



Summer 2017

The CO-OPerative Advantage

INTERIM PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While we have certainly heard the phrase “lazy days of summer,” that may not apply to the Summer of '17 for all of us at CO-OP. We are truly entering a new era filled with excitement, new projects, and growth.

This June, we wished a fond farewell to Bill Corbett, our President and CEO for the past 28 years. There is no doubt Bill will be missed, but we imagine his retirement will be filled with good health, much happiness and many sunny days on the golf course.



After my own two decades of service as CO-OP's Sr. Vice President & COO, I appreciate the confidence the Board has shown in me as I step into the role of Interim President and CEO. I am honored to take this on and will strive to meet the high expectations of all in the CO-OP community. During this interim period until Bill's replacement is found, we will continue to carry out CO-OP's mission with dedication and diligence. We take great pride in providing the individuals we support with the exceptional services they have come to expect.

The CO-Operative Advantage newsletter, along with our digital news, will give you a glimpse of the great things CO-OP does each and every day. Together, all of us at CO-OP are proud of this work and happy to share it with all of you.

In the coming months, there is exciting growth coming to CO-OP. In addition to the individuals you will read about who moved into a new home opened in Marion, we are in the process of more residential service development in the Wareham area. We will also be establishing an Acquired Brain Injury Day Center in Taunton; and were recently certified to provide a number of new services to individuals with brain injuries.

This newsletter will also give insight into our expanding corps of nurses needed to meet the increasing demand for 24-hour complex medical services as well as two ongoing and fun-filled projects happening at our day programs—Kindness Rocks and Fun Fridays.

Personally, I want to thank all of you for your support, your generosity, and your continued involvement in CO-OP.

Sincerely,
Joyce Faria
Interim President & CEO

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Treasurer George Mendros, Bristol County Savings Bank

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Michael Ferrara, Mechanics Cooperative Bank

Paul Hodge, Probation Officer (retired)

Russell Latham, Gosnold School Superintendent (retired)

James Riley, Cross Real Estate

Jacqueline Scungio, Providence Community Health Centers

We're Growing!

A NEW HOME IN MARION

If you have ever moved into a new home, you might remember the feeling of excitement. It's something you never forget – especially when the home is newly built, newly painted, and newly decorated!



We recently visited with John and Sheila in Marion who shared their feelings on their new home.

CO-OP built this

home for four individuals who had spent time in nursing homes and moved in just before the 2016 holidays. Now, six months later, they are all settled in to their new life.

On the day we visited, the rain had finally stopped. The view outside the window was of an eye-ful of trees with very green leaves. Most of all, the smell of spring was in the air.

Living in Marion is somehow familiar to both John and Sheila, maybe because they both have roots on Cape Cod. For Sheila, it reminds her of her childhood. In fact, her grandmother had a house on the Cape and she and her family would visit her on weekends. For John, it's like being home again. He grew up in the area and has a number of family members who still live close to John's new home.

Both agree, living in Marion gives them something they did not have while living in a more urban environment or while living in nursing homes – fresh clean air. According to Sheila, "I love it. I love the staff. I wouldn't trade it..."



SNEAK PEAK: ABI SUPPORTS DAY PROGRAM

The staff of CO-OP Acquired Brain Injury Program are working in overdrive these days. They are gearing up for a new ABI Day Supports program to be opened later this summer. Stay tuned...

CALLING ALL NURSES

CO-OP's nursing staff plays a critical role as we provide essential medical services for our diverse community. They coordinate health services among different providers and treatment disciplines while helping individuals achieve an enhanced quality of life. This includes the management of medication, implementation of treatment protocols for individual complex and diverse medical needs, and leading wellness and safety training for the CO-OP direct care team.

As CO-OP grows, we are looking to expand the nursing team. If you, or someone you know, is interested, go to our website at www.co-op.cc for more information.



Happenings

KINDNESS ROCKS PROJECT

Connect. Inspire. Create a kinder world.



Grab a brush & cover up!

This sounds challenging, right? Well, maybe not. One way to create a kinder world is to join the Kindness Rocks Project. Kindness Rocks is an international movement that can

brighten your day—maybe even change your outlook on life!

We are doing our part to make this world a kinder place. We are collecting rocks—big rocks, small rocks, flat rocks, run-of-the-mill rocks, just any old



Choose your color!

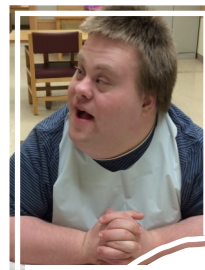
rocks. We're making them beautiful with the colors we choose and the messages we write. We create these Kindness Rocks for others to be inspired by, to enjoy, or to just brighten their day.

Our Kindness Rocks messages will be on display at a new Ingell Street rock garden,



Pour the paint.

pick it up and enjoy a kindness message.



Paint drying. Ho Hum.

both on the ground and on a wheelchair accessible platform – that is, until someone comes along, picks up a rock, only to leave it anywhere they choose. The hope is a total stranger might



Let's paint!

Decorate a rock and leave it in our garden or take a rock and leave it anywhere you choose. We hope the person who picks it up will read the message, enjoy the artwork, and help create a kinder world.



www.thekindnessrocksproject.com

MEET OUR FUN FRIDAY INTERVIEWERS!

Are you following CO-OP's Facebook page? If so, you know our three interviewers—Katelyn, Chelsea and Hailey. Each Friday over the last two months, they have been conducting interviews with people at CO-OP. Join us on Facebook each Friday and meet the folks at CO-OP. It's Fun Friday!



KINDNESS ROCKS

FACEBOOK FUN FRIDAYS

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TAUNTON, MA
02780
PERMIT NO. 614

CO-OP

455 Somerset Avenue
No. Dighton, MA 02764-0506

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Fax: 508-822-0919
E-mail: info@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.

Ways You Can Help

GET INVOLVED!

Are you on our mailing list to receive our e-newsletter? If not, send an email to info@co-op.cc and we will add you to our list.

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

DAY HABILITATION PROGRAMS

North Dighton

455 Somerset Ave. 508-824-1717

Norton

399 Old Colony Rd. 508-223-4080

Taunton

97 Ingell St. 508-880-0352

60 Main St. 508-880-0015

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