people with disabilities who have little to celebrate and need your help. We ask that you *Celebrate Independence* by responding generously to this appeal. Your dollars give the gift of independence, peace of mind, health and hope, allowing our seniors and people with disabilities to live with the dignity they deserve. Thank you so much for your contribution and we are proud to count you among our friends and supporters.

Best regards,



Rita Giovannoni  
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. Please write a check today and mail it to the address below or, if you wish, use your credit card to donate by return mail using our printable donation form, or donate online. Your generous contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



**Independent Living, Inc.**

815 Forward Drive, Madison, WI 53711

608-274-7900

FAX 274-9181

[www.independliving.com](http://www.independliving.com)