Greetings from Gabriel Vonleh, Chief Executive Officer

Hello, I hope you enjoy this special edition of our newsletter that is dedicated to our wonderful staff and participants.

In this issue, we are pleased to highlight the direct care staff of our Day Habilitation, Employment, Community Based Day Supports (CBDS) and Transitions Programs. These committed, caring staff members work directly with our participants every day to make a positive difference in their lives.

Several staff members have been with us for many years, particularly in our Day Habilitation program (Mary Leo, 33 years; Rhonda Fleming, 23 years; Marie Abelard, 19 years) and we salute their longevity and dedication! Our Day Habilitation staff has combined longevity of 114 years; our Employment, CBDS and Transitions staff has combined longevity of 25 years.

Staff members express their heartfelt reasons for working at Opportunities for Inclusion on page 3.

I wish you all a relaxing, safe and peaceful summer! Please be in touch to share your thoughts and ideas. I can be reached at 781-899-1344 x4112 or gvonleh@oppsforinclusion.org.

With humility and respect,

Gabriel Vonleh, MHA
Chief Executive Officer
Welcome to Debora Pierre, Director of Day Habilitation

Welcome to Debora Pierre, our new Director of Day Habilitation. Debbie brings years of experience working with the elderly and individuals with developmental disabilities at area agencies, including South Shore Elder Services and Jewish Family & Children Services. Debbie holds a B.S. in Psychology from Bridgewater State University.

We also welcome:

Stephanie Russo, School to Work Transitions Manager
Stephanie was a high school English teacher for several years in Norfolk and Holbrook, MA and most recently worked with the Newton Public Schools. Stephanie holds an M.S. in Education from Simmons College and a B.A. from Assumption College.

James Jones, Day Habilitation DD Assistant
James is a familiar presence through his past work leading popular music sessions with Day Habilitation and CBDS participants. James has previous experience at our agency as a Day Habilitation Case Manager from 2000 to 2004. He is happy to be back on staff.

Lisa Dunker, CBDS Employment/Volunteer Coordinator
Lisa is working in our CBDS Program this summer to plan visits to potential employers and volunteer sites in the community. Lisa is assisting participants to explore career and volunteer interests and skills needed. She attended Georgetown University and has worked as a program coordinator and residential/youth counselor. This position is funded by a grant from Peoples United Community Foundation.

Congratulations to:
- Tracy Wypych, CBDS Case Manager, on the birth of her daughter Sophelia on June 7
- Mace Miller who celebrated his 88th birthday in June. Mace is our beloved longtime volunteer who leads drumming and singing sessions with participants at our two sites twice a month.

Thank you to:
- Our wonderful staff nurses! We were proud to recognize them during National Nurses Week in May—Day Habilitation: Christine Dorn Dressler, RN; AFC Program: Barbara Dunker, RN, Joann Corbelle, RN, and Kathy Augustini, RN
- Bentley Service-Learning student volunteers who completed volunteering in our CBDS and Day Habilitation programs for the Spring Semester in April. They will return for the Fall semester
- Isabella Bellarmino, graduating senior at Saint Joseph Prep High School, who spent a week volunteering in our Day Habilitation Program as a community service project
- Volunteers from Renaissance Christian Church of Waltham and youth volunteers of Nicholson Christian Church, who came all the way from Kentucky, for beautifying the grounds at Chestnut St. and Woodland Rd.
- Volunteers from Sherwin Williams, who painted our Chestnut St. lobby and conference room
Why I Work at Opportunities for Inclusion

