

# Image

The Inglis Newsletter

FALL  
2021

inglis.org



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Solutions

Self-Determination  
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Connelly Foundation

Sparking Creativity &  
Lasting Resilience

VOL. VIII, NO. 1



Ability &  
Independence.  
Redefined.

# The Impact of Resilience



During these past twenty months, every member of the Inglis Community has found both strength and resilience that has been tested over and over. In these moments, we have turned to each other for hope, encouragement, and solidarity.

Our donors — YOU — are an immeasurable source of all things good for the people we serve. You have shone a collective light on the value of Inglis' mission.

I'm incredibly grateful to every one of you for all you have helped Inglis achieve in this past year. In celebration of you, I'm excited to share the FY2021 Impact Report in this issue of *Image*. While just scratching the surface on all the ways our donors made an impact at Inglis, it also illustrates how each dollar helps to magnify ability and independence for the amazing people of the Inglis Community.

With gratitude,

**Dyann M. Roth**

President & CEO

[Dyann.Roth@inglis.org](mailto:Dyann.Roth@inglis.org)

## INGLIS EXECUTIVE TEAM

**Christopher Bathe** • VP, Chief Financial Officer

[Christopher.Bathe@inglis.org](mailto:Christopher.Bathe@inglis.org)

**Theresa Jenkinson** • VP, Executive Director, Inglis Community Services

[Theresa.Jenkinson@inglis.org](mailto:Theresa.Jenkinson@inglis.org)

**Ben Laudermilch** • VP, Executive Director, Inglis Housing Corporation

[Ben.Laudermilch@inglis.org](mailto:Ben.Laudermilch@inglis.org)

**Karen Voegele** • VP, Chief Integrity Officer

[Karen.Voegele@inglis.org](mailto:Karen.Voegele@inglis.org)

**Cheryl Whitfield** • VP, Human Resources

[Cheryl.Whitfield@inglis.org](mailto:Cheryl.Whitfield@inglis.org)

### Photos in this Issue:

You will see photos in this issue that show residents and staff both with and without masks. Some photos were taken before the pandemic, and some were taken in controlled environments where those present were all vaccinated. Please know we've been fully complying with all local, state, and federal guidelines to keep those we serve and our staff safe.

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## INGLIS

2600 Belmont Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19131  
[inglis.org](http://inglis.org)

**Main Number:** ..... 215-878-5600

**TDD/TTY Number:** ..... 215-473-3179

**Toll-Free Number:** ..... 866-2-INGLIS (866-246-4547)

**Innovation Center:** ..... 267-295-5400

[info@inglis.org](mailto:info@inglis.org)

[admissions@inglis.org](mailto:admissions@inglis.org)

[careers@inglis.org](mailto:careers@inglis.org)

[community@inglis.org](mailto:community@inglis.org)

[development@inglis.org](mailto:development@inglis.org)

[housing@inglis.org](mailto:housing@inglis.org)

[volunteer@inglis.org](mailto:volunteer@inglis.org)

### On the Cover:

Dan Culver, resident of Inglis House, having a virtual guitar lesson in his room with music teacher Dan McGowan.

Inglis enables people with disabilities — and those who care for them — to achieve their goals and live life to the fullest. As such, Inglis welcomes great people in all our programs and employment opportunities, without regard to disability, race, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, military service, marital status, or any other characteristics, as protected by law. We encourage all people with disabilities who may benefit from our programs and services to apply for participation, and equally hope those who meet job criteria, including veterans and the long-term unemployed, apply for our employment opportunities.

**We are strong. We are resilient.  
We will move forward together.**



We find ourselves a year and a half into a phase of our lives that has tested us in infinite ways. Yet, the determination, grit, and strength of spirit displayed by each member of the Inglis Community is incredible.

In this issue of *Image*, we take a deeper look at this resiliency and how it played out through artistic expression, incredible generosity, and connection with one another.

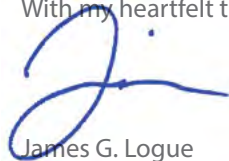
Inglis is familiar with challenges, and we are expert at adapting, innovating, and overcoming obstacles that many would deem too daunting to confront. Our predecessors survived world wars and the Great Depression, and many also had their fair share of peace and prosperity, all the while carrying out the mission that Annie Inglis so presciently started in 1877.

If it had not been for the generous support of so many of you, our donors, and those before you, we would not have survived so long or accomplished so much. We are grateful for your confidence in, and support of, our work, and we are honored to celebrate you.

Personally, this issue is especially meaningful to me because it marks the last time I will write this letter to the Inglis Community in *Image*. The end of my term on the Board on June 30, 2022 will be a milestone in my nearly 35-year relationship with Inglis, and it will close one of the longest chapters in the “book” of my life. Along the way, I have had the good fortune to witness firsthand the dedication of the people who work with the residents in Inglis House, our housing communities, and our participants in our day program — their humor, talent, warmth, compassion, expertise, and the professionalism of the entire Inglis team — continues to inspire me.

Throughout all of our experiences, the overwhelming dedication to Inglis’ mission is palpable, and each experience and moment of generosity and compassion that I have witnessed is a memory that I will cherish forever.

