Winter 2016

OUR STORY
Since 1972, CO-OP has served as an important resource for local citizens with disabilities and their families with a variety of residential, employment and day program services. Today we support close to 300 people throughout Southeastern Massachusetts with developmental and other challenges, as well as individuals with brain injuries. Our services receive the highest levels of licensure and accreditation from the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Disabilities and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

For more information about CO-OP’s programs and services, please visit our website at www.co-op.cc.

CO-OPerative Advantage

The PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
Here at CO-OP, this special time of year is steeped in tradition. Once again, we kicked off the month of December with a wonderful holiday luncheon and party hosted by the Order of Sons of Italy in America® Peter B. Gay Lodge. We have enjoyed this special annual event for eleven consecutive years and are always grateful to be a part of their great work in our local communities.

And what would the holidays be without a shout-out event from our Music 4 CO-OP program? Their November Phonus Balonus Holiday CD Release Party was another success. You can view a video of the making of this CD through our website www.co-op.cc. This time of year is also about helping others and we proudly acknowledge the many CO-OP volunteers who generously answer the call.

While pausing to reflect on this year’s milestones and individual successes, including the awarding of the highest level of licensure by the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services (DDS) for its Residential Services and Employment & Community-based Day Supports and the opening of a new home welcoming four new residents with acquired brain injuries, it is also a time to embrace the challenges of a new year. During my 28 years as CO-OP’s President & CEO, you have generously invested in our existing programs and in the additional services we undertake to help others fulfill their goal of full community participation.

During this most joyous of seasons, please consider a personal donation to assist us in this work.

Once again, thank you for your continued support.....it is always appreciated.

Best wishes,

Bill Corbett,
President & CEO

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Jacqueline Scungio, Providence Community Health Centers

2 Ways You Can Help
DONATE AN iPAD
Are you upgrading your old iPad? If your current model is still in working condition, please consider donating it.
Contact Jeannine Connolly at jconnolly@co-op.cc or 508-824-1717 x107.

MAKE A DONATION
Donations play an important role in supporting CO-OP’s many programs and services. For information on how you can help, go to www.co-op.cc

Our Mission
The purpose of CO-OP is to support people with developmental and other disabilities, including brain injuries, to become valued members of their communities, with opportunities for meaningful participation in areas of personal pursuit.

DAY HABILITATION PROGRAMS
North Dighton
455 Somerset Ave. 508-824-1717

Norton
300 Old Colony Rd. 508-223-4080

Taunton
97 Ingell St. 508-880-0352
60 Main St. 508-880-0043

COMMUNITY BASED DAY SERVICES
North Dighton
455 Somerset Ave. 508-824-1717

Taunton
97 Ingell St. 508-880-0352

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
North Dighton
455 Somerset Ave. 508-824-1717

BRAIN INJURY SUPPORTS
Taunton
97 Ingell St. 508-880-0352

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2016 ANNUAL MEETING
CO-OP held its 40th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, October 12, 2016. Each year, CO-OP honors those in our community who have provided outstanding service. Another highlight is the recognition of one CO-OP employee chosen by his or her peers for extraordinary work.

This year, we honor Tracy Malloy, Speech Therapy Aid for her achievements and personal commitment to CO-OP.

RECOGNITION FOR YEARS OF SERVICE WITH CO-OP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years: ROM</th>
<th>Employee Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35 Years:</td>
<td>Barbara McCarthy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Years:</td>
<td>Jeanne Tweedy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Years:</td>
<td>Arthur Martins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Years:</td>
<td>Marianne Bonalewicz, James Mello, John Comors, Stacey Brooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Years:</td>
<td>Lori Rego, Mary Silva, Erin Massoud, Cynthia Boland, Stephanie Oliveira</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Years:</td>
<td>Christopher Correia, Shauna Dias, Lorraine Siembah, Diane Robinson, Denise Leary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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A PHONUS BALONUS PARTY

Congratulations to all the writers, performers, and producers of the first-ever Music 4 CO-OP holiday CD. To celebrate, Music 4 CO-OP had a Phonus Balonus 1920’s themed party. The highlight of the evening was a live performance by our CO-OP musicians. Special thanks to sponsors Partners Benefit Group, Inc., The Insure and Webster Bank. A little party never killed nobody.

TIS THE SEASON FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Thanks to Bill, Alex, and others at CO-OP Ingell Street who chose to support Operation Care Package to honor our troops this holiday season.

CO-OP Day Program at Main Street loves the iPad! The ubiquitous device is an effective aid for communication therapy. Justine Norman, Speech Aid Therapist, said “It’s all about interaction and stimulation.” We can all learn something new in the digital world and apps for speech and language have proven to be a great tool to collect, analyze, and report individual progress. Betty Ann led the way in using an iPad as a communication tool. She has made great progress with the support of both CO-OP staff and her family.

Shannon joined CO-OP 15 years ago and was only comfortable working with one or two specific CO-OP staff. While we all need time away from our jobs to rejuvenate, a change in staff was extremely difficult for Shannon. Traci tells us it took very purposeful and sensitive work to help Shannon adjust. Now, staff is introduced to Shannon slowly and intentionally and the results are a more trusting and happy woman.

DEREK is a relative newcomer, having come to CO-OP in 2013. When he first arrived, Derek—who is blind—was restless and uneasy, and chose not to sit down or engage with others. With the sensitive work of the CO-OP staff, not only is he now comfortable interacting with others but his family is happy, too. It is by their recommendation, we met his housemate Kevin.

KEVIN is the more extroverted one of the pair. If there isn’t music playing when Kevin arrives, he steps up to entertain with song. His arrival at CO-OP means music!

Finding the right path together at CO-OP!

For CO-OP speech therapists, these fun and engaging activities serve another purpose. Working with an iPad allows for gathering data which starts with assessment, noting the baseline of communication for each consumer, then implementing an individual communications plan. The therapist can then assist, watch progress toward goals, and help each person move on to the next stage of his or her own personal communications plan. According to Gene Pizzolato, Speech/Language Pathologist, “The technology available through using the iPad has significantly increased the scope and the quality of the communication development services that we provide.”

Plus, those in CO-OP homes, now equipped with iPads, can continue their work, their fun, and their progress while relaxing at home. CO-OP success is gaining notoriety—in a good way—in that the state-owned Southeastern Residential Services are now looking into iPads for their homes.

Technology at work!