

#### Community Connections Inc.

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Opportunities for People with Disabilitie

#### SERVICES CCI PROVIDES

#### **Day Habilitation...**

focuses on helping each individual overcome the obstacles that interfere with skills development or stand in the way of their goals.

#### **Employment Services...**

operates on a simple belief that everyone who wants to be employed is employable. We are able to successfully match candidates with a position at local companies

#### Life Skills...

a key part of making people more self-suffcient and instills feelings of empowerment and an "I can do it myself" attitude.

#### Elder Care...

provides a full program of individuallyfocused activities designed to promote health, physical well-being, and self-esteem that allow seniors to continue to explore their interests

#### High School Transition/ **Pre-employment Services (Pre-**ETS)...

provides individualized services and a robust job-readiness curriculum to match each student's unique abilities, interests, and goals

#### Individual Support...

provides one-to-one specialized supports, services, and activities that incorporate a range of individually-tailored therapies and activities recommeded by our specialists

#### Transportation...

offers daily rides to and from our day programs, an outing to a bank, or even a group trip to the park.

#### **Community Connections is Dedicated to Creating Opportunities for People with Disabilities.**

We've done that for 32 years through a team of over 350 caring, compassionate individuals, many of whom have worked here for decades. Through their dedication, Community Connections has grown from just two locations to eight locations all over Southeastern Massachusetts and Cape Cod. We currently serve over 750 individuals and have served thousands of people over the years.





#### Our mission is to provide life-enriching services that provide optimal independence for people with disabilities.

CCI's extraordinary team supports each person in reaching their potential through goal-driven services and community partnerships. Our vision is to be a thriving, unified organization in which all people are active, involved and empowered.



Our Employment Services Program is certified at the highest level by the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services Office of Quality Enhancement.

> ARTWORK | THIS PAGE & FRONT COVER | BY YARMOUTH DAY CENTER

#### **Community Connections Inc.**

Opportunities for People with Disabilities

#### **Dear Friends**,

This past year was truly a transitional year for Community Connections on a number of levels as we experienced several significant changes in the areas of leadership, facilities and in fundraising.

Perhaps none of the changes were bigger than the decision by Donna Sabecky to step down as our President and Founder. Donna had been at the helm of CCI for over 32 years. In that time she oversaw the growth of the agency from one location to an agency today serving over 750 individuals at 8 sites. Her impact and influence on the work we do today will be with us for many years to come.

While the search for a new President/CEO was underway, the agency was fortunate to have Kim Comart leading us as interim Executive Director for much of the fiscal year. Kim's guidance proved to be invaluable as he worked tirelessly to help strengthen our board, and expand our fundraising capacity. We appreciate all Kim helped us achieve in the time he was with us.

As we look ahead, it is abundantly clear to us that we simply cannot expect to be able to continue to rely almost exclusively on state and federal funding. With that thought in mind, we are committed to finding ways to strengthen our fundraising efforts. As you'll see in the pages of this report, we have implemented a few new initiatives to help us reach our goals including the "Kind Hearts Ambassador", and the Innovation Fund.

To complete our transitional year, in June the Board appointed David Botting as our new President/CEO effective July 1, 2017. Dave was our Chief Financial Officer for the previous 2 years and we were thrilled he threw his hat in the ring for CEO. We are proud to have him serving the organization in this capacity as he is always focused on what is best for our mission, our clients, and our staff. He brings a deep sense of passion and integrity to his work. Dave has hired Rob Mucha to replace him as CFO and our leadership team is complete and ready to hit the ground running in FY18.

Thank you for your support during this past year and we look forward to serving this wonderful community in the year to come.