- Opportunities for Inclusion has always been committed to offering new and innovative programming. The individuals are great, staff are very dedicated, and together we make a wonderful difference in each other’s lives - Mary Leo, Senior Case Manager
- I work here because of our clients. I just want to make their lives better - Rhonda Fleming, Day Habilitation Case Manager
- I enjoy advocating for the participants we serve - Marie Abelard, Day Habilitation DD Assistant
- I like making a difference in the lives of the people we serve and helping them grow toward their full potential - Dan Sensale, GSE Site Supervisor
- We’re a family who looks out for one another through thick and thin - Peter Cohn, Day Habilitation Case Manager
- I enjoy seeing the smiles on the individuals’ faces every day, and they make me laugh with their senses of humor - Amy Kingsbury, CBDS Case Manager
- The participants are very kind and need our attention. I love them all - Inrick Philogene, Day Habilitation DD Assistant
- I like working with the individuals because it is rewarding when an individual completes or accomplishes something they didn’t think was possible. It is inspiring to see the effort they put in to overcome a disability and make it an ability - Mike Grimes, Day Habilitation Case Manager
- Working here has taught me what is really meaningful. These people are truly inspirational, both participants and staff - Christine Dorn Dressler, RN, Coordinator of Health Services
- It’s a privilege to work with and learn from the amazing people at Opportunities for Inclusion - Liz Cavano, Day Habilitation Case Manager
- I like working at Opportunities for Inclusion as I feel honored to serve our individuals and help to make a difference in their lives - Kareen Irving-Williams, Day Habilitation Case Manager
- I like people and I like helping, especially people that need help. That’s the reason I like to work at Opportunities for Inclusion - Clotilde Augustin, Day Habilitation DD Assistant
- I enjoy working here because the participants we serve keep me happy - Michelle Jean-Charles, Day Habilitation DD Assistant
- I love working at Opportunities for Inclusion because every day with the individuals is an amazing experience and teaches me something new - Stephanie Russo, School to Work Transitions Manager
- I am thrilled when participants reach their goals. I provide a safe, happy space for my team. Helping make a positive impact on their lives is the driving force - Herline Louisia, GSE Site Supervisor
- I enjoy working with the participants in helping them accomplish their goals - James Jones, Day Habilitation DD Assistant
- I enjoy working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities because each individual is unique and deserves an equal opportunity in life - Stephanie Russo, School to Work Transitions Manager

Nutrition Update - Christine Dressler, RN, Coordinator of Health Services

We began another installment of Good Nutrition classes in the Spring, and are focusing on how and what to eat for a healthier lifestyle. We are addressing 4 main course areas: **Real whole foods, Foods to Include, Foods to Avoid, and Portion Sizes**. More details and tips can be found on our website, OppsforInclusion.org—check it out!
Here’s What’s Been Happening….

Day Habilitation participants and staff deliver cookies they baked to firefighters at the Waltham fire station on Moody Street, to say thank you to our first responders. Firefighters gave our participants booklets on practicing fire safety.

Artist CC King works with CBDS participants to create animal puppets.*

*This program was supported in part by a grant from the Waltham Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Stephen L. displays the animal puppet that he created and decorated.

At The Zoo!

CBDS participants (above left) and Day Habilitation participants (above right) enjoyed seeing a wide variety of zoo animals and exhibits when they travelled to the Franklin Park Zoo this Spring!

We Love Gardening…

At left, CBDS participants enthusiastically prepare the garden bed for planting.
Above, Day Habilitation participants plant lettuce, eggplant and squash with volunteers from Renaissance Church. Vegetables we harvest will be used for cooking projects.

And Music!

Friday afternoon music is a tradition! Above, Day Habilitation participant Tommy R. joins in the music making.
At the Watch City Self Advocates meeting in April, Kelly Cronin, Community Relations Manager at Watertown Savings Bank (left), Kristina S. and Jessica C. pack up donated used cell phones to donate to military troops in the field. Kelly and Dick Tartarczuk, Watertown Savings Bank CFO, gave a presentation on budgeting and savings at the meeting.

Brandeis Buddies!

Brandeis Buddies participants and student volunteers gather at the final on-campus meeting this Spring. Meeting activities included a fun egg drop from a second level and decorating tote bags. Brandeis Buddies seeks to build friendships between Brandeis student volunteers and individuals with developmental disabilities who work on campus or live in the community. Meetings are held regularly during the fall and spring semesters.

