

January - March 2025

Come and see us at **301 S. Vine Street Suite 211 Urbana**. Come in the South East entrance of Lincoln Square Mall and take the elevator to the second floor.



## CCTV Giveaway

We're thrilled to share a heartwarming update from our low-vision program! Thanks to a generous donation, we received a CCTV, which quickly found a home with a consumer in need. Their son picked up the device, and soon after, we heard how it transformed their life — making it easier to read letters, enjoy cards from loved ones, and even do puzzles. We're deeply grateful for this donation and the positive impact it has made!



**Do you have lightly used items to donate?  
Contact PACE so you can assist an individual  
in need!**

**Items Needed: wheelchairs with footrests • disposable bed liners •  
unopened adult under garments • rollators**

**Prefer to go paperless Call Us with your email address 217-344-5433**



## ZONEar Demonstration

We were thrilled to host University of Illinois students at PACE as they developed ZONEar, a prototype to assist individuals with low vision and blindness. They engaged with our consumers, gathering feedback and testing the device to refine its features. This hands-on collaboration was a rewarding experience, and we're excited to see ZONEar's future impact!



## How Your Support Assists PACE with Empowering People with Disabilities!

In the last quarter alone, **PACE** served **642** individuals with disabilities, providing essential support, advocacy, and resources to help them live independently and thrive.

We need your help to reach our fundraising goal of \$25,000! Every dollar raised goes directly toward programs and services that empower people with disabilities to lead full, independent lives.

### How You Can Help:

- Donate online: [pacecil.org](https://pacecil.org)
- Donate by check: **PACE Inc.**

**301 S. Vine Suite 211  
Urbana IL, 61801**

Your support helps ensure that individuals with disabilities have access to the tools, resources, and community they need.

**Thank you for making a difference!**

## McKinley Foundation Grant Recipients



Regina Hobbs and her mother, Betty, came to **PACE** in September 2024 seeking housing assistance in Champaign-Urbana as their lease was ending in October. While waiting for

their housing application to be processed, they faced the risk of homelessness. **PACE** stepped in, using \$200 from the McKinley Foundation grant to fund a 3-night hotel stay, providing them with a safe place to stay.

With an additional partnership and support from Cunningham Township, Regina and Betty were able to move into a new apartment and avoid homelessness!



## Upcoming Events

### ASL Class

8 week course beginning

March 28<sup>th</sup> 2025

6pm-7pm

Contact **PACE**  
for more details

### Illinois Marathon 2025

April 25<sup>th</sup> 2025

Start  
7:30 pm

## PACE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

- Driver, Reader, Writer
- Data Entry
- Illinois Marathon course volunteer

## Staff Spotlight

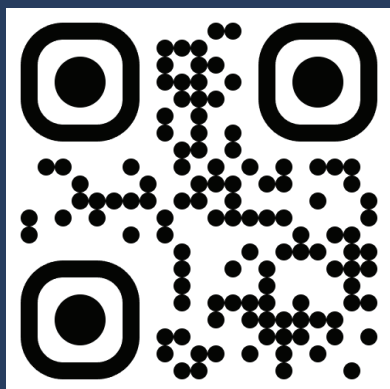


**Mary Griffin**

*Independent Living Specialist*

Mary Griffin is the Independent Living Specialist at **PACE**, Inc. She began at **PACE** as an intern from the University of Illinois School of Social Work, where she was pursuing her Master's Degree in Social Work after completing her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. After completing her internship, she was inspired to join the **PACE** team. As an Independent Living Specialist Mary is the go-to person for all of our food assistance, housing needs, and referrals to community partners. She also works with consumers to help them develop independent living skills to maximize their independence. Some of the skills she assists with include resume building, cover letter writing, basic interview techniques, financial independence, and advocacy for benefits through local agencies and the government.





**PACE**, Inc.  
Center for Independent Living

**301 S. Vine St. Suite 211  
Urbana, IL 61801**

### *Administration*

**Michelle Ingram**

*Interim Executive Director*

**Mel Liong**

*Program Director*

**Ra'Kale Jones**

*Office Manager*

### *Staff*

**Mary Griffith**

*Independent Living Specialist*

**Kerry Lowry**

*Deaf Services Coordinator*

**Jeff Robinson**

*Low Vision Specialist*

**Paula Vanier**

*PA/PSW Coordinator*

**Kharis Gordon**

*Youth Transition Coordinator*

**Jason Chaney**

*Home Modification &  
Transition Coordinator*



**PACE Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not for profit  
All donations are tax exempt**

**We thank you for your support of PACE Inc.**