



Summer 2019

The CO-OPerative Advantage

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Now that the summer weather is in full swing, I have to smile when I hear people talk of a “slow season” at work. At CO-OP, we don’t have a slow season. While I encourage everyone to enjoy the summer, the work of CO-OP continues unabated.

This slow-season thought came into full view when I tried to reserve a CO-OP conference room. It appears these rooms are a hot commodity even as we continue to expand our footprint at 97 Ingell Street, Taunton and 455 Somerset Ave, No. Dighton. (You will hear more about these construction projects in upcoming communications.)

My search for meeting space showed me that everyone at CO-OP is in a perpetual state of learning. The training is happening for all of us – management, administrative, nursing, clinical, direct care staff – 12 months a year. We might move a little slower in the summer heat but we are not slowing down when it comes to the responsibilities we assume when we walk through CO-OP’s door each day.

In this newsletter, we’d like to give you a glimpse of how we uphold our mission to support people with developmental and other disabilities become valued members of their communities and provide opportunities for meaningful participation in areas of personal pursuit. Specifically, this newsletter is a glimpse of how each one of us is given the tools we need to fulfil this mission.

As always, we are grateful for the hard work and dedication we see all around us, including the support we receive from each one of you.

Sincerely,

Joyce Faria
Interim President & CEO

OUR STORY

Since 1972, CO-OP has served as an important resource for local citizens with disabilities and their families with a variety of residential, employment and day program services. Today we support close to 450 people throughout Southeastern Massachusetts with developmental and other challenges, as well as individuals with brain injuries. Our services receive the highest levels of licensure and accreditation from the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Disabilities and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

For more information about CO-OP’s programs and services, please visit our website at www.co-op.cc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Raymond Pelote, Wynn & Wynn, P.C.

Vice Chair Jacqueline Scungio, Providence Community Health Centers

Treasurer Andy Donellon, Donellon, Orcutt, Patch & Stallard

Clerk James Riley, Cross Real Estate
Darlene Boroviak, Wheaton College

Michael Browner, Consultant

Joyce Faria, President & CEO, CO-OP

Paul Hodge, Probation Officer (retired)

Russell Latham, Gosnold School Superintendent (retired)

Roger Monty, MA Dept. Developmental Services & ARC of Greater Plymouth (retired)

Jeff Morse, CO-OP CFO (retired)

Margaret Szewczyk, Maxon Precision Motors, Inc.

Our Philosophy is our Foundation

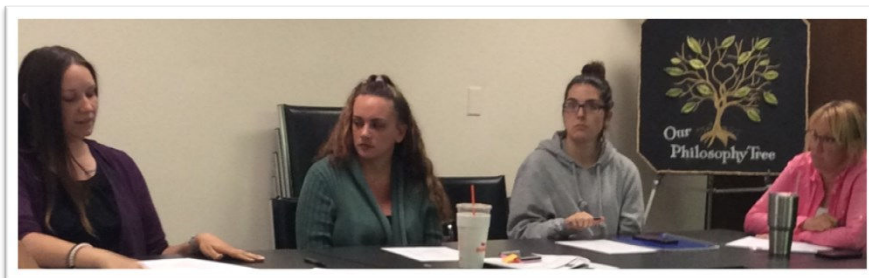
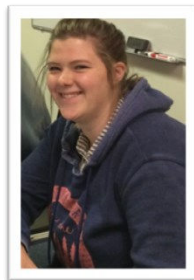
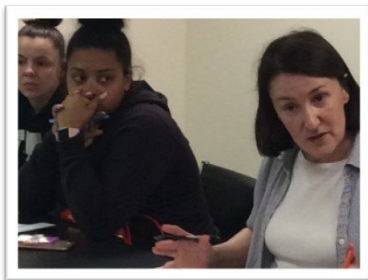
IT STARTS WITH TRAINING



Since its inception, CO-OP holds true to its values and service philosophy. We believe in affording the people we support – no matter the extent or nature of their challenges – the same level of respect and courtesy we offer to friends and families. Every staff member, whether they are direct support, administrative support, or on our leadership team, participates in CO-OP Philosophy training.

We believe in embracing our similarities, not the perceived differences. In support of this philosophy:

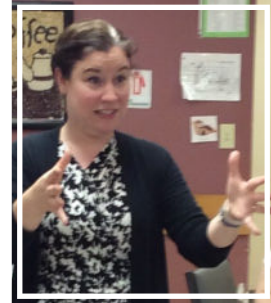
- ◆ All the members of our organization are treated equally with dignity and respect, regardless of our differences and unique challenges.
- ◆ We respect and support the decisions of people receiving our services.
- ◆ We maintain a high level of expectations for everyone in the agency and share the belief we will all respond in a positive manner.
- ◆ We understand the power of words ... what we say and how we say it speaks volumes about the members of our organization.
- ◆ We all work together to enhance community services for people with disabilities by educating the public with positive examples of our work.
- ◆ No matter what our job titles may be, everyone at CO-OP is considered support staff. We are all responsible for supporting the visions and dreams of individuals receiving our services.



