



# OPPORTUNITIES for INCLUSION

*A New Name and a Bright Future*

Formerly GWArc

Gabriel Vonleh, MHA  
Chief Executive Officer

*For people with intellectual  
and developmental disabilities*

*"Celebrating 63 Years of Excellence"*

56 Chestnut Street  
Waltham, MA 02453  
781-899-1344  
781-899-2197 FAX  
781-899-8555 TDD



[www.OppsforInclusion.org](http://www.OppsforInclusion.org)

*President*

Gerard Cosby

*Vice President*

Harvey Fisher

*Treasurer*

Kaitlyn Riley

*Secretary*

Siobhan O'Connell

*Board of Directors*

Juanita Allen

John Barry

Kevin Douglas

Tom Duca

Robert Gallagher

Kathy Horrigan

Dennis Johnson

Shawn D. Keefe, Esq.

Anthony McPherson

Susan Parrella, EdD

Ed Sauerwald

Tim Steele

Emma Williams

*Immediate Past*

*Co-Presidents*

Marcia MacClary

John Peacock

*Honorary Trustees*

John Battaglini

(deceased)

Arthur DeVincent

(deceased)

Robert Donoghue

Jean Poirier Foster

Russ Malone

(deceased)

Anthony Mangini

Frederick Tortola

(deceased)

March 16, 2020

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to update you regarding Opportunities for Inclusion's response to the COVID-19 crisis. This is an unprecedented, fluid situation that our Leadership Team has been following very closely. During this time of uncertainty, our primary concern is for our participants, staff and their families. **Our Leadership Team, together with the Board of Directors, have decided to close our day and employment programs for the remainder of March starting tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>.** We will maintain a limited number of administrative staff on site during this time period.

**This closure includes:**

- **CBDS and Employment Programs (Group Supported Employment, Independent Supported Employment and School to Work Transitions) at 31 Woodland Road, Waltham**
- **Day Habilitation Program at 56 Chestnut Street, Waltham**
- **Recreation Program**

**Our Adult Family Care (AFC) Program will remain open.**

This decision was not made lightly as we understand that this closure will present challenges to families and individuals we serve. On Monday, 3/16, programs are open and all staff are available to work with the participants in our programs to inform and prepare them for the agency closure. We will also reach out to families who we believe will be most challenged by the closures and look for ways to offer assistance and assurances. You may also call the director overseeing your family member's program if you have questions or emergent needs (see contact information on reverse side). You may also call our main number at 781-899-1344 x0, leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Day program staff will be reassigned as needed to the greatest extent possible, given their schedules and family obligations. We will be asking for and offering flexible work schedules for those who can manage and/or need them. This is an unprecedented situation, and we need all employees to be flexible.

We hope and expect to open day programs on April 1. Should this change based on information presented at the time, we will let you know.

For trusted information regarding the coronavirus and our state's recommendations during this health crisis, please refer to [www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19](http://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19)

With humility and respect,

Gabriel Vonleh  
Chief Executive Officer



Opportunities for Inclusion is Accredited  
By the Commission on Accreditation  
of Rehabilitation Facilities.



Opportunities for Inclusion, Inc. is a private  
501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We are an  
affiliate of The Arc of the U.S. and Arc of MA.

**Opportunities for Inclusion  
Program Directors' Contact Information:**

**CBDS, GSE, ISE, School to Work Transitions: Leslie LeBlanc: 339-222-6585,  
[lleblanc@oppsforinclusion.org](mailto:lleblanc@oppsforinclusion.org)**

**Day Habilitation: Debbie Pierre, 508-840-4412, [dpierre@oppsforinclusion.org](mailto:dpierre@oppsforinclusion.org)**

**Adult Family Care (AFC): Barbara Dunker, 339-222-6594,  
[bdunker@oppsforinclusion.org](mailto:bdunker@oppsforinclusion.org)**

**Recreation: 781-899-1344 x0**