With my heartfelt thanks,



James G. Logue  
Chair, Inglis Board of Directors





*Katie Griffiths, IATS Educator, trains Akira James to use her new iPad.*

## Inglis Assistive Tech Solutions: Independence through technology

**Inglis Assistive Tech Solutions (IATS)** continues to expand and grow in an attempt to reach more people and increase the impact of their work. Previously known as the **Community Computing Program**, the team originally focused exclusively on working with people with disabilities who lived in the community (as opposed to a long-term care environment like **Inglis House**) and who needed help using a computer, mobile technology, or smart home devices.

IATS continues to build on more than a decade of success in the community and nearly 40 years of assistive technology (AT) support in Inglis House. But now, IATS is expanding its base to support two additional groups: seniors who seek to age in place and young adults (18-30) with disabilities — understanding the growing need for assistive tech for both segments of our extended community that seek greater independence through technology.

When asked about the changes, **Charles Sammartino**, Manager of the

Assistive Technology Program, said “The core idea is the same. We’ll continue helping people with disabilities gain independence. We’ll apply those same resources and principles to assist seniors who want to age in place, as well as younger adults who likely just lost the support of the school system,” he said. IATS recognized the creative solutions they offer to people with disabilities can be solutions for others as well.

During the pandemic, IATS was forced to teach AT skills virtually, rather than in-person, which brought its own challenges. The IATS staff became Digital Navigators, a program partnership with the City of Philadelphia. Through a grant by the Digital Literacy Alliance, Navigators help individuals access affordable internet and technology. Inglis is one of only a handful of organizations selected for this grant, and IATS was able to step in to ensure those needing services at home had access to them.

## Adapted Gaming: Accessible fun

Assistive Technology can mean so many different things to different people. For some, being able to send an email to family and friends may be the goal. For others, it may be accessing social media. And still for others, it could mean learning new technologies to rejoin the workforce.

**Dominik**, a young man from Croatia with physical disabilities, visited Philadelphia to receive medical treatment. His family contacted IATS because Dominik is a huge basketball fan with a particular love for the 76ers and had ambitions to play NBA 2K, a basketball simulation video game.

IATS worked closely with Dominik to help him achieve his goals. They recommended Microsoft’s Xbox Adaptive Controller, which is designed primarily to meet the needs of gamers with limited mobility. IATS then mapped specific commands to the larger buttons to accommodate his range of motion, and soon, Dominik was able to control the game and take shots against the opposing team.

IATS is solely focused on each individual’s goals and not on a pre-determined curriculum. The IATS team always begins a new client assessment by asking “What do YOU want to do?” Sometimes the answer is simply something that provides joy, such as playing games.

**Please get in touch with IATS so you can find out what’s truly possible! Contact us at [IATS@inglis.org](mailto:IATS@inglis.org) or 215-581-0767, or visit [inglis.org/IATS](http://inglis.org/IATS)**



*Dominik (left) and Charles Sammartino, Manager of the Assistive Technology Program.*

# Acting Without Boundaries: Helping people act out



During the past several years, residents of **Inglis House** and participants of **Connections**, Inglis' enhanced day program, have taken acting classes through the nonprofit organization **Acting Without Boundaries (AWB)**. AWB uses theater as a vehicle to build self-esteem in people with disabilities, create connection, and celebrate ability.

Classes were held virtually due to the pandemic, which required the support of Inglis Assistive Tech Solutions. They worked directly with participants and staff to support them in engaging in their AWB classes and rehearsals. This included supporting video calls on a variety of platforms and equipment to connect with other AWB peers, managing documents to access play scripts, and often helping participants write their own words for assignments.

Recently, six residents of Inglis House participated in a three-day master workshop that focused on musical theater. "I've said this from day one. In AWB, it doesn't matter how you look, how you sound, or how great your voice is," said **Will Thomas**, an AWB participant and resident in Inglis House. "You're just automatically included. And that feels great."



