



***Enriching the  
Lives of  
People with  
Developmental  
Disabilities***

***Project Independence...***



***...has been serving Orange County's adults with autism for more than 30 years***



***...has more than 150 employees, 50 volunteers and five interns, all dedicated to providing the best possible services to our clients.***



***...has the most individual employment placements in California through our Supported Employment Program.***

***Did You Know...***



***... Employees with disabilities have a job retention rate of 93.6%, compared with 60% for the population as a whole.***



***... People with disabilities are 2.25 times as likely to be unemployed as their non-disabled counterparts.***



***... 75% of the general public indicate they prefer to do business with companies that hire people with disabilities.***

# MYTH VS. FACT

**Myth:** Down syndrome is a rare genetic disorder.

---

**Truth:** Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring genetic condition. One in every 733 live births is a child with Down syndrome, representing approximately 5,000 births per year in the United States alone. Today, more than 400,000 people in the United States have Down syndrome.

**Myth:** People with Down syndrome have a short life span.

---

**Truth:** Life expectancy for individuals with Down syndrome has increased dramatically in recent years, with the average life expectancy approaching that of peers without Down syndrome.

**Myth:** People with Down syndrome are severely “retarded.”

**Truth:** Most people with Down syndrome have IQs that fall in the mild to moderate range of intellectual disability (formerly known as “retardation”). Children with Down syndrome fully participate in public and private educational programs.

**Myth:** Most people with Down syndrome are institutionalized.

---

**Truth:** Today people with Down syndrome live at home with their families and are active participants in educational, vocational, social, and recreational activities. People with Down syndrome are valued members of their families and their communities, contributing to society in a variety of ways.

**Myth:** Adults with Down syndrome are unemployable.

---

**Truth:** Businesses are seeking young adults with Down syndrome for a variety of positions in a variety of environments and industries. People with Down syndrome bring to their jobs enthusiasm, reliability and dedication.



For more information about Project Independence and our programs, visit our website at [www.proindependence.org](http://www.proindependence.org)