Dance participants and Brandeis student volunteers celebrate at our Spring Fling dance.

GSE participants perform a dance routine at “Story Time Things You Should Know”, an on-campus event hosted by Brandeis Buddies where individuals with disabilities shared their stories and talents.

Rousing applause and rave reviews followed as Recreation participants and Mike Mullins, Recreation Manager, performed a dance routine to an Abba disco medley in the Center Stage dance recital in June. The group practiced their routine during the “I Love Dance” recreation activity.
Mary M. shows her team spirit on Red Sox Opening Day.

Day Habilitation:
- We are enjoying gardening, picnics under the shady trees and visits to Franklin Park Zoo
- Art sessions with CC King, music/drumming with Mace Miller and pet therapy continue
- Participants celebrated Red Sox Opening Day with lots of fun activities!

Community Based Day Supports:
- We continue to deliver Meals on Wheels every Friday
- Gardening at Woodland Road and our plot at Waltham Community Garden is a popular activity
- We travelled to the Franklin Park Zoo, Stone Zoo, Museum of Science, and the Diversity Game Day Celebration, sponsored by DDS, at Gore Place in June (see photo at right)

Group Supported Employment (GSE):
- GSE participants are enjoying a Semester Break program with fun and educational activities while college work sites are closed for the summer
- Buildings & Grounds and Bentley University work sites remain open for the summer

Individual Supported Employment (ISE):
- Job coaching/development continued for several individuals who hold jobs in the community

School to Work Transitions:
- Our Transitions Summer Program will be held at Brandeis University in July. Students will work on a number of projects and will also serve lunch at the Whittemore Elementary School through a partnership with the Waltham Boys & Girls Club

Adult Family Care (AFC):
- The AFC team participated in Adult Family Care Awareness Day at the State House in April, during which they visited legislators to advocate for sufficient funding
- The team has also been attending numerous transitions fairs to build awareness and increase the number of members we serve
- Contact Barbara Dunker, RN, AFC Program Director to find out more about this beneficial program. Barbara can be reached at 781-899-1344 x4710, bdunker@OppsforInclusion.org

Recreation:
- Fun Spring activities included our Spring Fling dance, a visit to the USS Albacore submarine and Portsmouth Navy Yard, Shriners Circus, Healthy Cooking at Newton Community Farm, MA Pirates football at DCU Center and more!
- We explored Waltham Riverfest activities in June and helped host an Opportunities for Inclusion information table at the event (see photo at right)
- Join us at Concerts on the Common on Tuesday evenings this summer!

Day Habilitation participants said goodbye to Jillian Russo, Lesley University student intern for the Spring semester, in May. The group made pumpkin pies, Jillian’s favorite, as a goodbye activity. Jillian shared her favorite memories: “My best experience at Opportunities for Inclusion was the cooking groups we did. I enjoyed preparing and measuring out ingredients and baking with the participants. It was fun to see everyone participate and enjoy eating the food we made. Another favorite memory is when we took a walk to the park. A staff member and I took a new participant and other participants to get some exercise and play basketball. It was a lot of fun and nice for everyone to get outside. It was a nice way to meet the new participant, figuring out what he likes to do, and a great way for him to get to know the other participants.”

Good Luck Jillian!

Jillian Russo, seated at right, with Day Habilitation participants and the pumpkin pies they baked.
Our 3rd Annual WCAC Live TV Auction was a Success!

We had a fun night, with amazing auction co-hosts and wonderful auction prizes, as people from the Greater Waltham community and beyond tuned in to our 3rd annual “Spring for Opportunities for Inclusion!” Live TV Auction and bid on great items while supporting our agency! Thank you to Maria Sheehan and the WCAC-TV staff for hosting this fundraiser once again! Thanks also to Premier Sponsor Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation and Corporate Sponsors Watertown Savings Bank and Unified System.

