

Independent Perspective #1920
Cornhole for a Cause with Doug Bisher

Transcript

00:00:00 Speaker 1

Welcome to Independent Perspective, a public affairs presentation of Western New York Independent Living. I'm your host, Tracy LeBlanc, Chief Community Engagement Officer at Western New York Independent Living.

Independent Living of Niagara County is hosting its third annual Cornhole for a Cause fundraiser in just a few short weeks. In addition to raising funds, this event is designed to be a day of community and support.

00:00:25 Speaker 1

Joining us today to talk about ILNC's upcoming Cornhole for a Cause fundraiser is Addict to Addict Peer Support Specialist Doug Bisher. Welcome to the program, Doug.

00:00:35 Speaker 2

Thanks for having me, Tracy.

00:00:38 Speaker 1

Let's start with the basics. What is Cornhole for a Cause? When and where is it taking place?

00:00:44 Speaker 2

Yeah, so it's a Cornhole event, also known as some people call it beanbag toss, and it's taking place on September 12th. That's a Saturday.

00:00:53 Speaker 2

Bags are planning on flying at noon sharp, and that's at 140 Genesee Street in Lockport at Christ Community Church, where our Lockport office, our satellite office is located in the gymnasium. So it's an indoor event, so it won't be affected by weather. Anyone could play, anyone could win. You don't need bags or a partner. You just need a willingness to have some fun, play some Cornhole and show up and you can register at the event and be a part of the event. It's a fundraiser for Independent Living in Niagara County.

00:01:23 Speaker 1

Great. Can you provide us with an overview of the structure of a Cornhole tournament?
What can someone who registers expect?

00:01:29 Speaker 2

Yeah, so for a small fee, \$20 entry fee, they're going to get at least four rounds of round robin and then there's going to be a double elimination. So, they'll get a minimum of six games, and they'll get paired with different skill level players. All skill levels are welcome, and it balances out the way we do the double elimination after a brief intermission. After the round robin, we'll have this little

00:01:51 Speaker 2

Air mail shootout is what it's called. It's an air mailbox, the size of the hole and it's a fundraiser. So, a portion of those proceeds will be donated to Independent Living in Niagara County as part of the fundraiser. So, there'll be 8 players for that air mail shootout and intermission. So, everyone gets a minimum of six games. It's a live event, live music, a lot of fun refreshments and it's to support your local independent living center.

00:02:20 Speaker 2

Why would you not want to provide some support?

00:02:24 Speaker 1

How much experience do you need to play?

00:02:25 Speaker 2

It's a great question. None. And the worse you are at Cornhole the more fun you'll have. And you'll get paired with good players either way. The way that we set up the algorithm after the double elimination, the top tier players get paired with the bottom tier players. So, it really balances out. And the top tier players will shoot against each other on the same end the way I run the tournament.

00:02:48 Speaker 2

I guess you call it so the best players don't play, quote unquote, the worst players. So, it just balances things out and involves everybody.

00:02:56 Speaker 1

And what do you win if you win the tournament?

00:02:59 Speaker 2

So, there's a guaranteed payout we're doing this year of \$750 and it's just we got basket raffles and so people want to pay to get tickets and the 50/50 as well. We've had some great baskets in the past. So, \$750 is a guaranteed prize pool for the Cornhole for a Cause itself, though.

00:03:18 Speaker 1

Great. So, Doug, are there any sponsors for the Cornhole for a Cause?

00:03:23 Speaker 2

Yes, we do have a couple sponsors. We got Ask 4 Coach West Herr, which is our big dealership out here in Western New York. That's one of our sponsors. We got Willard Martucci Hauling as well, and Queen City Yard Games for all your local outdoor yard games and Cornhole needs and whatnot, and Health System Services as well are our four sponsors this year.

00:03:47 Speaker 1

How can people find out more information about ILNC and Cornhole for a Cause?

00:03:52 Speaker 2

Yeah, so they can always get ahold of Western New York Independent Living or Independent Living in Niagara County at 716-284-4131. And they can ask to speak with April Fearby or Doug Bisher. I'll be happy to get them information. Also on our local Facebook page for Independent Living in Niagara County. And they can find the QR code on the flyer that's been circulating through an app called Scoreholio.

00:04:17 Speaker 2

And it's called Cornhole for a Cause fundraiser for ILNC.

00:04:19 Speaker 1

Do you have to play to attend?

00:04:22 Speaker 2

Absolutely not. I encourage everybody from our community to come out and not only watch Cornhole but participate in the basket raffles or just watch. We've had a lot of people in the past who've come and watched and after the first couple of rounds, they wished they signed up and they played because it's so much fun. And I always say you have more fun when the bag hits the board if you're not that good.

00:04:44 Speaker 1

That's all the time we have for this week. You've been listening to Independent Perspective, a public affairs presentation of Western New York Independent Living. Our guest today was Addict to Addict Peer Support Specialist, Doug Bisher. And I have been your host, Tracy LeBlanc.