

# NEVINS INC.

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#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

Dear Friends:

I want to say Thank You to the Nevins Family for making me feel so welcome in my first month as your new Executive Director. Due to Covid-19, everyone is still socially distancing and if this were any other time, we would have invited you on campus for coffee to meet in person. Since we are waiting to officially meet, I thought I would share a little about myself.

I was born and raised in Gaston County and live in the small town of Dallas near my parents and grandmother. The apple of my eye are my niece and nephew that live in Raleigh with my brother and sister-in-law. I am a proud graduate of Appalachian State University and avid sports fan.

I was first drawn to human services in the early 1990s in Boone, NC where I began working for a non-profit that served adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. After 6.5 years, I had the opportunity to move to Guilford County in 1998 and work for LifeSpan Incorporated, serving children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I enjoyed a 20-year career with LifeSpan, serving in various management roles, and spent my last 6.5 years as their President and CEO.

I was humbled to be selected to lead Nevins Inc on February 1, 2021 and have hit the ground running so to speak. I have found a strong foundation to strategically grow our services and welcome more program participants to the Nevins Family. I look forward to working with all stakeholders to fulfill our strategic growth goals and to offer innovative services in a welcoming environment with the right supports to ensure program participant success. Please join us on this exciting journey of growth and expansion.

Please stay safe and know how much we all value the support you have given to the mission of Nevins Inc for so many years. We cannot do what we do without the incredible generosity of our friends. I look forward to getting to know each of you in the coming weeks and months.

Sincerely,

Davan Cloninger
Executive Director



### **NEVINS CHANGING LIVES**



The Charlotte-based honey company Cloister Honey offers traditional, whipped, and infused honey in a variety of award-winning flavors.

Behind the scenes, Supported Employment participant Rosa is one of the company's secrets to creating and distributing delicious, all-natural products.

The Supported Employment Program is a service that helps individuals with the primary diagnosis of I/DD learn the skills necessary to find, gain and retain meaningful employment. This includes everything from developing a resume to identifying an area of employment interest through working with the individuals one-on-one or group setting on the job.

Rosa had been working for Nevins' Atrium Health Team for nearly 15 years, and she decided that it was time for a change in routine. Randall York, cofounder of Cloister Honey, was thinking of ways that the business can give back to the community. Cloister Honey approached Nevins to see if any participants would be interested in an employment opportunity with the company. With her can-do attitude, Rosa stood out as a valuable candidate.

For ten hours a week, she helps take timeconsuming labor off of her colleagues by packaging products, such as honey straws and honeycomb, and performing other duties that keep the production process moving swiftly. "She hasn't missed a day [of work]," Randall said, "She's on time every day." Her assigned job coach mentors her as she works to help increase her independence. Rosa loves it when the factory plays music while she is on the clock. Sometimes, she comes home from work with a jar of honey to give to her mother Joyce.

The job has been an advantage for her, Joyce said. On a day when she worked from home, packaging hundreds of honey straws, Joyce asked her how she managed to stuff so many straw boxes. Rosa answered, "This is what I do!"

Going on two years of employment, Rosa continues to put her heart into her work at Cloister Honey. "She enjoys it and she's good at it, and she's very efficient at it," Randall said. Cloister Honey has benefited from their partnership with Nevins as much as Rosa loves her job.

Joyce said Rosa wishes that she could work there forever. "She lives for that job," she said, "They're good to her, she's good to them. She loves it, I love it. It's a win-win!"

"She's a part of the family now."

- Randall York, Cloister Honey

#### Your generosity helps us remain mission focused!





We are grateful and indebted to our individual and corporate donors, business partners, sponsors, grantors and volunteers who support us faithfully. Without them, the work we do would be hindered by a lack of resources and support. It is through our supporters generosity we have been able to continue to provide direct support to 42 individuals; supported employment and respite care for 55 individuals; virtual programs including music and yoga; and personal care kits, holiday gift boxes, blankets and pillows for 130 individuals.















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100% of every dollar entrusted to Nevins goes to the direct support of our programs.



#### **Nevins Board Leadership**

We are very excited to introduce our board member we are highlighting, Cheryl Coors. Cheryl discovered Nevins while she was looking for a non-profit board to join as a way to give back to the community. She was very impressed by Nevins's long-standing history of working and significantly impacting the IDD (Intellectual & Developmental Disability) community for more than 50 years.

Cheryl wanted to use her skills and background in health care, human resources, and business to help create greater awareness about Nevins. She chose Nevins to explore the opportunities of expanding and growing our services as Charlotte grows, to be able to reach more individuals and become the provider of choice to our IDD community.



Cheryl Coors, Nevins Board Member

"I believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to develop to their fullest potential, recognizing that each individual has a special gift regardless of their physical or intellectual challenges. I witness this every time I am at Nevins and around our participants! At Nevins, we create possibilities and develop individual's abilities! What's not to love about this work!"

When asked about what drew her to become an active member of the community, she shared a touching and personal story about a close family friend. "One of my dearest friend's daughter suffered a traumatic brain injury, and at the time, there were no services available to keep her active and have social interaction with others outside of her family. The whole situation took such a great toll on the family, and she deteriorated over time, physically and emotionally. This was a young, beautiful, vibrant Master's prepared woman who didn't have the stimulation nor the interaction to sustain much of a quality of life. It was tragic, and the thought of anyone who needs these services should have the opportunity to participate in them!"

Cheryl is looking forward to the future of Nevins's with the new Executive Director, Davan, and her passion and experience in growing services for the IDD community in Charlotte. She believes that Davan will take Nevins to a whole new level in providing services to our IDD community. Cheryl says, "It is an honor to serve on the Nevins Board and I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of such an amazing organization!"



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#### **KEEP IN TOUCH WITH NEVINS**

At Nevins, we are a large "family", a family that consists of participants who utilize our programs, the parents or caregivers of our participants, our talented staff, dedicated volunteers and our generous donors and community partners. Our monthly newsletter is also available in digital format via e-mail. If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter electronically, please e-mail your contact information to development@nevinsinc.org or subscribe to the newsletter on our website at www.nevinsinc.org.

Nevins is committed to creating a community where all adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities reach for their full potential.