#### With gratitude,



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#### LEADERSHIP

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**David Botting** Chief Financial Officer

> Susan Reardon Vice President Human Resources



**RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS** 

# service Awards

#### 30 Years

Joseph Krajewski, Chief Operating Officer Michelle Souza, Licensed PTA

25 Years Maria Pavao, Program Manager, FHLS

#### 20 Years

Terri Arruda, Case Manager, FRHE Patty Mejia, Developmental Specialist, FHLS Judy Kiernan, Developmental Specialist, GNBHS

#### 15 Years

Kristen Codega, Program Manager, GNBHS Lynn Nogueira, Program Manager, GNTS Simone Laferriere-Rego, Therapy Specialist, FRHS

### 10 Years of Service Linda DePippo, RN, FRHS

Linda Moore, Developmental Specialist, YCCH Donnella Pocknett, Administrative Assistant, MCCH James Monteiro, Driver, FRTS John Paiva, Therapy Specialist, FRHS Noemi Nieves, Developmental Specialist, FHLS Ana DePippo, Developmental Specialist, FRLS Patricia MacMakin, Therapy Specialist, YCCH Jeffrey Griffin, Driver, FRTS Linda Correa, Developmental Specialist, FRLS Richard Morey, Driver/Maintenance, CCTS

#### 5 Years of Service

Corina Shea, Case Manager, PHS Kenny Nobrega, Case Manager, FRLS Kevin Madeira, Developmental Specialist, Driver, FRLS/FRTS Patricia Patten, Payroll Benefits Manager, ADMIN Laurie Pereira, Program Coordinator, FRES Jennifer Oliveira, Program Manager, FRHE Paul Carroll, Aide, FRLS Vanessa Machado, Developmental Specialist, FHLS Roland Lavallee, Driver, GNTS Theresa Fontes, Driver, GNTS

Pictured I to r. Karen Rodrigues, Service Director, Patricia MacMakin, Ashling Sullivan, Manager Yarmouth Day Center



#### PATRICIA MACMAKIN employee of the year!

Every year we select an Employee of the Year from the pool of individuals who were selected as Employees of the Quarter, over the course of the year. These are employees who consistently provide the highest quality services in their jobs. This year's group of candidates included 35 employees.

This year's winner also received her 10-year service award, Patricia MacMakin, Therapy Specialist at our Yarmouth Day Program.

Patricia began working for CCI back in 2006 when she was hired at the Yarmouth Day Program as an Aide and was quickly promoted to the Therapy Specialist role. Her stand out attributes are her kindness, patience, professionalism, and is considerate of other's needs.

Ashling Sullivan, Patricia's Manager, said "Patricia is a great role model to staff and clients at the program. Her calm and patient demeanor make her a magnet for clients, who seek her out to sing, go for walks, or just to say hello. The extra time she takes with our clients makes them reassured they are in good hands here"

Congratulations Patricia to all you have accomplished and your commitment to the organization and the people we serve!

Community Connections dove head first into Wellness in April 2017 when the first Wellness Committee meeting was held.

The committee is a crossfunctional group of employees who represent all eight of our locations and have a personal interest or passion for Wellness.

The mission of the committee is to "promote and encourage healthy lifestyle choices that support the wellness of the mind, body, and spirit of our employees and the individuals we serve. Also, to inspire individuals to take responsibility for their own health and well-being".

With that goal in mind, the Wellness Committee named themselves the "Wellness Warriors" and selected a logo, created by a committee member, to spread the word about wellness.

"Live, Work, Be Well" is the tagline used to remind all our employees and consumers that wellness is an important focus forus as a community and all that we do as an agency.

ARTWORK | BY YARMOUTH DAY CENTER

A calendar of quarterly themes related to these areas of focus was developed and each location now has bulletin board containing articles, healthy recipes, and activities to help promote a healthier lifestyle.

"Free Fruit Friday" was recently implemented by the Wellness Warriors, providing free fruit to staff on the first Friday of every month.

The Wellness Warriors plans to implement monthly wellness challenges that not only benefit employees but the individuals we serve as well by incorporating their quarterly themes into related program activities.

The Wellness Warriors look forward to impacting the wellness at CCI for all our employees and the clients we serve.





The Wellness Warriors are focusing on four key areas of wellness including nutrition and healthy eating, fitness, healthy living (health education, and renewing the spirit).



Pictured I to r: Back Row: Deb Oliveira, Vicki Baxter, Jim Keller, Tricia Patten, Rocco Achille, Adna Mikvlic, Sue Readron Front Row: Susan Moreira, Deb LePage, Valarie Teves



#### SPOTLIGHT ON

## young adults



#### NICOLE growing for the future

Nicole has been attending our Fall River Lifes Skills program for two years and has done an amazing job working towards her goals.