## We like you a lot!

## Like us back.

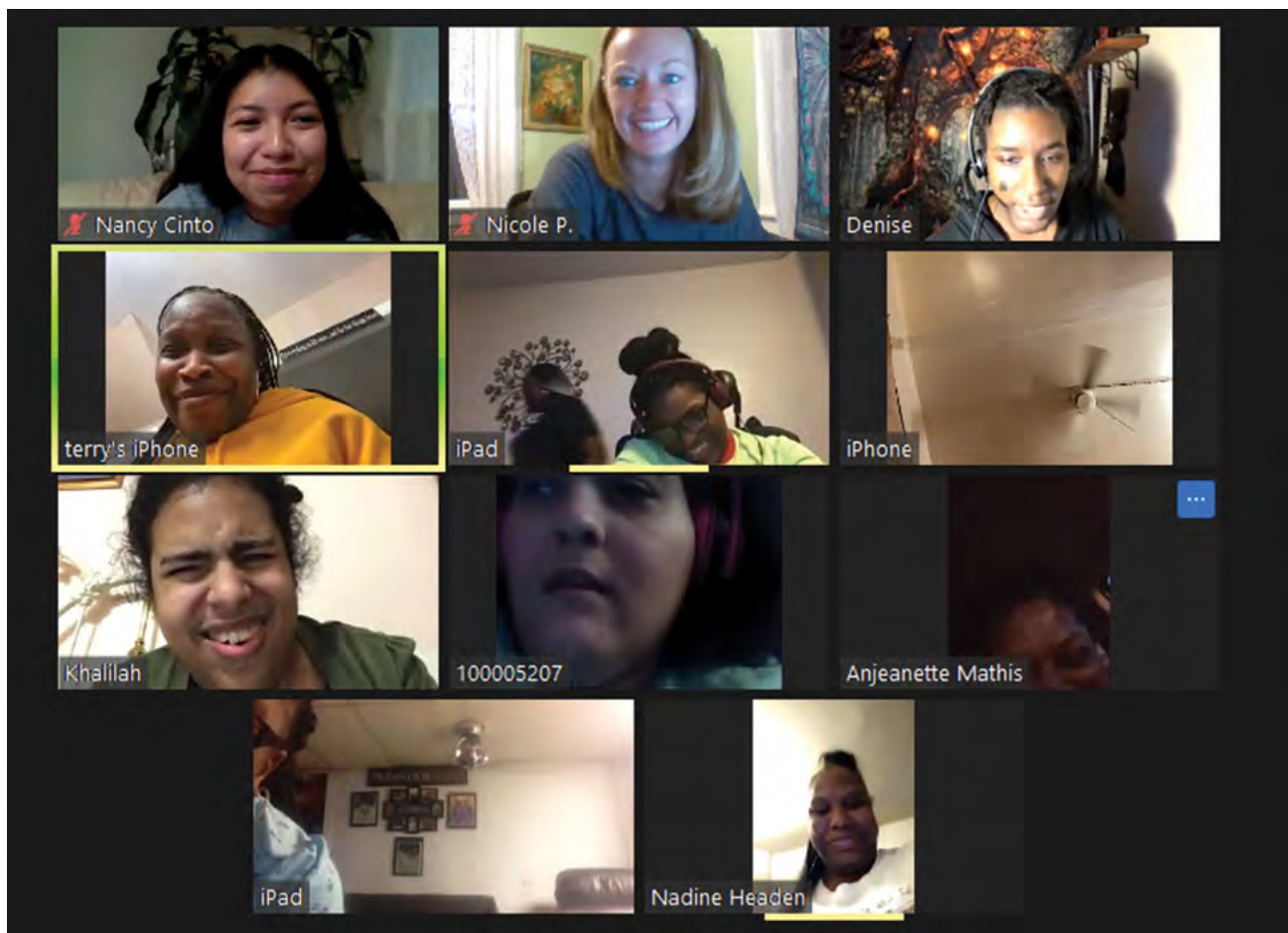
Follow us on social media to see day-to-day updates from Inglis programs and staff.

**Facebook:** [inglisdotorg](#)  
**Instagram:** [inglis\\_org](#)

**Twitter:** [inglisdotorg](#)  
**LinkedIn:** [inglis](#)







## Making Connections in a Virtual World

**Connections**, Inglis' enhanced day program, has gone through a number of iterations throughout the pandemic to meet the needs of participants and staff. In March of 2020, city and state mandates required all day programs, including Connections, to close their doors, expecting, like most, that it would only last a couple of weeks. Once the gravity of the situation was realized, the Connections team, led by former Program Manager **Anjeanette Mathis**, started making outreach calls to ensure their participants had everything they needed: supplies, caregivers, support, food, etc. As time passed and Thanksgiving neared, the team organized curbside visits and, thanks to a generous donor, dropped off pies and grocery store gift cards. "It was nice to just see them in person, even if it was waving from the curb," said **Nicole Pruitt**, Director of the Inglis Innovation Center, which is home to Connections.

Fast forward to 2021, and the PA Adult Day Services Association, of which Nicole is a Board Officer, began to see movement after months of advocacy to get virtual services approved. After a lot of planning, "Virtual Connections" gave people an opportunity to tune into sessions offered in both group and one-on-one settings via Zoom. "Something cool that we weren't expecting is how a lot of individuals had their loved ones participate with them in the sessions. Usually, we're not able to make some of those personal

connections with family members, but in this case, we got to connect with people in a way we wouldn't have been able to before," said Nicole. "In one instance, someone's dad even played guitar in a session!"

When asked how they felt about being virtual, all said they missed seeing their friends and staff members in person, but the participants were still happy to have some engagement with the program and each other, even through a computer screen. A common theme among participants was how much they enjoyed "Music Bingo," a session run by Connections' Recreation Therapist **Nancy Cinto**.

Since June of 2021, Connections has reopened its doors on-site, and slowly all formal virtual programming has discontinued. The participants and staff are happy to be together again in person.

**If you know someone who would benefit from day program services, please contact us at 267-295-5400 or email [Nicole.Pruitt@inglis.org](mailto:Nicole.Pruitt@inglis.org)**

# SDHP, A Program of Inglis Community Services



*Seated (l. to r.) Barbara Huggins, Valerie Kolb, Samantha Vollrath, Sam Jones, Howard Ermin  
Middle row (l. to r.) Beth McKeown (stick figure in absentia), Tara Thobe, Heather Slaughter,  
Dawn Edwards, Laura Willmer-Rodack, Julia Hoskins, Olivia Benson, Leah Marmo-Rainey  
Back row (l. to r.) Kara Yost, Gabbreell James, Jennifer Malone*

Earlier this year, on February 1, 2021, **Self-Determination Housing of Pennsylvania (SDHP)** merged with Inglis to officially become a program of **Inglis Community Services**. Since then, the combined organizations and teams have been working to integrate services to better support people with disabilities and seniors throughout the Commonwealth.

