



Community Connections **NOW!**

Opportunities for People with Disabilities

Winter 2009



President's Message

While we face many unknowns in 2009, we know it will be a pivotal year in U.S. history. Even though we face many challenges due to our economy, Community Connections will continue to provide the highest quality services and opportunities for people with disabilities.

President Obama's recent "Call to Service," asks each of us to do our part as strong community members, volunteers and responsible citizens. This is a theme we are familiar with at Community Connections, since our extraordinary staff and

the extraordinary people we serve make our agency's "Call to Service" a reality each and every day. While we endure some very difficult changes due to our economic condition, we experience the best that our community has to offer: those willing to lend a helping hand to their fellow neighbors, to offer support to those in need, or simply to hold open a door for someone who cannot.

Governor Patrick recently said, "When problems abound, so comes unending opportunities." While we brace ourselves for further State and possible Federal service cuts, we are hopeful that our community of friends and supporters will step forward to fill some of the gaps. Whether through volunteerism, donations of goods and services or a financial investment, joining together will make us a stronger organization, a stronger community and stronger individuals. The results can only be remarkable and will surely make Community Connections and our world at large a better place!

Happy New Year!

Gifting Choices to Consider

By establishing bequests in your will or trusts listing Community Connections as a beneficiary, you can continue supporting the people with disabilities that we serve far beyond your lifetime.

Several gifting options are available:
A specific monetary amount
Gifts of stock
Gifts of property

Please consider these **planned giving opportunities**. These are responsible and important estate planning steps that you can take **now**, so that you are assured that your commitment to support Community Connections will continue as you intend, into the **future**.

We encourage you to consult with legal or financial advisors for assistance in making your estate planning decisions. For more information, please contact Viola Holmgren, Development Coordinator at 800.308.1321 x 103 or at vholmgrn@commcon.org.



Congratulations to Nate Nickerson

Nathan Nickerson, (second from left) owner of Arnold's Lobster and Clam Bar in Eastham, was this year's recipient of the Business Partnership Award of Excellence, presented by The Providers Council at its 33rd annual convention on December 3rd.

The Providers Council, which represents all human services agencies in Massachusetts, each year honors twelve individuals for their accomplishments, creativity and long standing contributions to recipients or providers of human services.

Nate "Nick" Nickerson is a native of Cape Cod and was an active member of the Community Connections Board of Directors from 2003 through 2008. He is the father of an adult child with a developmental disability and is a generous donor of his time, knowledge and funds to Community Connections as well as many other causes.

Congratulations, Nick, on your well-deserved recognition!

Miss International Visits

Guy Borges, who attends Community Connections Day Center in Plymouth, helped welcome **Jayna Altman, Miss International 2008** during her visit on October 24th. Having sustained profound hearing loss in childhood, Jayna is an inspiring role model and advocate for people with all types of disabilities.

Jayna also spent time with the clients at the Yarmouth Day Center and then closed her visit by giving the keynote address at the agency's Gala by the Sea fundraiser.





Life Skills Goes Green

A few dedicated “green” staff decided that they could make a difference by bringing recycling to the Life Skills Program in Yarmouth. These staff began educating program participants about the effects we have on our environment and sharing facts about how recycling can have an impact on our world. Soon a few bins on the counters became full of plastic, glass and paper from the program and then other staff in the building started to recycle as well. The Life Skills Green Team was formed and now Community Connections is “Going Green” with the support of all of our staff and programs, many of whom have been actively recycling for years.



The Life Skills team collects all the recyclables including old printers and monitors and brings them to the local transfer station. “We are continuously amazed by the amount of recyclable material we use,” says Amanda Bergeron-Manzone, Life Skills Specialist who helped to spearhead this effort. “Our Life Skills Green Team is thrilled to see its program expanding and making an even bigger impact on our agency.”

An agency-wide “Green Team” will set the standards to strive for in the coming months. Stay tuned for more news on our website as Community Connections Goes Green! **Help us to Go Green by providing your email address for future communications from Community Connections. Call 1-800-308-1321 or email events@commcon.org**

Extraordinary Staff ... Extraordinary Results

Two extraordinary staff members, Vice President of Programs Joe Krajewski and Service Director Kevin Jones teamed up to write and apply for a grant from the Department of Industrial Accidents Office of Safety, Occupational Safety and Health Training and Education program. The result ... an \$18,000 grant to provide safety training for Community Connections clients who are employed in community-based jobs, along with the staff who support them in their work.

Community Connections will hire a consultant and an OSHA 10 trainer who will work together to adapt training materials to meet the needs of people with disabilities. By the end of their training, individuals served by Community Connections Employment Services will have the opportunity to secure OSHA 10 Certification.

Additional grant objectives include training in safe lifting and transfers of clients who are wheelchair bound as well as behavior management techniques. Two staff will become certified as Crisis Prevention Intervention Trainers and three staff will attend the National Safety Council’s Defensive Driving Train-The-Trainer course.

Congratulations to Joe and Kevin for bringing this great opportunity to our staff and the people we serve!

Save the Date ... Monday, June 15th



23rd Annual Golf Tournament The Bay Club at Mattapoisett

\$250 per golfer

Register by May 15th to win a chance for a Bay Club foursome:
www.CommunityConnectionsInc.org.
Click on Donate Now *or* events@commcon.org *or* 1.800.308.1321 x103



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