When she first arrived to our program, Nicole was eager to be apart of all activities and create relationships with her peers. She has learned to work well with others and maintain appropriate boundaries with peers.

Nicole is currently taking classes at Bristol County Community College and is also working a part-time job.



#### TOMMY feels happy and at home

Tommy relocated with his family to Cape Cod in early 2016 and started working with our Cape Cod Employment Services program.

In June 2017, Tommy began working at Subway two days a week as a Dishwasher and states he likes his job and the people he works with. His confidence in the position has grown immensely and his managers at Subway were so pleased with his work that he was given a \$20 Cumberland Farms Gift Card as a thank you.

Tommy's family was hesitant at first, leaving behind an area where he was comfortable. Since arriving at CCI Tommy has made a group of friends and is very active in the community.



#### JOSHUA successful transition

Josh recently transitioned from the Boston League School into adult services at the Fall River Life Skills program this past summer.

Prior to the transition, FRLS program manager, Tanya, worked closely with Josh's counselor at the League school to observe the exact services Josh needed to ensure a successful transition.

Because of the prior preparation up front, Joshua has a successful transition into the FRLS program. He participates in group activities, engages with peers, enjoys coming to program, and continues to strive daily.



#### YARELYS overcoming obstacles

Yarelys came to our Pre-ETS program with some social skill struggles and hoped to work in either a retail environment or kitchen.

After completing Work Place Readiness training, Yarelys got an internship at Burlington Coat Factory. She tags and organizes clothing to make sure it is in the proper department. When she completes a task, she always asks for additional responsibilities.

Yarelys has thrived in the environment and has been able to increase her social skills. She arrives early, has not yet missed a day, and has become more comfortable with her supervisor and anyone she interacts with at the store.



Amy began attending our Fall River Day Habilitation program (Davol St.), on April 7, 2017. She previously attended South Coast Education Collaborative (SCEC) in Seekonk.

Prior to her transition into our program, the staff at Davol Street worked closely with Amy's staff at SCEC, allowing Amy to visit the program several times before starting full time. Amy's mom says she was hesitant at first changing programs.

"I had the PT and nurse from SCEC meet with some of the staff and tour the building. This helped with the decision of choosing Community Connections".

exercise group.

"I want to thank the girls that do Amy's hair and nails. What a beautiful job they do.

#### AMY Made the right choice

"I know deep down in my heart that I made the right decision. I feel the love you all have for my daughter. Plus, Amy lets me know every time I drop her off how happy she is. It is a nice feeling of security knowing there are great people like the staff at the program who truly care for the clients."

- Amy's Mom

Amy is a sweet, young lady who is outgoing and ALWAYS smiling. She enjoys using the iPad, participating in sensory activities, playing bean bag toss, listening to must, having her hair styled by our staff, and attending the weekly

She has one to one support for her safety and well-being and has started using a communication notebook to choose an activity

she would like to do with her support staff.

Amy loves to socialize with her peers and staff members. She moves throughout the program, with the help of her walker and staff support, to visit others.

"Thank you to all her one on ones for entertaining her daily with all different activities. "Having Amy move every day in her gait trainer and having her feel the independence she feels going from room to room greeting and making new friends."

ARTWORK BY YARMOUTH DAY CENTER CLIENT

### CCI PROGRAMS **by**thenumbers

## DAY HABILITATION SERVICES



Southeastern Mass Provide services to

#### **PARTICIPATION SATISFACTION**



of Individuals we serve that are satisfied

#### **HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**



All programs were challenged to focus on health and wellness activities to improve the overall health of individuals

These activities resulted in a 6% decrease in the amount of days participants were



