



Community Connections **NOW!**

Opportunities for People with Disabilities

Winter 2009/2010



President's Message

2009 was overshadowed by our country's economic situation. All sectors of health and human services were impacted, forcing many of our elderly, children, students and adults to go without or with less. Fortunately, people with developmental and intellectual disabilities can celebrate. Thanks to the tireless efforts of advocates, family members, staff and state-wide disability boards, the Governor overturned

many of the cuts he'd proposed to personal care attendants, day habilitation services, dental and podiatry care. Our democracy protected our most vulnerable citizens.

Community Connections pledges to remain involved with Government Administration and Legislators to help educate them on where to find government efficiencies while protecting the critical services our people require. The care and services people receive in our community is far more meaningful and much less expensive than institutional care. By working together, we can maintain the quality of care that people deserve. Thank you to all of our generous donors, supporters, volunteers, board of directors and advocates throughout the years. Your involvement is critical to our success.

Thank you for your continued support of Community Connections.

Donna Sabecky, President & CEO

Building Community Connections through Social Capital

Social Capital refers to social organizations that facilitate coordination and cooperation for mutual benefit. Community Connections is committed to building relationships and friendships in the community between our clients and other programs. The concept of "social capital" embraces giving back to the community, while providing opportunities for those we serve.



Some recent examples include the Fall River Life Skills members who delivered toys to support the Swansea Police Toys for Tots Drive (pictured above); the Somerset Day Center & Life Skills program assisted with the Fall River Food Bank's food drive; the Yarmouth Life Skills and Day Center clients decorated a Christmas tree at Sandwich's Heritage Museum and Gardens; and most recently, Community Connections programs have been working to gather necessary donations for the St. Rock Haiti Foundation, a non profit organization that provides health care to Haitian people in need.

Trainings & Parent Involvement

Our Fairhaven program recently hosted a special training with Theresa Varnet, a social worker, lawyer and a family member of a person we serve. She shared her advice and her experiences working with families from across the country and with her own family, assuring that her cousin is able to remain in her own home with her sister. Our Fall River Elders program hosted Dan Surprenant, a lawyer specializing in Estate Planning for people with a disability. He shared his expertise about inheritance and how people with disabilities can receive funds without jeopardizing their benefits.

Visit www.CommunityConnectionsInc.org to learn about more opportunities to become involved with our agency in the coming months.

Support our Fall River Programs on March 18

Spaghetti Supper and Raffle to benefit Fall River programs

**The St. John's Club
1365 Rodman Street, Fall River**

**Thursday, March 18th, 2010
5:30-8:00 p.m.**

**\$10 ticket
Call 508-678-1210**

**Save the Date: Monday, June 14
24th Annual Golf Tournament**

**The Bay Club at Mattapoisett
\$250/golfer • \$1000/foursome**

**www.CommunityConnectionsInc.org and click on "Donate Now"
or email: events@commcon.org or call: 800.308.1321**

If you would like to receive future newsletters via email please sign up at www.CommunityConnectionsInc.org

Serving Massachusetts' SouthCoast, South Shore and Cape Cod



Therese Arruda is Honored with the 2009 Madeline Pimental Direct Service Professional Award

Please join us in congratulating Therese “Terri” Arruda, Case Manager at the President Avenue Day Center in Fall River, as the 2009 recipient of the Madeline Pimental Direct Service Professional Award. Terri was honored at the President Avenue Day Center on November 17, 2009.



Terri has been employed by Community Connections since June of 1996. She began her career at the Day Center as a Program Aide and was quickly promoted to the role of Mentor. In 2001 Terri was promoted to Mentor/Leader and in 2002 she began a new role as Rehab Therapy Assistant. She has worked for the program in her present role of Case Manager since July of 2007.

Terri has always shown the greatest respect, care and concern for the individuals that we serve. She consistently goes above and beyond to ensure that their needs are met. Her professionalism is evident in the way she interacts with consumers, their families and Service Coordinators. Always willing to lend a hand, Terri seeks input from other staff to ensure that she has the most accurate information to include in the service plans for her consumers. The extraordinary work that she does every day truly honors the memory of Madeline Pimental.

The Benefits of Art Therapy

Many of our clients have benefitted from participation in Art Therapy programs. We’ve had artists visit programs to work directly with people, and developed strong partnerships with community arts organizations. The benefits of art therapy are many; it enriches lives by helping people improve their mental, emotional, and even physical states, while raising the quality of life for many people by boosting self-esteem.

Our 2009 Art Therapy programs had many highlights. The Gala by the Sea attendees bid on a wide variety of client art donated to our auction, and note cards were designed that feature work of those artists. Artists at our South Yarmouth programs hosted an art show, sharing their many works with friends, families and agency supporters. Andy Cowling, a participant in the Mashpee Day Center program won first place for a painting and special recognition for artwork he submitted to the Barnstable County Fair. For its many benefits, we hope to expand our art therapy program in the future.

Support Community Connections Join the TD Bank Affinity Membership Program

Community Connections has partnered with TD Bank to raise funds and further our mission. Through the Affinity Membership Program TD Bank will make an annual donation based on the combined account balances of our members.

How It Works: TD Bank will contribute a percentage of the annual account balance in every one of our members’ accounts.

How You Can Help: If you are already a TD Bank Customer, visit any TD Bank location and ask to have your balances linked to Community Connections as a part of the Affinity Membership Program. If you are not an existing customer consider opening an account to support the work of Community Connections. For more information about the Affinity program and opening an account with TD Bank visit www.tdbank.com/affinity



Community Connections artist, Mark McGovern with his family at the 2009 Gala by the Sea.



Community Connections Inc.

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