Both organizations have been doing this work for a long time. Since its establishment in 1994, SDHP has advanced its mission to promote self-determination and control in housing for persons with disabilities and older adults. SDHP has a statewide presence as an accessible housing advocate and leader for their specific populations, and they bring an extensive affordable housing network, as well as a deep knowledge of housing, vouchers, and home modification resources, to Inglis' array of services.

"We are excited to bring the entire SDHP team into the Inglis family," said **Theresa Jenkinson**, Inglis VP & Executive Director of Inglis Community Services. "SDHP has expanded Inglis' reach and scope of services, and Inglis is enhancing their operations through strategic planning and connections to new housing development opportunities," Theresa said.

The missions of both organizations work harmoniously to promote independence and autonomy in the lives of the people they serve. Based in the community, SDHP's work involves training, education, and referrals to service providers, government organizations, and landlords who, in turn, work directly with individuals with disabilities and older adults who are seeking housing. This enhancement in housing-related services reinforces Inglis' commitment to impacting the housing crisis for the disability community.

"We successfully concluded the Inglis-SDHP merger and have only grown stronger as a team," said SDHP Program Co-Directors **Leah Marmo-Rainey** and **Laura Willmer-Rodack**. "During the past year, we've grown from a team of 10 to an ever-growing team of 18. We've rolled out our Home Modification program, enhanced our 811 Project Rental Assistance program, and our Regional Housing Coordinator program continues to train thousands of individuals across the state," Leah explained.

## Scaling Up Home Modifications

Just six short months after the merger, SDHP and Inglis landed a major federal grant from the **US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** to increase their home modification capacity. SDHP has been providing home modification services since its creation in 1994 — most recently through a grant provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development.

With the HUD grant, SDHP will now be able to serve even more individuals through the Older Adults Home Modification Program. This grant was specifically created so that low-income seniors (65+) can age in place. This allows them to stay in their homes for longer periods of time rather than relocating to more accessible locations, such as skilled nursing or assisted care facilities.

The grant targets five Philadelphia zip codes and nine counties in Central Pennsylvania, all identified as "Opportunity Zones," or communities that have been deemed economically distressed and would benefit from economic development and job creation.

An Occupational Therapist is on staff, serving as the Program Manager, which allows for a more holistic, health-focused approach to home modifications. SDHP is set to modify approximately 90 homes over three years with the help of their two partners, the **Center for Independent Living of Central Pennsylvania** and **Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia**, and plans to begin construction on those modifications starting in 2022.

**Applications are now being accepted.**

**For more information, please call**

**610-873-9595 or email**

**[Beth.McKeown@inglis.org](mailto:Beth.McKeown@inglis.org)**



# Inglis Methodist Gardens Opens



Inglis and its partner, **Methodist Services**, proudly opened the newest housing community, **Inglis Methodist Gardens (IMG)**, a first-of-its-kind community in Philadelphia, bringing together affordable housing providers, healthcare organizations, and social service agencies. IMG is now home to formerly homeless families and individuals with disabilities in 47 affordable, integrated, and supportive apartments. For those living within the units designed for people with disabilities, that includes Inglis' accessibility+ design and smart home technology.

Inglis and Methodist Services were awarded Low-Income Housing Tax Credits from the **Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA)** in 2019. Rounding out the funding for the \$16.8 million housing community was a \$4 million leadership gift from **Aetna Better Health of PA** and a \$700,000 investment from the **Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh**.

"I am so proud of the Inglis and Methodist Services teams, along with all our partners, especially considering this was completed during a pandemic," said **Ben Laudermilch**, Inglis VP & Executive Director, Inglis Housing Corporation. "IMG embodies the spirit of collaboration at the intersection of housing and healthcare," he said.

# Making Homes Smarter



*Smart home* is a term used to describe a variety of systems that support automation to improve independence in the home. From voice controls for turning lights on and off to remote door openers, from video doorbells to controlling your window blinds on your smartphone — all this is now possible in the new world of smart home technology.

Inglis is committed to the ongoing benefits that smart home products can offer individuals with disabilities and seniors seeking to age in place. With IMG, we are bringing our expertise in smart home tech to outfit 23 apartments with technology to automate those homes and provide increased independence for those living in them.

Our IATS team will provide education, support, and creative approaches in order to assure residents can successfully adopt this technology into their daily lives. *(See IATS story on page 4)*



Learn more at  
[Inglis.org/plannedgiving](https://Inglis.org/plannedgiving)

*This does not constitute professional and/or financial advice. Always consult a financial planner or tax professional first.*

## Support Inglis' Mission with Your IRA at Any Age

For those 70½ years old and older, you can give any amount (up to a maximum of \$100,000) per year from your IRA directly to Inglis and put your gift to use today.