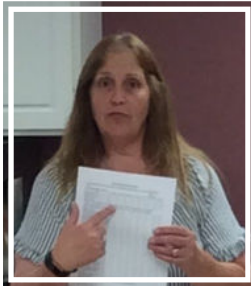
CAREER EXPOSURES

Many who attend CO-OP's community based day programs are involved in skills training as they prepare for employment or volunteering in the community. Career explorations with our community partners are a great opportunity to see what type of work an individual may like to explore. Additionally, our Employment team invites guest speakers to CO-OP to talk about the joys, opportunities and challenges they find in their chosen careers.

We hosted Taunton Federal Credit Union's Training Manager, Kathleen Rushton. Kathleen gave us all some insight on what it is like to work in a bank. She took the time to answer all our questions from what happens when there is a bank robbery, to appropriate dress when working in a bank, to the behind-the-scenes activity we don't see when we use the bank's drive-up window.



Kathleen taught us the benefits of showing initiative at our place of work and how this helped her become TFCU's training manager.



We were also grateful to Rhonda Clark from H & L Bloom for spending an afternoon with us to talk about her career as a van driver and all the responsibilities that come with driving children to school. Rhonda takes the safety and well being of all in her care seriously as she attends to those with individual needs.

The most famous guest speaker to come to CO-OP to date was Michelle Muscatello from WPRI's weather team. It's not often we have a celebrity on the premises so everyone was very excited. Michelle talked of preparing for and presenting the early morning weather. She talked of her career and explained what it's like to work at Channel 12 Eyewitness News. She also demonstrated a few weather instruments as she explained how the weather is scientifically predicted.



There is training...and then there is training!



“... experimental and clinical studies have reported that [physical exercise] induces structural and functional changes in the brain, determining enormous biological, and psychological benefits.”*

At CO-OP, we are all for that!

*<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5934999/>



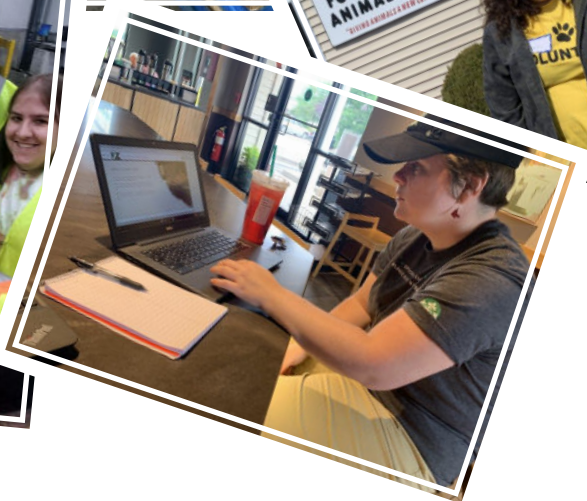
THE RESULT: WE WORK!

“...opportunities for meaningful participation...”

This is a critical phrase appearing in CO-OP’s mission and is undoubtedly at the forefront of all the activities coming out of the Employment Services office at CO-OP. These pictures show the enormous satisfaction derived when we discover our own worth and participate in our community, either through volunteerism or paid work. We are especially proud of those who have found their niche in the employment world, such as Ed Pond who created his own snack company business or Heather Wryostek who is a longtime employee of Starbucks (both among pictures below). Ed and Heather both have surpassed their ten-year work anniversaries.

That satisfaction might come from working with a local business partner, creating our own business, or creating opportunities by surveying our community, assessing a need, and proposing how a CO-OP crew can help.

If you know of any employment or volunteer opportunities, please contact Case Manager Melissa Higgins at mhiggins@co-op.cc.



HUMAN RIGHTS AT CO-OP

CO-OP firmly believes in the guidance provided by Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services Office of Human Rights. Our staff is trained and required to adhere to all human rights guidelines. Additionally, we want each and every one we assist to know their rights.



“The OHR is dedicated to affirming, protecting and promoting human rights of individuals served by DDS. It serves as a resource to individuals, their families, provider agencies and to DDS.”

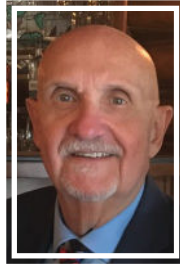
Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services
Office of Human Rights

