

Image

The Inglis Newsletter

SUMMER
2023

inglis.org

VOL. X, NO. 2

IN THIS ISSUE

Moving Forward

New Leadership at
Inglis House

Housing Conference

Pitch Your Niche

Pittsburgh Expansion

Commitment:
Our Path Forward



**Ability &
Independence.
Redefined.**

Meet Loryn Green



In May, Inglis welcomed **Loryn Green** as Executive Director & Administrator at **Inglis House**, our skilled nursing, long-term care community.

Loryn got her start in long-term care in therapeutic recreation at the age of sixteen, working in the nursing home where her mother was the director of nursing. Before joining Inglis, she worked as both an administrator and an operations executive with a focus on person-centered care, quality, and patient safety.

“I grew up in nursing homes, working first in therapeutic services directly with seniors and younger adults with disabilities. While my previous role in operations was rewarding, I missed the resident, staff, and family connections you build working on-site,” says Loryn. “Inglis House is special. I’ve known about their stellar reputation for some time. The opportunity to join this community and contribute to the independence and well-being of residents was something I knew I wanted to do.”

Stay tuned for more opportunities to get to know Loryn and her extraordinary passion and commitment at Inglis House and in future issues of *Image*. Welcome, Loryn!



Ty Klug, resident of Inglis House, and Loryn getting acquainted.

Table of Contents

Ensuring the Future of Inglis & Our Mission	3
Assistive Tech Solutions	4
More Than a House	5
Housing Conference Wrap-up	6
Impact Accelerator Pitch Your Niche	7
Home Modifications for Independence	8
Inglis Innovation Center Pittsburgh	9
Employment Supports	10
Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund	11

INGLIS

2600 Belmont Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19131
inglis.org

Main Number: 215-878-5600
Toll-Free Number: 866-2-INGLIS (866-246-4547)
Innovation Center:267-295-5400

info@inglis.org
admissions@inglis.org
careers@inglis.org
community@inglis.org
development@inglis.org
housing@inglis.org
volunteer@inglis.org

On the Cover:

Zach Trexler, with Assistive Tech Educator, Katie Griffiths, reacts to a new joystick for his adapted gaming.

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.



Continuing and expanding the mission.

Our commitment has always been — and will continue to be — to approach decisions about the future of Inglis with a focus on the sustainability of our mission and the evolving needs of the disability community.

The past year has been a strange and unique period of time — filled with both excitement, as well as challenges and significant decisions. But, today, we are moving forward together — as a unified organization seeking new ways to expand our mission and serve even more people with disabilities throughout the state and region.

In mid-January, we received confirmation that the **Pennsylvania Department of Human Services** established new, “permanent” increased reimbursement rates for skilled nursing facilities, including **Inglis House**. The size of the rate increase we received was unexpected, historic, and unprecedented.

Although it will not fully cover the costs of owning and operating Inglis House, the change in reimbursement rates was substantial enough to change the course of our financial future and, therefore, allow us to revisit our path forward.

At the end of January, we announced that, in light of these new rates, the **Inglis Board of Directors** and **Executive Team** had reached a unanimous decision to withdraw our petition with the **Orphan’s Court of Philadelphia County** for the sale of **Inglis House** and the **Belmont Campus**, and discontinued the sale process with the potential buyer.

To many, the change in direction may have felt quite unexpected, but our commitment has always been — and will continue to be — to approach decisions about the future of Inglis with a focus on the sustainability of our mission, the evolving needs of the disability community, and a willingness to consider all available options that arise in this rapidly changing health care environment.

As you will see in the pages of this issue of *Image*, we continue to move forward and expand how we can better reach and serve people with disabilities — providing more options and more choices for how they choose to live their lives to the fullest.

Whether it’s building smart home technology in our accessible, affordable apartments or the expansion of our services, Inglis will continue to develop opportunities, explore possibilities — and redefine ability and independence every day.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Dyann M. Roth'.

Dyann M. Roth
Inglis President & CEO



As you will see in the pages of this issue of *Image*, we continue to move forward and expand how we can better reach and serve people with disabilities — providing more options and more choices for how they choose to live their lives to the fullest.

Inglis Assistive Tech Solutions: Enabling Navigation & Independence in Today’s World

As a 20-something young adult, **Zach** was born into, and lived his entire life immersed in, the world of technology. So, when an accident left him with a traumatic brain injury, his family understood the importance of empowering him to continue to live and function in that world — even though his world had changed considerably. A team of certified professionals from **Inglis Assistive Tech Solutions** (IATS) was given the opportunity to work with Zach and his family to do just that.

