# Supporting People with Disabilities Since 1972

## Fall/Winter 2016

*People don't notice whether it's winter or summer when they're happy.  -Anton Chekhov*

## Last Call for Tickets:

### *Phonus Balonus Cocktail Party*     **_Purchase Now!_**

Celebrate the introduction of a new Music 4 CO-OP Holiday CD featuring songs written, performed, and produced by Music 4 CO-OP. Included in the ticket price are live performances, a free copy of the CD, light hors d'oeuvres, and dancing. There will be a cash bar available. Join us for this 1920's-era themed party.

**Thursday, Nov. 10, 2016, Fireside Grille, Middleboro 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

Enjoy the CO-OP Chorus, various individual performers, and *The Phonus Balonus Jazz Band*. Come decked out in your 1920's-era clothes and, above all, be prepared to party! Get tickets here.



## 2016 Annual Meeting



CO-OP's 40th Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at Venus de Milo Restaurant in Swansea. Each year, we take this opportunity to recognize and thank those who have made extraordinary contributions to CO-OP throughout the year.

### *Employee of the Year: Tracy Malloy*

Congratulations to the 2016 CO-OP Employee of the Year **Tracy Malloy**, Speech Therapy Aide. Tracy receives this award for her achievements and personal commitment to each and every person she works with. Bravo, Tracy!

## Community Awards

Special recognition was given to the **Town of Dighton** which was recognized for its outstanding commitment to community inclusion for people with disabilities and its longstanding support of CO-OP's programs and services. Representatives of the Town will accept this award at the October 26 Selectman's meeting.

Also receiving honors this year are **Bonnie Wyrostek** who was recognized for her years of volunteer service to CO-OP with her beloved service dog Mia, along with **Paula Latham**, who was honored posthumously, for her 18 years of leadership as CO-OP's Director of Residential Services, volunteerism, and personal commitment to people with disabilities. Paula's husband, Doug Latham, accepted the award on her behalf.

Additionally, CO-OP takes this opportunity to honor dedicated staff celebrating milestone anniversaries, many of whom having been with the agency for decades.

According to President and CEO Bill Corbett, "It is always gratifying to recognize those in our community who stand out among us. This year, it is especially gratifying to see so many of our staff members join in this celebration. It is through this dedication that we continue to live up to the promise of engaging people and enhancing lives."

### Thank you for a great year!

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### We are an active bunch...

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## What does CO-OP's Norton Staff do every day?

The CO-OP staff at Norton Day Hab are masters at picking up on the cues that people give them. They watch. They observe. They treat everyone with dignity and respect.

It isn't always easy to work with people who have limited verbal skills. But finding the easy way is not how the Norton Day Hab staff works. According to program manager Traci Cabral, "Norton staff is special. They believe everyone speaks volumes without saying a word. It is always about understanding what the consumer is telling us what he or she wants to do. Everyone deserves to be understood."
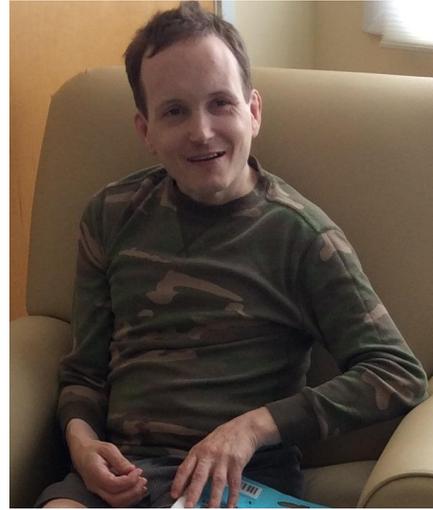
Discovering the cues and finding the right

path for each individual is what is happening at Norton Day Hab. The results are clear – people are happier!

## Now, let's meet Peter Joe...



Peter Joe has been with CO-OP for more than two decades and everyone now knows that his morning trip to MacDonald's is the right way to start the day.

While Peter Joe has always had challenges with communicating his thoughts and needs, CO-OP Norton team members are observant. When Peter Joe arrived at CO-OP, two staff members worked with him at all times. Through their hard work and learning more about Peter Joe and how he communicates, there has been dramatic improvement. Peter Joe's progress is not only with staff members but with community members as well.

MacDonald's employees know Peter Joe and he them. They greet him daily . . . and Peter greets them right back. This makes Peter Joe happy and it makes us happy, too!

## Operation Care Package



**The Golden Girls** *Let No Hero Be Forgotten*

At Ingell Street, a group of women decided they can make a difference in our world by making someone else's life better.  They call themselves The Golden Girls.

They will choose various projects throughout the year where they feel they can provide the most assistance. This month, they've chosen to support our military troops through Operation Care Package.

Donations of toiletries will be accepted at 97 Ingell Street through November 30.  For a list of items needed, click here.

Kudos to **The Golden Girls** for taking this on and thank you for helping them make this a success!

For more information, contact:

Chris DePaula 508-880-0352
cdepaula@co-op.cc

## CO-OP Dighton Day
## Food Drive for Veterans



The Dighton Day Program is also leading an effort to support the military in their second CO-OP food drive for veterans and their families. Last year was such a success that it will be repeated this year. We know our CO-OP community will come together to again help our military families.

Food and toiletries will be collected and delivered to the Massachusetts National Guard to make their holiday season brighter. Click here for items needed.

If you would like to donate, all items must be donated by Friday, November 11, 2016 and delivered to CO-OP, 455 Somerset Ave., North Dighton.

For more information, contact

Gina Lopes 508-824-1717 x154

rlopes @co-op.cc

## Let's Get Digital

We're having fun connecting on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn and hope you will join us as we share what's happening at CO-OP.

For agency information, visit our website at www.co-op.cc.

Please forward this to your friends so they can sign up for CO-OP news.

Learn more about CO-OP at www.co-op.cc