### **EMPLOYMENT SERVICES** UTILIZATION



individuals both on and off Cape Cod

Through the development of Pre-employment Transition Services to students with disabilities & existing relationship with school departments





services to 58 special

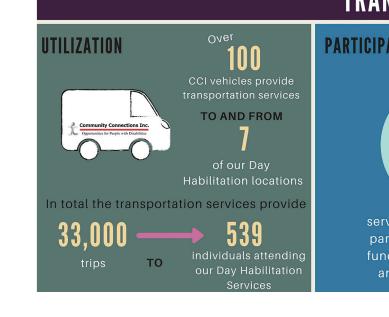
amount of school age students served

#### **PARTICIPATION SATISFACTION**



#### **JOB PLACEMENT**







The CCI High Five was created to help increase our attention to positive behaviors and less attention to negative behaviors, one of the most important aspects of Universal Supports in PBS. All staff are using

ARTWORK BY YARMOUTH DAY CENTER CLIENT



#### TRANSPORTATION

#### **PARTICIPATION SATISFACTION**

**97**% service satisfaction from

participants, family, and funders according to our annual survey results

#### **SAFETY AND WELL-BEING**

**Community Connections** highly values the safety and well-being of all its drivers and passengers, closely monitoring driver training & performance

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All transportation programs successfully passed desk audits performed by local transi authorities that focus on vehicle and driver safety

### POSTIVE BEHAVIORAL SUPPORTS **CCIHighFive**

PBS is a statewide initiative that Community Connections Inc. is incorporating into all of its services and programs. This past year, our Implementation Team developed a tool to ensure that all staff are applying PBS principals on a dayto-day basis. The tool that was developed was the CCI High Five.

the CCI High Five to provide positive feedback to other staff and consumers in a tangible way.

The High Five is used whenever someone wants to show their appreciation, provide positive feedback, or acknowledge a good deed, act, or job well done toward a co-worker or consumer.

Appreciation can be shown to anyone at any time!

### **Innovation**Fund



The Innovation Fund was put together to honor Donna Sabecky, founder and former President & CEO of Community Connections, Inc (CCI). Donna founded CCI in 1985 to provide services to people with developmental and cognitive disabilities, with the goal of helping them become independent and productive members of their community. Community Connections, Inc. pursues this vision on a daily basis.

In January 2017, Donna, along with her physicians, decided it was best for her to step down from the organization due to health complications.

Donna is still close to the organization, serving on the Board of Directors and will

continue to be involved and volunteer at future CCI special events. We thank Donna for her vision to see this agency prosper as it does today, and for all of the individuals' lives she has changed for the better over the past 32 years.

Donations to the Innovation Fund help support professional development of CCI staff and innovative programs for individuals who attend Community Connections to foster independence, self-advocacy and/or self-determination.

Plans are in the process to use the collected donations, over \$16,000 so far, to fund leadership and development training for our staff members.

The Arc of Cape Cod Association of Developmental Disabillities Providers (ADDP) Sergio & Lisa Belegno Adrienne Bender David Botting Debra Brosnan Donna Buonopane **Comart & Associates** Thomas & Margaret Corey Elena Gatti Cristy Elkins Ann Garrahan Jean Catherine Gillis Bea Gremlich Celine & Robert Hardy Johnson & Johnson, Inc. Joseph & Davonia Keller and Mary Puzio Eugene & Eileen Lonergan Milhench Supply, Mark Milhench Amy Ruth Nevis Tina Patrissi Stasia & Sean Powers James & Janet Rice Edward Robinson-Lynch Robert Rush Donna Sabecky Marie Sabecky Seven Hills Foundation Diane M. Thayer

THANKYOU!

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### FY-2016-2017 | P11 | DONNA'SFAREWELLPARTY

























### **JosephKeller**

Who is Joseph Keller? Many would say "golfer," He is after all a top-ranked Senior Amateur player in New England. Joe is known far and wide for his golf skill, having won many tournaments over the years. He has played some of the most famous golf courses including Augusta, Pebble Beach, and Pine Valley, just to name of few.

Others would tell you "Realtor/Investor/ Land Lord." Joe is the owner of Keller Company, Inc. of Hyannis. Keller Company owns and manages 150,000 square feet in 7 buildings, 2 of which include Community Connections, Inc. as a tenant. Joe, his "right hand" Mary Puzio and their staff often focus on the needs of a non-profit and find properties that perfectly fit the organization's needs.