At IATS, we provide customized, goals-based assistive technology services for people with disabilities as well as older adults. Through assistive technology, which includes any low-, mid-, or high-tech tool, piece of equipment, software program, or system used to increase, maintain, or improve a person’s ability to navigate their world, our team supports individuals in:

- Achieving greater independence
- Increasing social engagement
- Managing life more successfully

Drawing on insights from his parents and a comprehensive assessment process, our IATS team zeroed in on video games and music as the starting point for putting Zach back on the road to a tech-driven existence in which he would be a participant — not just an observer — in his life.

“Music and video games would draw Zach in and make him work hard — because this is hard work,” said his mother, **Cheryl**. “The ability to choose and direct his own fun helped him regain some independence.”

The IATS team focused on empowering Zach to make choices based on his wants and likes and on elevating his capabilities beyond using technology for only giving yes-or-no answers. Once they chose video games and music as the best path forward, we introduced assistive technology options that fit Zach’s current capabilities and offered him ways to progress in building certain skills. For example, his fine motor skills make screen-touch selection challenging. Joysticks proved to be successful tools for Zach, allowing him to navigate programs



Zach Trexler and his mom, Cheryl (top), learn about new joysticks for adaptive gaming from Assistive Tech Educator, Katie Griffiths

and games while also helping develop his fine motor skills.

With so many of life’s necessities and joys — from online shopping and telehealth to social interactions — dependent on the ability to navigate technology, IATS fills a critical need. Our team provides a personalized strategy, along with the software/equipment, training, education, and ongoing support to make that strategy successful. Every day, we help unlock today’s world for individuals who find themselves blocked behind a physical or emotional challenge, giving them greater confidence and independence.

“The ability to choose and direct his own fun helped him regain some independence.”

Inglis House: More Than a House



Inlay photo: Patty all dressed up at a family wedding in 1969.

Patty Price has been a resident of **Inglis House** for 41 years. In an interview with **Robbie Shell**, a longtime Inglis volunteer, she offers her perspective on the challenges and opportunities of long-term disability. The full interview, excerpted below, may be found online

at inglis.org/patty.

I was born on February 8, 1959, in Havertown, Pa. When I was a year old, I was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Mom had taken me to a clinic run by **Easterseals**. I wasn’t doing the regular things that babies do, like crawling or pulling up. She knew, at that point, that I was going to be disabled for the rest of my life.

Growing up, I always had friends who could walk. I don’t know if I did it on purpose, but I never looked at myself as being different. I was just sitting, and they were standing. A fair number of them are sitting now, too.

When I first came to Inglis, there wasn’t much to do back then. There was no computer lab and not many classes to take. Now there are concerts,

speakers, birthday celebrations, sports days, lots of classes and trips. I loved going to the racetrack. Now I go to flea markets or to a shopping mall and restaurant.

People come in here with more serious illnesses than they did before. But it’s funny: When you get to know somebody, you don’t notice their disabilities.

A lot of people just need someone to be with. There was one woman who couldn’t get around by herself, so she asked me to visit her in her room, which I did for 11 years. If I couldn’t do what she needed, I would find the person who could. It’s nothing big, but when you can’t get around yourself, it is big.

I can’t change the fact that I have a disability. So, I don’t dwell on it. I view my life from the upside. I could view it from the other side, but it doesn’t get you anywhere to feel that way.

What I love most about Inglis is the garden. When you see the back of the building from the outside, it looks like it could be a palace. For that little while, you don’t have to be disabled. You can separate your inside life from the freedom of the outside life.

Sometimes, sitting in the garden, I can think it’s all mine, because I have been here for so long that I feel like it belongs to me.



Below: Valerie Arkoosh, Acting Secretary of the PA Department of Human Services, gave a keynote address



Annual Conference, Housing as a Human Right, a Great Success

Inglis and its **Self-Determination Housing of Pennsylvania (SDHP)** program hosted the annual **Housing as a Human Right Conference** in May 2023. This year's conference was presented by **Highmark Wholecare**, in partnership with the **PA Department of Human Services**.

More than 180 participants joined us in Harrisburg for two days of plenary keynote addresses and breakout sessions focusing on the intersection of housing and disability.

This year's conference theme — "A Community of Care" — has been a guiding principle of our work and the innovative collaborations we believe are critical to creating more affordable, accessible housing and support services.

Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, **Valerie Arkoosh**, MD, MPH, gave a keynote address, as did **Jenn Rogers**, Vice President of LTSS at Highmark Wholecare; **Robin Weissman**, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Housing

Finance Agency; and **Allie Cannington**, Senior Manager of Advocacy and Organizing, The Kelsey.

