



“Nothing More, Nothing Less for All People with Disabilities”

Chief Executive Officer

Chad W. Underwood

Board of Directors

Mary Beth Mathey,
Chair

Lisa Perfetti,
Vice-Chair

Eden Harrington-Hall,
Treasurer

Alex Huntington-Ofner,
Secretary

Timothy Bennett

Dorothy Dumond

Laura Eaton

Evan Geibel

Matthew Husar

Barbara Morris

Linda Stock

Jennifer Turck

Larry Woolheater

**Mary E. Ewing Award for Independent Living
Application Form and Instructions
Deadline: Wednesday, May 9, 2018**

Access to Independence of Cortland County, Inc. (ATI) evolved from a grassroots, advocacy organization in the City of Cortland, New York, in 1986. ATI was incorporated in 1998 as a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization. In 2001, ATI became one of New York State’s 40 centers for independent living (ILC). As an ILC, ATI is a community-based, consumer-controlled, non-residential organization that provides a variety of services for individuals with a wide range of disabilities in and around Cortland County.

ATI is a family-friendly organization that serves persons with disabilities, their friends, family, and caregivers. ATI Serves youth, adults, and senior consumers. ATI has also provided services to nearly 40 local human service agencies and businesses. ATI collaborates with the other 40 independent living centers in New York State, and networks with ILC’s nationwide.

ATI formed the Mary E. Ewing Award for Independent Living in 2014 to honor long-standing and former ATI Executive Director, Mary E. Ewing. ATI plans to award one \$150 award to a graduating senior in each of Cortland County’s Senior High Schools (Cincinnatus, Cortland, Homer, Marathon and McGraw) who has a disability and who best emulates the independent living philosophy.

Independent Living means controlling and directing your own life. It means taking risks and being allowed to success and fail on your own terms. It means participating in community life and pursuing activities of your own choosing. Independent Living requires knowing what choices are available, selecting what is right for you, and taking responsibility for your own actions. For people that have disabilities that affect their ability to make complicated decisions or pursue complex activities, independent living means being as self-sufficient as possible. It means being able to exercise the greatest degree of choice in where you live, with whom you live, how to live, where you work, with whom you work and how to use your time.

Interested applicants should complete the attached form and submit it with supporting documentation.

26 North Main St.
Cortland, NY 13045
ph: 607-753-7363
fax: 607-756-4884

e-mail:
info@aticortland.org

website:
www.aticortland.org

**Mary E. Ewing Award for Independent Living
Application Form and Instructions
Deadline: Wednesday, May 9, 2018**

Applicant Name: _____ Age: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

High School: _____ Disability: _____

Anticipated Diploma Type: _____ Graduation Date ____/____/____

Name of Guidance Counselor: _____

Telephone Number of Guidance Counselor: (_____) _____ - _____

If you are selected, does Access to Independence have permission to publish your responses and name in its newsletter, *Access News*? YES NO

On a separate piece of paper, please respond to the following questions.

1. Describe the barriers you have encountered as a result of your disability and explain how you have successfully worked to overcome them to achieve a goal.
2. Describe what independent living means to you.
3. Describe your plans following graduation.

Answers should be printed on a separate piece of paper using Arial font size 12, double spaced with one inch margins. Maximum number of words for each question is 250.

Please submit questions and all final responses to the ATI Scholarship Committee

By email: randerson@aticortland.org, or by mail:

Access to Independence, 26 North Main Street, Cortland, New York 13045