- Pay no income taxes on the gift, and you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.
- Beginning in the year you turn 72, your gift can satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution.

For those 59½ years old or older, you can take a distribution and then make a gift from your IRA without penalty. If you itemize your deductions, you can take a charitable deduction for the amount of your gift.

No matter your age, designate Inglis as the full or partial beneficiary of your IRA and it will pass to us tax-free after your lifetime.



# Planned Giving is for Everyone

Anita Weinberg is no stranger to Inglis. She has served on Inglis' Board of Directors since 2015 and leads the organization's fundraising initiatives as Chair of the Advancement Committee. During this time, Anita's focus has supported large initiatives, like the opening of the Inglis Innovation Center and fundraising events that raised significant funds for Inglis' Assistive Technology Program.



Anita, a longtime annual donor, is also the newest member of the Annie Inglis Society, which recognizes those generous people who make a planned gift to Inglis. She joins a vibrant list of donors from all walks of life whose generosity helps secure Inglis' future.

While Anita's initial plan was to include a bequest to Inglis in her will, it wasn't until a chance conversation as she neared a milestone birthday that she realized she could make a planned gift now that made an immediate impact. After talking with her financial advisor, Anita started directing a portion of her required minimum distribution from her retirement fund to Inglis. The process was simple, and, in fact, it meant that she could increase her giving while enjoying the tax benefits.

"I always thought of planned giving as something very complicated," shared Anita. "And while we still plan to include Inglis in our will, I'm grateful to be able to increase my giving and see the impact of that support now. It really goes to show that planned giving is for everyone."

Now, Anita continues to support Inglis as an annual donor and is making a greater impact than ever before through her IRA. Inglis thanks all those who make planned gifts and welcomes Anita to the Annie Inglis Society!

[plannedgiving@inglis.org](mailto:plannedgiving@inglis.org)  
(215) 581-3134

## Journeys: Reaching your goals through peer support



*Anya Bowden (left) speaks with her Journeys Peer, Paula Burnett, in her former room at Inglis House. Thanks to Journeys' support, Anya achieved one of her goals and moved to independent living at Inglis Gardens at Belmont.*

Receiving licensure in November 2019, just a few months prior to the COVID-19 shutdown, **Journeys** has overcome many obstacles that new programs often face, all while navigating a global pandemic. Created to address the intersection of physical disabilities and mental health diagnoses, Journeys uses the evidenced-based Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) model to pair participants who have both a mental health diagnosis and a physical disability with a Journeys Peer who has similar lived and/or professional experience.

This program was created from an extensive research study done with Inglis participants after realizing that people who live at this intersection usually find their physical needs often overshadow their mental health concerns, leaving the latter unmet. "From our research, it appears that CPS programs, concentrating on both physical disabilities and mental health challenges, don't exist anywhere else," said **Maria Bell**, Director, Care Management and Behavioral Health Services.

Journeys is a program in which the participant identifies their goals, and the CPS helps them take concrete steps to get there. An example might be an individual who wants to move into their own apartment. The Journeys CPS would work with the individual to create a list of necessary steps and do what they could to assist in achieving that goal. The approach is very intentional so that participants maintain their self-determination and still receive the support they need.

**If you or someone you know would benefit from working with Journeys, please contact [journeys@inglis.org](mailto:journeys@inglis.org), call 215-581-3121, or visit [inglis.org/journeys](https://inglis.org/journeys)**

# Connelly Foundation:

## A decades-long friend to the Inglis Community

As an organization nearing its 145th birthday, Inglis has been fortunate to work with incredible families over the years whose philanthropy has shaped not only Inglis, but also the Philadelphia landscape. The Connelys are one of those extraordinary families. As John F. Connelly, long-time CEO of local powerhouse Crown, Cork and Seal Co. and a co-founder of the **Connelly Foundation**, once famously said, “Philadelphia has everything — why would you ever want to live anywhere else?”

Established in 1955 by John and his wife Josephine O’Neill Connelly, the Connelly Foundation is a force for social good in the Philadelphia region, seeking to improve the quality of life of its residents by supporting charitable organizations that strengthen resilience and help people to flourish.

For the Inglis Community, that dedication translates into nearly half a million dollars in critical funds over more than thirty years. The Connelly Foundation has helped Inglis make strategic leaps forward in many ways: expanding our disability-competent therapy programs with the construction of the therapy building in 1986, providing upgrades and adaptations to wheelchairs for all residents in 1992, and transforming a person-centered care neighborhood at Inglis House in 2015.

Most recently, the Connelly Foundation invested in Inglis’ community-based services by providing funding for the Computer Lab in Connections, Inglis’ enhanced day program. The gift came about after **Emily Riley**, Executive Vice President at Connelly Foundation and a ten-year veteran of the Inglis Board, toured the then under-construction Inglis Innovation Center with her colleagues from the Connelly Foundation in the fall of 2019.



“We have long admired Inglis’ ability to be responsive to the current needs of the disability community while always looking towards the future with creativity and imagination,” shared Ms. Riley. “The new Inglis Innovation Center is another sign of Inglis’ commitment to providing innovative new ways to engage their population.”