"We need all of us to do this work. We cannot meet our goals without the collaboration and innovation of our partners," said **Laura Willmer-Rodack**, SDHP Director. "Our hope is that everyone left the conference with new perspectives, new connections, and new ideas."

Breakout session topics included: Housing and Support Options for People with Intellectual Disabilities; Mental Health and Safe Housing; Step-by-Step: How to Develop a Co-Op; and Accessible Design for All.

Additional sponsors for the conference include **AmeriHealth Caritas**, **UPMC Health Plan**, **Accessibility Solutions 360**, **PA Health & Wellness**, **PA Housing Finance Agency**, and **Regional Housing Legal Services**.

Inglis Impact Accelerator's inaugural "Pitch Your Niche" ideas contest celebrates transformative entrepreneurship.

Inglis hosted our first-ever "Pitch Your Niche" ideas contest, an incredible evening that worked to motivate and celebrate big ideas in elevating the disability community as well as the dedicated people behind them. The event — held on May 9 in Harrisburg and generously presented by Highmark Wholecare — was the inaugural launch of the new Inglis Impact Accelerator, a program designed to inspire and empower disability-focused entrepreneurs.

The Impact Accelerator team created an evening full of opportunities for individuals passionate about changing the world — from entrepreneurs to individuals eager to back them with funding and mentorship — to network, share ideas, inspire each other and connect with resources to support their journeys.

The evening began with cocktails and conversation, followed by inspiring remarks from the **Inglis Impact Accelerator** team and our keynote speaker, **Diego Mariscal**, founder and CEO of 2Gether-International. The most exhilarating moments came from the "Pitch Your Niche" entrepreneur finalists' presentations - each of whom left with a \$10,000 grant to help further their work. These incredible individuals have shown through their innovations and tenacity that they are committed to leading the disability community of today and tomorrow in conquering every challenge and enjoying a more accessible, inclusive world. We encourage you to check out their websites and be inspired by their missions.



Alexa Jovanovic
Aille Design

Known as the "braille fashion designer," Alexa started Aille (*pronounced "eye"*) on the foundation of strong relationships with her local blind community, whose insights and needs she took to heart to launch a line of fashion-forward clothing with beautiful braille messaging. With the mission of having each design spur conversation about disability inclusion, Alexa helps normalize the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in all areas of fashion, from clothing design and modeling to accessible-shopping environments and digital spaces. According to *Newsweek*, Aille is "the braille clothing brand changing the fashion game."



Mariah Barber
Invisible Strengths

Mariah, an author, certified education health specialist and researcher, focuses on the intersections between biological and social sciences on a global scale — tapping into the massive potential in the disability community. Invisible Strengths' mission is to help marginalized job seekers — specifically those with invisible disabilities as well as the BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ disability communities — find roles in which they can thrive. In 2023, Invisible Strengths was identified by the Washington Post as a top 10 start-up to watch.



Ganesh Jangir
Newndra Innovations

After noticing the physical pain experienced by farmers, including his own parents, Ganesh sought to find a solution, leading him to develop JaipurBelt, the most efficient, lightweight and affordable exoskeleton on the market. The proud holder of 11 international patents, Ganesh now sees his exoskeletons being used by both individuals with disabilities and multinational companies. A true role model for following a dream from grassroots to global, Ganesh has received numerous national and international awards for his work.

Home Modifications for Independence: Equipping Ann for More



Ann now loves her chairlift installed by Inglis’ HMI program. “I don’t know how to be without it,” she said. HMI also fixed the bathroom floor and added a grab bar to enhance safety for Ann to use her bathroom.

“I’ve always had to adapt to a walking world, never the other way around, where people had to adapt to me.” For **Ann Schultz**, born with cerebral palsy, that was very much her reality. Fiercely independent and determined, Ann learned how to navigate the “walking world” by crawling. She crawled up the stairs, down the stairs, into her bathtub, around her kitchen. But it came at a hefty price: pain. “My joints were affected — my lower back, my knees. I knew I had to do something.”

Inglis Home Modifications for Independence (HMI) dedicates resources to provide home modifications to help increase accessibility for eligible individuals with disabilities and older adults in Pennsylvania. Its mission is to empower people like Ann to remain independent and safe in their homes. Examples of home modifications include:

- Grab bars/railings, tub/shower transfer bench
- Accessible kitchen/bathroom features
- Access ramps
- Motorized chairlift
- Raised toilet seat/supports
- Fall prevention/safety features

In Ann’s case, Inglis HMI prioritized putting resources in places that would eliminate her need to crawl in, over, around, up and down, while still keeping her mobile throughout her house. That meant a chairlift for the stairs, guardrails in the hallways, grab bars in the bathroom and other modifications. The results were life-changing.

