

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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TAUNTON, MA
02780
PERMIT NO. 614

CO-OP

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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.

2 Ways You Can Help

DONATE AN iPad

Are you upgrading your old iPad? If your current model is still in working condition, please consider donating it.

Contact Jeanne Connolly at
jconnolly@co-op.cc
or 508-824-1717 x107.

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

60 Main St. 508-880-0015

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

BRAIN INJURY SUPPORTS

Taunton

97 Ingell St. 508-880-0352



Winter 2016

The CO-OPerative Advantage

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here at CO-OP, this special time of year is steeped in tradition. Once again, we kicked off the month of December with a wonderful holiday luncheon and party hosted by the Order of Sons of Italy in America® Peter B. Gay Lodge. We have enjoyed this special annual event for eleven consecutive years and are always grateful to be a part of their great work in our local communities.



And what would the holidays be without a shout-out event from our Music 4 CO-OP program? Their November *Phonus Balonus* Holiday CD Release Party was another success. You can view a video of the making of this CD through our website www.co-op.cc. This time of year is also about helping others and we proudly acknowledge the

many CO-OP volunteers who generously answer the call.

While pausing to reflect on this year's milestones and individual successes, including the awarding of the highest level of licensure by the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services (DDS) for its Residential Services and Employment & Community-based Day Supports and the opening of a new home welcoming four new residents with acquired brain injuries, it is also a time to embrace the challenges of a new year. During my 28 years as CO-OP's President & CEO, you have generously invested in our existing programs and in the additional services we undertake to help others fulfill their goal of full community participation.

During this most joyous of seasons, please consider a personal donation to assist us in this work.

Once again, thank you for your continued support.....it is always appreciated.

Best wishes,

Bill Corbett,
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 300 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 Eva Gaffney, Bridgewater State University

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Treasurer George Mendros, Bristol County Savings Bank

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

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Michael Browner, Consultant

William Corbett, CO-OP

Paul Fanning, Boston Higashi School

Michael Ferrara, Mechanics Cooperative Bank

Paul Hodge, Probation Officer (retired)

Russell Latham, Gosnold School Superintendent (retired)

Jacqueline Scungio, Providence Community Health Centers

Happenings

2016 ANNUAL MEETING

CO-OP held its 40th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, October 12, 2016. Each year, CO-OP honors those in our community who have provided outstanding service. Another highlight is the recognition of one CO-OP employee chosen by his or her peers for extraordinary work.

This year, we honor Tracy Malloy, Speech Therapy Aid for her achievements and personal commitment to CO-OP.



Community Awards were given to the Town of Dighton which was recognized for its outstanding commitment to community inclusion and to Bonnie Wryostek and her service dog Mia. Honored posthumously was Paula Latham, former CO-OP Director of Residential Services.

RECOGNITION FOR YEARS OF SERVICE WITH CO-OP

35 Years: Barbara McCarthy
25 Years: Jeanne Tweedy
20 Years: Arthur Martins
15 Years: Marianne Bonalewicz, James Mello, John Connors, Stacey Brooks

10 Years: Lori Rego, Mary Silva, Erin Massoud, Cynthia Boland, Stephanie Oliveira
5 Years: Christopher Correia, Shauna Dias, Lorraine Siembab, Diane Robinson, Denise Leary

A PHONUS BALONUS PARTY

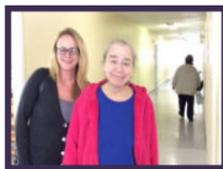


Congratulations to all the writers, performers, and producers of the first-ever Music 4 CO-OP holiday CD. To celebrate, Music 4 CO-OP had a Phonus Balonus 1920's themed party. The highlight of the evening was a live performance by our CO-OP musicians. Special thanks to sponsors Partners Benefit Group, Inc., fbInsure and Webster Bank. *A little party never killed nobody.*

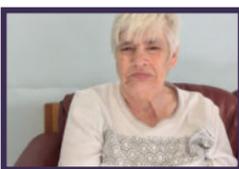
Special thanks to sponsors Partners Benefit Group, Inc., fbInsure and Webster Bank. *A little party never killed nobody.*



'TIS THE SEASON FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE



Lisa, Diane & Deborah from **CO-OP Norton** volunteer with Bristol Elders Meals on Wheels.