Many thanks to auction co-hosts Connie Braceland, Yolanda Cellucci, Bob Gallagher, Kelly Hill, David Josef, Lisa Lorgeree, Bob Marcou, Betty Mazzone, Phil McGrady, John Peacock, Gabriel Vonleh and guest host Waltham Mayor Jeannette McCarthy. Thanks also to our phone crew, Barbara Dunker, Marisol Hernandez and Leslie LeBlanc; Sabrina Greer, Marketing Intern; and businesses and individuals who generously donated auction items to make our fundraiser a success! Special thanks to Rick Pizzi and Pizzi Farm for donating delicious sandwich platters and salads to sustain everyone that evening!

Congratulations and Good Luck!

Congratulations and good luck to Sabrina Greer, Brandeis ’19 and Kristina Nielsen, Bentley ’19, our marketing interns who graduated in May.

Sabrina, who was seeking nonprofit experience with a focus on disabilities, began her internship in June 2018 and greatly enjoyed activities that involved interacting with our participants. Key accomplishments include creation of our video “Opportunities in Action!” which was shown at our 2018 Annual Meeting and is viewable on our website, and design of our 2019 Artists of Opportunities for Inclusion calendar. Sabrina will attend law school at the University of North Carolina in Fall 2019.

Kristina joined us last Fall as a Yawkey Fellow, funded by Bentley University, and worked on grants and our Annual Appeal. She then continued as a marketing intern for the Spring semester, working on performance analysis reports and our Live TV auction. Kristina’s favorite memory is volunteering at our Harvest Breakfast fundraiser.

Grants and Donations Update

We are grateful for recent grants and donations from the following organizations:

- **Jones Partnership Fund** - $1,200 grant for “Community Service and Connections,” a project which supports Day Habilitation, CBDS and Recreation community service/volunteer activities
- **Digital Federal Credit Union**
- **Rotary Club of Waltham**
- **Waltham Lions Club**
- **Waltham Disability Services Commission** - funding to purchase a heavy duty therapy mat table. Participants can more easily transfer to this table to participate in exercise and other therapies

Thanks to all for their support!
Join Us!
Annual Meeting & Community Recognition Awards
Monday, November 18, 6PM
Embassy Suites Waltham
Stay tuned for more details!

YOU Can
Make a Difference!
Please help us continue to provide high quality care and services to individuals we serve.

Please make your tax-deductible donation online at OppsforInclusion.org, “Make a Donation”.

Or send a check to:
Opportunities for Inclusion,
56 Chestnut St., Waltham, MA 02453
Thank You!

AmazonSmile
Do you shop at Amazon? Shop at AmazonSmile (same products and prices), designate Opportunities for Inclusion as your charitable organization and we will receive .5% of your purchase price at no cost to you.

Save the Date For this Milestone Event - Our 49th Year!
Sunday, October 20
8 AM to Noon
Embassy Suites Waltham
550 Winter Street, Waltham

Bountiful Breakfast Buffet
Music by DJ Rich Profita
Line Dancing Magician
Balloon Animals Face Painting
And More!

We are seeking Harvest Breakfast Event Sponsors and Advertisers. Advertise your business while supporting Opportunities for Inclusion!

For more information, please contact Joanne Raymond at 781-899-1344 x4147, jraymond@OppsforInclusion.org or visit OppsforInclusion.org
Save the Date!

49th Annual Harvest Breakfast

Sunday, October 20, 2019
8 am - Noon
Embassy Suites Waltham
550 Winter Street, Waltham, MA

~Food/Entertainment~
Bountiful Breakfast Buffet
Music by DJ Rich Profita
Line Dancing    Magician    Balloon Animals    Face Painting
Silent Auction    Mystery Gift Bags

Adults-$24; Seniors/Special Needs Adults-$17; Children under 12-$12

Sponsor and Ad Opportunities Available

For more information, contact Opportunities for Inclusion:
781-899-1344, jraymond@oppsforinclusion.org
www.oppsforinclusion.org

All proceeds benefit Opportunities for Inclusion programs and services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Opportunities for Inclusion is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our tax id is 04-2441728.