“From the time I was little, my mother tried to teach me how to adapt to things. I’ve never had any kind of modifications in my life. But now I am in much less pain. I’m less stiff, and getting around is so much better. It’s a godsend.”

Inglis HMI is made possible by the **Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**, the **Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)**, and the **Craig H. Neilsen Foundation**.

To review the eligibility criteria for the program, please visit inglis.org/homemods or call 610.873.9595, option 2.

Inglis Goes West: Summer Opening Planned for New Site

Inglis is expanding its reach to Pittsburgh with a grant from **Highmark Wholecare** to establish the **Inglis Innovation Center Pittsburgh (IICP)** to open Summer 2023.

IICP will be housed at Allegheny Health Network (AHN) Suburban General Hospital, a former hospital that has been repurposed to support innovation and community health. Our Pittsburgh location is an exciting expansion of several services already available at our **Innovation Center** in Philadelphia and our offerings in the Greater Philadelphia area. We will begin providing services in Summer 2023.

For decades, Inglis has provided services and programs designed to enable people with disabilities to enjoy life with the greatest amount of independence and mobility. The \$614,000 grant from Highmark Wholecare will provide expanded services to include technology, entrepreneurship, and innovation to advance accessibility, inclusivity, and independence.

- **Inglis Assistive Tech Solutions** — assessment, training, device acquisition and support for people with disabilities and older adults to use AT to enhance independence (currently offered in the Greater Philadelphia Region).
- **The Inglis Impact Accelerator** — an initiative seeking to support emerging entrepreneurs (including those with disabilities) working in disability services and support.
- **3D Printing and R&D Lab** — custom and adapted tools and solutions that enhance independence for people with disabilities (currently offered in the Inglis Innovation Center in Philadelphia, as well as within Inglis House).

“Inglis is excited to expand its services to western Pennsylvania,” said **Dyann Roth**, Inglis President & CEO. “With nearly 150 years of disability support, experience, and knowledge — including five decades working with people living in the community — we look forward to increasing opportunities and programming that will enhance independence for people with disabilities, as well as older adults throughout the commonwealth. We are so pleased to not only be opening the Inglis Innovation Center Pittsburgh in Summer 2023, but also to collaborate with Highmark Wholecare to support these important initiatives.”

For more information, please visit inglis.org/Pittsburgh or contact us at Pittsburgh@inglis.org or 412.790.9993.

Highmark Wholecare: Committed to the Community

Highmark Wholecare is a community-based, mission-driven managed care organization that cares for Pennsylvanians with the greatest need, including the elderly, underserved, disabled, and disadvantaged.

For more than 30 years, they have met members where they live, work and play. They work with mission-aligned nonprofits and community-based organizations that are an often overlooked, yet critical, component of the health care ecosystem. Their support of these organizations comes in many forms: volunteerism, mentoring, networking, and funding.

Inglis is fortunate to be working with Highmark Wholecare on a variety of efforts. In addition to supporting Inglis’ Housing as a Human Right conference for a second consecutive year this spring, as well as sponsoring the **Inglis Impact Accelerator’s** Pitch Your Niche ideas contest, Highmark Wholecare recently announced a \$614,000 grant to Inglis to establish the transformative Inglis Innovation Center Pittsburgh (IICP) in the Bellevue neighborhood on the city’s northside. IICP will provide increased and improved services, resources, and programming for people with disabilities.

The Corporate Social Responsibility team leads corporate giving for the company. The department operates like a foundation, supported by Highmark Wholecare team members who actively engage with community-based organizations that provide direct value to members and non-members alike.

They emphatically state that they are “more than a check,” combining funding with direct organizational involvement to maximize impact such as deepening the relationship through active participation in Inglis events and initiatives, including joining the mentor panel for the Pitch Your Niche winners.

“Highmark Wholecare believes that helping people lead their best lives means going beyond traditional doctors and medicine to care for the whole person,” said **Ellen Duffield**, Highmark Wholecare President & CEO. “Through our investment in Inglis Innovation Center Pittsburgh, we are delivering on our whole care mission for people with disabilities in western Pennsylvania and beyond. We are excited to bring to the region Inglis’ expertise and proven track record of success.”