Thanks to Bill, Alex, and others at **CO-OP Ingell Street** who chose to support Operation Care Package to honor our troops this holiday season.



Roberto and Colleen made a delivery from **Dighton CBDS** for a food drive to benefit the Massachusetts National Guard.

Program Highlights

NORTON

The CO-OP staff at **Norton Day Program** pick up on the cues that people give them. They watch, observe, and treat everyone with dignity and respect. Traci Cabral, Program Manager says, "Norton staff believes everyone speaks volumes without saying a word. It is about understanding what the consumer is telling us they want to do. Everyone deserves to be understood." Discovering the cues and finding the right path for each individual is what is happening at CO-OP in Norton. The results are clear — people are happier!

Meet **Peter Joe**. He's been with CO-OP for more than two decades and everyone knows that his morning trip to MacDonald's is the right way to start the day. While Peter Joe has always had challenges with communicating his thoughts and needs, CO-OP team members are observant. When Peter Joe first arrived at CO-OP, two staff members worked with him at all times. Through hard work and learning how Peter Joe communicated, there has been dramatic improvement in his interactions with staff and in the community. MacDonald's employees know Peter Joe and he them. They greet him daily . . . and Peter Joe greets them right back. This makes Peter Joe happy and it makes us happy, too!



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Shannon joined CO-OP 15 years ago and was only comfortable working with one or two specific CO-OP staff. While we all need time away from our jobs to rejuvenate, a change in staff was extremely difficult for Shannon. Traci tells us it took very purposeful and sensitive work to help Shannon adjust. Now, staff is introduced to Shannon slowly and intentionally and the results are a more trusting and happy woman.



Derek is a relative newcomer, having come to CO-OP in 2013. When he first arrived, Derek—who is blind—was restless and uneasy, and chose not to sit down or engage with others. With the sensitive work of the CO-OP staff, not only is he now comfortable interacting with others but his family is happy, too. It is by their recommendation, we met his housemate Kevin.



Kevin is the more extroverted one of the pair. If there isn't music playing when Kevin arrives, he steps up to entertain with song. His arrival at CO-OP means music!



Finding the right path together at CO-OP!

MAIN ST.—TAUNTON

CO-OP Day Program at Main Street loves the iPad! The ubiquitous device is an effective aid for communication therapy. **Justine Norman**, Speech Aid Therapist, said "It's all about interaction and stimulation."



We can all learn something new in the digital world and apps for speech and language have proven to be a great tool to collect, analyze, and report individual progress. Betty Ann led the way in using an iPad as a communication tool. She has made great progress with the support of both CO-OP staff and her family.

The iPad is also fun—while improving communication. **George** loves Western movies and **Andrew**, who is blind, likes Harry Potter in audio form. It can also be soothing when stress levels rise, like the sounds of water or Tibetan healing sounds for meditation, all activated by touching the screen. For **Nancy**, a little game of BINGO lowers stress.

For CO-OP speech therapists, these fun and engaging activities serve another purpose. Working with an iPad allows for gathering data which starts with assessment, noting the baseline of communication for each consumer, then implementing an individual communications plan. The therapist can then assist, watch progress toward goals, and help each person move on to the next stage of his or her own personal communications plan. According to **Gene Pizzolato**, Speech/Language Pathologist, "The technology available through using the iPad has significantly increased the scope and the quality of the communication development services that we provide."

Plus, those in CO-OP homes, now equipped with iPads, can continue their work, their fun, and their progress while relaxing at home. CO-OP success is gaining notoriety—in a good way—in that the state-owned Southeastern Residential Services are now looking into iPads for their homes.

Technology at work!