After a successful opening in December 2019, no one could have predicted what came next when, just three months after opening with a fully stocked lab, Connections temporarily closed because of the pandemic. Although the Computer Lab wasn’t filled with



*Terry Green, Connections Lead Program Assistant (right), helps participants use the Computer Lab shortly after it opened in 2019.*

participants as once anticipated, it became a crucial resource during that time (*see **Virtual Connections story on page 6***). Now that Connections is once again holding in-person sessions while adhering to strict social distancing requirements, program participants are able to enjoy this state-of-the-art facility.

“By supporting organizations that respect human dignity, the Connelly Foundation became part of Inglis’ COVID response for participants in Connections by providing the assistive technology that helped us deliver crucial services while people remained isolated at home during quarantine,” shared **Dyann Roth**, Inglis President & CEO. “We are grateful for their friendship and tremendous impact on all of the incredible people we serve.”

Inglis acknowledges all those at the Connelly Foundation, from their Board to their exemplary staff, for keeping the Inglis Community connected.





Left: Valerie Stanley, Most Courageous Athlete & Patrick Hatfield, Most Dedicated Athlete



## The Keen Games Return

2021 saw the triumphant return of the **Keen Games**. Except for last year as a result of the pandemic, every fall since 1976, the Inglis Community has celebrated the annual Keen Games where residents, staff, volunteers, family, and friends fill our beautiful courtyard for a day of friendly competition.

We had to get creative this year due to the pandemic. The games were spread out over four days (Sept. 8-11, 2021) to reduce numbers and maintain social distancing for safety protocols. For three days, the teams competed in games such as Shuffleboard, Poker Lawn Darts, Wheelchair Slalom, Homerun Derby, and a new game, Axe Throwing (plastic axes with suction cups!). The Games culminated on the final day with the Parade of Champions, cheered on by staff and a few family and friends.

After the parade, everyone celebrated with ice cream and soft pretzels, and the athletes received their medals and awards.

The **Therapeutic & Life Enrichment** staff created a spectacular event for our resident athletes and all those who attended. This year's games were again graciously sponsored by **PA Health & Wellness**.





# THE POWER OF CREATIVITY

Bruce Garrabrandt, a self-taught artist from Lancaster County, PA once said, "Creativity doesn't wait for that perfect moment. It fashions its own perfect moments out of ordinary ones."

These past many months, as the world appeared to freeze in time, seemed even more frozen for the Inglis Community. Residents in Inglis House were often quarantined in their rooms due to COVID safety protocols, and most programming paused; participants in community-based services were similarly "land-locked" at home and unable to attend the Connections day program, work at their jobs through Inglis Employment Services (though many returned after a long delay), receive in-person assistive technology support, or meet together with a certified peer specialist through Journeys.

But like Garrabrandt said, "Creativity doesn't wait." And throughout this pandemic, members of the Inglis Community have shown their resiliency as they stitched together thousands of ordinary moments to create the sparks of creativity in their various passions.

Whether those sparks developed into artwork, poetry, music, prose, photography, baking, crafts, or a multitude of other outlets — the flame of creativity burns brightly within the Inglis Community. To see full versions of our community's creative endeavors, please visit [inglis.org/creativity](https://inglis.org/creativity).



**DAN CULVER** is an Inglis House resident and member of the Inglis House Band, "The Band with No Name." Each week, he and music teacher Dan McGowan work on guitar lessons. Both Dans can't wait to play together in person, but for now they enjoy each other's virtual company.



**JOYCE WASHINGTON**, a resident of Inglis House, dreams of being a famous artist like Norman Rockwell. She loves to use color in her work and hopes her art makes people "feel happy and inspired." Before the pandemic, she participated in an art show and sold a few pieces of her brightly colored work. "It made me feel like I was already famous," she recalled.

There is an abundance of creativity within the Inglis Community — far more than could ever be included in a few pages of *Image*. Please make sure you visit our website ([inglis.org/creativity](https://inglis.org/creativity)) to not only see more works from the those represented here, but to also see the work of many more, including: **Derrick Freeman**-painter; **Susan Wexler**-crocheting; **Stephanie Shea**-painter; **Debra Callaway**-poet; **Christopher Jerns**-painter; and **Deborah Ulmer**-songwriter.







**ASHLEY MURPHY-MOORE**

moved from Inglis House in 2016 to live independently in Inglis Gardens at Belmont. She started to take art seriously when she became a wheelchair user at the age of 12. "I use art to express myself. My favorite artist is Frida Kahlo. She had a lot of trials in her life. I always found her really inspiring... Oh, and buy art and support your local artists," said Ashley.



**TIFFANY DANIELS** is a poet and resident of Inglis House. Tiffany works on poetry weekly in the Poetry Class and on her own. She enjoys many creative pursuits and had a career in fashion design. Here is an excerpt from *I Got Love To Share*

*I got love to share*

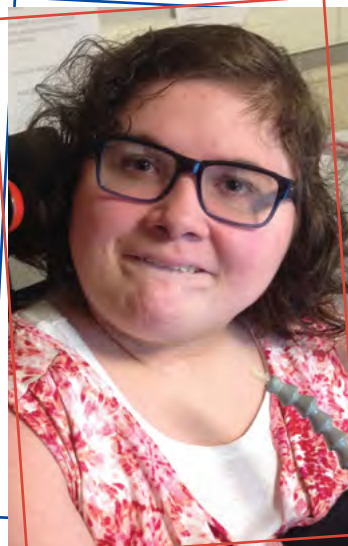
*I got ways to always feel  
you here*

*I got feelings I want him to  
bare*

*Bare it and hug me inside*

*So what, I have pain u  
caused in which*

*I have to reside*



**SELINA VALENTIN**, the newest resident at Inglis House, has been painting for about four years. She likes working in digital programs, like Microsoft Paint, loves fashion, and also creates colorful patterns for clothing.