- ◇ You have the same rights as other people.
- ◇ You have the right to have your information be Confidential.
- ◇ You have the right to privacy, including but not limited to personal space at home, privacy on the phone and privacy for personal needs.
- ◇ You have the right to be informed about your health and to receive any needed medical care.
- ◇ Medications and treatments need to be explained to you, including risks, benefits, and possible side effects.
- ◇ You have the right to have all your reasonable requests responded to promptly and adequately (bathroom, water, illness).
- ◇ You have the right to attend this program as long as you like, or until your needs cannot best be met here.
- ◇ You can participate in the development of your Individual Support Plan (ISP). The plan cannot go into effect unless you and/or guardian agree with it.
- ◇ You have the right to complain about the services you receive.
- ◇ You have the right to a clean, safe and enjoyable environment.
- ◇ You cannot be discriminated against.
- ◇ You have the same civil and legal rights as other people (including the right to vote).
- ◇ You have the right to work and be paid for your labor.
- ◇ You have the right to manage your own money, to get help in money management and to be protected from misuse/mismanagement of your money and to be protected from other forms of financial exploitation.
- ◇ You have the right to be treated with respect and to have whatever protection you need, including a guardian.
- ◇ You have the right to be protected from any abuse, mistreatment, neglect, retaliation and humiliation.
- ◇ Your meals cannot be denied.
- ◇ You have the right to talk with and visit other people and to have visitors in your home.
- ◇ You have the right to send and receive mail, make and receive phone calls and use other communication technology privately.
- ◇ You have the right to be safe and protected from inappropriate use of communication technology that may exploit/compromise your personal information, image/photos and health or safety.
- ◇ You and your friends have the right to speak out on your own behalf.
- ◇ You have the right to attend organizations such as churches, clubs or other groups and to take part in their activities and traditions.
- ◇ You have the right to keep your clothing and other possessions and be provided with a safe place to store them.
- ◇ You have the right to go out to places you like, such as movies, games, stores and restaurants.
- ◇ If you feel your rights are being violated, you may contact the Disabled Persons Protection Commission, with whatever assistance you require; or have the DPPC contacted on your behalf. The telephone number is 1-800-426-9009.

IN OTHER NEWS...

Welcome!

Please join us in welcoming new Board of Directors member, Roger Monty. Roger has worked in the field for over 45 years, including at the Paul Dever State School and the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Roger was the Area Director for several catchment areas including Plymouth, Boston, and Taunton/Attleboro where he worked closely with CO-OP. Following his state service,



Roger became Vice President at Horace Mann Educational Associates (HMEA) and then Executive Director of The Arc of Greater Plymouth, both of which are agencies assisting individuals with disabilities.

For both his professional experience and his personal integrity and compassion, we are thrilled to have Roger join the CO-OP Board.



Save the Date!
Become a Sponsor!

2019 Holiday Festival of Trees
97 Ingell Street, Taunton, MA 02780
Saturday, December 7, 2019

While most people are enjoying the summer weather, at CO-OP we are planning our 2nd Annual Holiday Festival of Trees. Once again, CO-OP joins the City of Taunton's century-old tradition of Lighting of the Green and Lights On Festival during the first weekend of December. We are looking for sponsors to join us and decorate a tree for our holiday fundraiser. The trees will be on display for public viewing. At day's end, a raffle is held and the lucky winners take home the trees and prizes. All raffle proceeds will benefit **CO-OP**. Here's how it works:

CO-OP supplies a 3'-4' artificial tree for you to decorate. You, your business, club, or group of friends decorate the tree, give it a catchy name, and include a gift under or attached to the tree. Alternatively, **be creative!** You can create your own tree of any material (maximum size 4'). You may choose to promote your business or organization or include a gift just for the fun of it! Each tree/gift combination must have a minimum value of \$100.

Yes! Sign me up! I will decorate a tree with or without a gift, with a total minimum value of \$100, to be raffled off at a CO-OP Holiday Festival of Trees, 97 Ingell Street, Taunton, MA 02780.

I would like to decorate an artificial tree provided by CO-OP. I will supply and decorate my own tree.

Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Organization/Company (if applicable) _____

Additional information on Holiday Festival of Trees will be distributed prior to event, including pick-up/delivery of trees. For more information, contact Jeanne Connolly at jconnolly@co-op.cc or call 508-824-1717 x107. All sponsors will be listed in a 2019 Holiday Festival of Trees sponsorship list and may be promoted in local news releases.

CO-OP is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to assisting individuals with developmental and other disabilities become valued members of their communities. Our services are person-centered, embracing the vision, interests and support needs of each person.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TAUNTON, MA
02780
PERMIT NO. 614

CO-OP

455 Somerset Avenue, P.O.B. 506
No. Dighton, MA 02764-0506

Phone: 508-824-1717
Fax: 508-822-0919
E-mail: info@co-op.cc



Our Mission

The purpose of CO-OP is to support people with developmental and other disabilities, including brain injuries, to become valued members of their communities, with opportunities for meaningful participation in areas of personal pursuit.

Ways You Can Help

GET INVOLVED!

Are you on our mailing list to receive our e-newsletter?

If not, send an email to info@co-op.cc and we will add you to our list.

MAKE A DONATION

Donations play an important role in supporting CO-OP's many programs and services. For information on how you can help, go to

www.co-op.cc

DAY HABILITATION PROGRAMS

North Dighton

455 Somerset Ave. 508-824-1717

Norton

399 Old Colony Rd. 508-223-4080

Taunton

97 Ingell St. 508-880-0352

COMMUNITY BASED DAY SERVICES

North Dighton

455 Somerset Ave. 508-824-1717

Taunton

97 Ingell St. 508-880-0352

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

North Dighton

455 Somerset Ave. 508-824-1717

CO-OP Milestones

Taunton

82 Ingell St. 508-824-1717 x105