At Community Connections, Inc., we call him a "kind heart." In the short time we have been associated with him, he has been a tremendous supporter and friend. For both our new South Yarmouth location and our Mashpee Day Center he has helped us find the perfect location, helping it to meet the needs of our clients and staff. His generosity is felt throughout Cape Cod at many nonprofits including Cape Cod Healthcare,



CCI 2017 Kind Hearts Ambassador, Joseph Keller

Cape Cod Symphony and the Cotuit Center for the Arts.

In 2015. Joe purchased the Pathways Office building along with his partner Bruce MacGregor. They transformed the former Christmas Tree Shops headquarters on Whites Path into the Pathway Office Park specifically for nonprofit tenants. At the time, Community Connections was getting to the end of our lease. The headquarters/S. Yarmouth program



site, no longer fit the needs of the organization and it made sense to move. Joe was there with the perfect opportunity, just a short move down the road, to a larger, better designed, and customized to fit the needs of our clients and staff. It was a perfect fit.

We are so grateful for our donors like Joe, who continue to support Community Connections, in so many ways.











## THANKYOU TO ALL OUR DONORS July 1, 2016 to June 30. 2017

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[\$5,000 & ABOVE] Sergio & Lisa Balegno, In Honor of Sam Belegno Carmel & Jennifer Gilberti HUB International New England Joseph & Davonia Keller Arnold's Lobster & Clam Bar The Burton A. and Maxine C. Rice Foundation Trust

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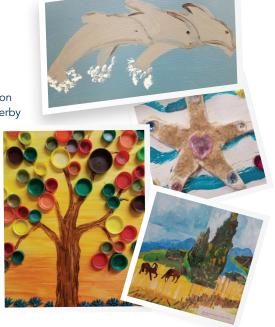
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A NOTE TO OUR READERS: We do our best to report accurate donor information & sincerely apologize for any misspelling or inadvertent omission of anyone who made a gift to Community Connections during the period 7/1/2016 - 6/30/2017. Please advise us of any error by contacting the administrative office at 800-308-1321. Thank you.



Statement

Other Assets Total assets

ASSETS

#### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

**Current parties of notes psychic** 

Current portion of mortgages payable

Current parties of capital leave obligations Accounts payable and accrued expenses

Account salaries and wages

Other current liabilities

Notes payable, net of current portion

Mortgages payable, net of current portion

Capital lease obligations, set of current po **Total liabilities** 

#### Net assets

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#### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenues, Gains and Other Support

#### Contrast energy

**Client service fees** Contributions and fundraising

Gain on sale of property and equipment

Other income

Total revenues, gains and other suppo

#### Expenses

Program services
Managementand general
Supporting services
Total expenses
Change in net assets
Net Assets at Beginning of Year
Net Assets at End of Year

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#### **Community Connections Inc.**

Opportunities for People with Disabilities

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### CCI LEADERS RECOGNIZED AT **ADDPConference**

The Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers (ADDP) represents 130 private providers to services and supports to people with developmental disabilities and brain injuries in Massachusetts.

Their mission is to promote and ensure the strength of community based providers so they can be successful in improving quality, access, and value of services in the community.

ADDP hosted a Lead! Conference & Expo this past year. The conference provided Community Connections (CCI) the opportunity to hear the latest ideas, trends, practices, and policies impacting services and to engage in discussions to generate new solutions and network with other service providers.

This year's ADDP Lead! Conference &

Expo was an extra special day for CCI. Joe Krajewski, Chief Operating Officer, received the Marty Martini Outstanding Leadership Award that acknowledges a leader in the field of developmental disabilities. Joe was presented this award by former President & CEO of CCI, Donna Sabecky.

It was a special day for Donna as well. Not only was she presenting an award, she received one as well. Donna was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award, honoring all she has done for CCI and ADDP over the past 32 years. It was a great day to congratulate our colleagues and take away vital information that has helped bring new ideas to CCI's programs.

The ADDP Lead! Conference & Expo was held on May 4th, 2017 at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA.

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## AUGUST2016







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Opportunities for People with Disabilities

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### **CONNECT WITH US!**

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