**DAVID KARASOW** used to work for Inglis Community Employment Services before deciding to spend more time working on his art. He focuses on photographing pieces of architecture or elements of design and then creating intricate collages on his computer. His works are unique and visually stunning — several hang in the Inglis Innovation Center.



To see full versions of our community's creative endeavors, please visit [inglis.org/creativity](https://inglis.org/creativity).



**RUBY CLARK**, a resident at Inglis' Mission Green community, said "I draw what I feel inside; my art is mostly about me and the things I've been through. I'll be going along and then something blocks me, and I'll swerve and curve and then go straight along again. That's what I draw."



**PAUL WOLTANSKI** is a resident at Inglis House and has been painting and drawing since the fourth grade! He prefers to use oil but uses acrylics since they are more affordable, easier to use, and dry faster. Paul's favorite things to paint are animals, comic book characters, and sports players, like Philadelphia Flyers' Bernie Parent.



After completing this issue, Paul passed away. We celebrate his memory.



**CHRIS STEIN** is a writer who moved to Inglis House in 2017. During some of the long months of quarantine, expression through creative outlets has been an important part of his routine. Chris writes with raw authenticity, often about challenging subjects. He committed his thoughts to the page last summer after a brief hospital stay. An excerpt of that story, *Breathe*, follows.

*"The doctor gave me three options. I could be tubed (aka intubation). I could maintain the status quo. Or I could be shot up with morphine. Admittedly, my eyes lit up at the thought of an opiated stream of blood feeding my head. However, the doctor was quick to shoot that white horse when he made it clear that I'd be riding high off a cliff. So, with a jerk of the knee from a jolt of reality, I opted for the tube down the throat.*

*The flatscreen hung on the far wall. When it turned on, a large pink circle lit the display. The circumference was traced in silver. Inside were the letters LG in a proprietary font. Beneath the logo, in an understated white font, loomed the words "Life's Good." The caption was disproportionately small to what I saw in front of me.*

Please visit [inglis.org/creativity](https://inglis.org/creativity) to read the full story.



# Introducing the New Leadership Team at Inglis House

Many of you will recognize our new Nursing Home Administrator for Inglis House, **Angela Imperiale**, who assumed the role earlier this summer. Angela has been a part of the Inglis family since 2013 and has a deep understanding of and commitment to Inglis House.

After joining Inglis House as a Therapeutic Educator, she watched a previous administrator lead operations and interact with the residents and the various departments. She realized the administrator's role was her long-term goal. She told him, "Not now, but I want your job one day!"

"The closer I got to the residents," said Angela, "the closer I got to the staff...and that made me want to learn more about all the other departments and how we all work together to provide the best care and experiences for our residents."

Prior to taking on her new role, Angela was the Assistant Nursing Home Administrator and had been the Life Leader for the 2South Neighborhood.

In August, **John Chapman** joined the team as the Inglis House Assistant Nursing Home Administrator and works closely with Angela to manage all aspects of Inglis House. John has worked in the long-term care industry since 1995 when he began in Environmental Services (EVS). "It's all about people, whether you're taking care of their environment or leading a facility; it's all about trying to make their lives better," John said.

He moved from EVS to Plant Operations, then into Administration — mostly within Philadelphia Archdiocesan Nursing Homes (Saint John Neumann-Philadelphia; St. Mary Manor-Lansdale; and Saint Francis Country House-Darby) through 2015. Between 2016-2021, he worked at for-profit nursing homes, most recently, Complete Care at Marcella in Burlington, NJ. John is very thankful and enthused about serving at Inglis House. "I view my

work as more than a job," he said.

"Providing services to our residents, their loved ones, and to our co-workers is both rewarding and fulfilling."

In October, Inglis House brought on the third part of the leadership triad. **Joy Ottih** joined as the new Director of Nursing for Inglis House. Joy also brings a wealth of both long-term and hospital care experience to Inglis.

Growing up in Nigeria, Joy was deeply affected when her mother suffered a mild stroke at a young age. She saw the care that was needed and knew nursing was her calling. Starting in long-term care when she first came to the US, she said, "I was hungry for more. I wanted to keep learning."

From medical/surgical departments to critical care, Joy saw new ways of providing care and saw the impact of rapid response to a patient's needs. "I am in the business of keeping patients alive and healthy, and when there is an issue, you have to address it right away instead of waiting for someone else to take care of it," said Joy.

"My hope," Joy said, "is that I will be able to impart my knowledge to my team members, and they in turn will impart their knowledge to me. Providing the highest quality care has to be a two-way street."