Employment Services:

Ensuring On-the-job Success

Ask any member of the **Inglis Employment Services** team what distinguishes us from other programs that assist individuals with disabilities in finding and starting a job, and they'll tell you, "Inglis does not do 'for,' we teach." Because of our person-centered approach, we've enjoyed success after success by empowering clients with skills that stick with them for a lifetime. Skills for seeking the right position, interviewing for and "landing" the job, securing the accommodations their disability requires, and sustaining that job independently as a valued member of the workforce.

"We give each client what they need to be successful on a job — not what everyone else needs," said **Christine Weikel**, employment specialist. "We meet a client where they are. We will not do it all for them. Instead, the client and our team work together. They are going to learn to do for themselves on their own, be as independent as possible and be successful."

At Inglis Employment Services, we start with an intake assessment to learn about a client's job skills, experiences, interests, and workforce abilities. From there, we search for job positions that fit. In some circumstances, we may place a client in a community-based assessment experience, which allows them to test the waters of a similar job. Often, this hands-on trial reveals additional strengths, challenges, likes and dislikes — and may redirect the path of our job search. During the job-search phase, we help teach our client to create a resume and complete applications. We also do interview training.

Once a client secures a position, job coaching begins. An Inglis coach will spend the first 40 hours on the job with a client — observing them and working with the employer.

This allows us to:

- Identify areas for improvement we can work on with the employee.
- Determine what accommodations for a given disability the employer needs to put in place.
- Outline hands-on tasks we can assist the employee with that are specific to their new job.
- Identify soft skills — reliability, listening, communicating, following directions, grooming, etc. — that we can include in our coaching.

"Our first job is to demonstrate our client's abilities and help the employer look past the disability," said **Alonzo Minor**, employment specialist. "We accentuate the positives, and it's a beautiful thing to see it take off."

Inglis will continue to get employer feedback and work with a client to teach them what they need to perform well, sustain their position and be fulfilled. The ultimate goal is to support the client to be independent and successful at work.

"Most employers find that our clients tend to be dependable, on-time and eager," said **Barbara Duffy**, employment services manager. "In my experience, once an employer takes a chance and puts their trust in a person with a disability, and in our coaching process, they are always happy."

For more information, please visit inglis.org/IES or contact us at 267.295.5400 or Community@inglis.org



Barbara Duffy, Inglis Employment Service Manager, works with a client on skill building.

Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund:

Removing Barriers to Housing

One of the largest barriers to independence for people with disabilities (and those without disabilities) is lack of housing options. Housing choices can be further limited due to perceived risk for landlords such as poor credit or rental history, low income, or a criminal background.

Inglis' Self-Determination Housing of PA (SDHP) launched the **Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund (LRMF)** to create a bridge to better housing options by providing a financial safety net to landlords. For landlords, this means protecting their investment. Through this program, landlords may be reimbursed up to \$3,000 for physical damages to a unit occupied by an LRMF tenant. For those seeking housing, the LRMF eliminates another barrier to housing — and expands housing options.

Landlords and property managers are encouraged to join our network of interested housing providers. While connected to our program, housing providers can be matched with tenants referred to the program and will have access to trainings and publications tailored to their role.



The program is currently open to Nursing Home Transition participants enrolled in Pennsylvania's **Community HealthChoices**.

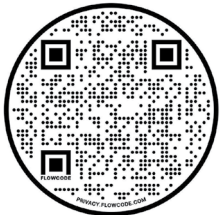
To join the network or for more information, please call 717.884.5635, email LRMF@inglis.org or visit us online at inglis.org/LRMF

Building Accessible FUTURES

Each day Inglis is trying new things, building new tools, and investing in the future of disability care.

These innovations are only possible through the support of our generous donors. A gift today towards the **Ability Fund** will help the Inglis Community achieve their goals today, as well as help the organization prepare for the opportunities of tomorrow.

Together we can make great things possible. Visit inglis.org/donate to make a gift today!





**Ability &
Independence.
Redefined.**

2600 Belmont Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19131

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1102
PHILADELPHIA, PA



Thank you

Inglis
Golf
OUTING

For more than two decades, the Inglis Golf Outing has brought friends, family, and supporters together for a wonderful day of golf and friendship while supporting the Inglis mission. We held the 22nd and final Annual Golf Outing this summer and we thank all those who have participated and supported us through the years!

Since 2002, there have been 2,142 participating golfers playing 396 holes. They

walked five miles for each of the 18 holes and each golfer has, on average, lost 66 golf balls!

But most importantly, 22 years of Golf Outings have raised nearly \$3 million for numerous Inglis programs and services.

Thank you to our incredible committee members and look for photos and more in the next issue of *Image*!