All three leaders are stepping into these roles in a long-term care landscape that has changed dramatically due to the pandemic, but they all share enthusiasm in taking care of the residents and staff members of Inglis House. "We care for truly exceptional humans, and the staff that work with these humans are called to this profession," said Angela.



*Angela Imperiale, John Chapman, and Joy Ottih (top to bottom).*

# Night of the Stars: Celebrating Community Employment Services



**Inglis Community Employment Services (CES)** team members were celebrated and honored on June 21, 2021 for their difficult and demanding work both before and during the pandemic.

CES is an employment program, placing people with disabilities into jobs within the community. Most work off-site from Inglis' main campuses on Belmont Avenue.

**Jaimee Moshe**, the new Senior Director of Programs for Inglis Community Services, had realized that participants in the CES program often feel disconnected from Inglis.

Inglis contracts with **UniqueSource**, a disability services and support organization in Pennsylvania, to place individuals with disabilities in positions with PA's Department of Motor Vehicles and General Services as photo license technicians and custodial teams.

Many of the teams stopped working when their locations shut down due to the pandemic, but they were then required to return as locations reopened.

To honor them and show appreciation for their work, Jaimee and her team organized the "Night of the Stars," a Hollywood-themed event, complete with a red carpet, a mocktail hour,

dinner, and an award ceremony in which everyone received an individualized award.

"Some of these people might have never even been to Inglis' campus before," said **Payton Vinson**, Program Development Specialist. "With this event, we were able to say, 'We see you. We appreciate you, and you are a part of this organization.'"

In addition to the awards, all the CES managers spoke to their teams individually, highlighting what was special and unique about each member. About 45 of the 56 employees attended this special celebration.

This event was important to hold as the CES teams were all considered essential workers and therefore had to continue working in-person throughout the pandemic.

The Night of the Stars, originally planned as a one-time event, was such a success that it will now be an annual celebration.

"We wanted to connect them to the organization that they're a part of," said **Barbara Duffy**, CES Program Manager, "and that connection has to stay intact. We will definitely be doing this again!"





## Going Above and Beyond: Donnell Hobbs, Sr.

Inglis Employment Services (CES) team member **Donnell Hobbs, Sr.** (better known to his friends as “Hobbs”), is Lead Environmental Services Attendant at Horsham Air Guard Station.

He was recently honored for his achievements by UniqueSource, the PA organization that contracts with CES to employ people with disabilities in custodial teams throughout the region.

They give out their UniqueSource Achievement Award once a year. Hobbs received an award certificate and a \$500 check. CES received \$200 to help celebrate him.

CES celebrated Hobbs by framing his certificate of recognition and holding an intimate celebration at the Inglis Innovation Center. Hobbs, his wife, and those in attendance from CES enjoyed a steak and potato dinner (his favorite)

and watched the virtual award ceremony on large monitors.

In their nomination, **Barbara Duffy** and **Johnnie Figueroa**, CES Program Leads, pointed to Hobbs’ “accountability, leadership, and communication” as some of the exemplary skills that make him stand out.

When asked how his job has impacted his daily life, Hobbs replied, “Being someone with a disability, I’ve always felt people looked at me differently or assumed I couldn’t do something. When I was hired by Inglis, all of that went out the window. My co-workers and management do not treat me differently. They motivate and give me confidence to accomplish my goals. I’m surrounded by people who really care, and I’m forever grateful.”



**Congratulations to Hobbs for a job very well done!**

## Care Management: Betsy is on the go once again

**Betsy**, who lives with multiple sclerosis (MS), has been using a scooter since 2019. The scooter means more independence for her, but without a ramp from her home to the sidewalk, she was not able to take full advantage of that independence.

Betsy turned to **Jennifer Schwartz**, a former Care Manager in **Inglis Community Services**, with whom she had been connected through Inglis’ ongoing partnership with the Jefferson MS Center. For five months, the two plugged away, finding solutions to secure the nearly \$10,000 in funding necessary to solve this problem. During that time, their creativity and determination connected them with an incredible number of resources, starting with the Friends of Man, a Colorado organization, which pledged the first \$3,000 toward Betsy’s needs.

Betsy and Jennifer later secured additional funding from the MS Society, the MS Foundation, the Achieva Charitable Trust, and the Delaware County Family Caregiver Support Program. These resources, along with some of Betsy’s own personal investment, proved to be the right combination to help Betsy meet her goals.

Victory was finally theirs when, at the end of last year, Betsy’s new ramp was installed. Ecstatic, Betsy reflected at the time on how “cooped up” she used to feel not being able to leave her home



and shared that she, “Couldn’t wait to use this newfound freedom to get reacquainted with my favorite activities, like going to the mall and to the movies.”

**Inglis’ Care Management** team assists individuals with disabilities to access services and supports so they can live in their own homes in the community. Jennifer said, “It takes a team — literally and figuratively — to help people like Betsy overcome challenges and achieve goals. I’m grateful to have been a part of the process.”



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Gifts in kind help members of the Inglis Community have access to tangible items, such as new clothing, unopened toiletries, electronics, and more.

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Many supporters of Inglis make donations in honor of or in memory of friends and family. While commemorating a loved one, these thoughtful gifts also enrich the lives of many throughout the Inglis Community.

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