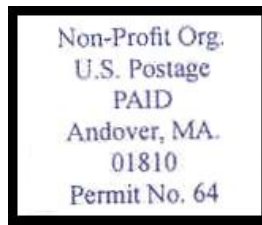




CLASS, Inc.
One Parker Street
Lawrence, MA 01843
Phone: 978-975-8587



The Connector

'Cooking for Kids' Features Local Celebrity Chefs

The month of April was full of flavor for the students who participated in the program "Cooking for Kids". The program consisted of three weeks of cooking lessons in which the students met once a week at the Deegan Hall Kitchen at Merrimack College and prepared a variety of meals. Members of the Merrimack's Diversity Education Center volunteered their time during the program.

It all started with the "Eatable Arrangements" in which the students were able to make their own fruit arrangement with the help of professional fruit artist Marisol Rodriguez. The following week they enjoyed an evening of cup cake decorating, with baker Oneida Aquino and volunteers Chanel and Valerie Hernandez from D'Todo Party Center. The last day of the program, participants were able to take with them homemade pasta, which they made with the help of Chef Robert Ozoonian from Joseph's Trattoria.

This program surely has been one of the most appetizing programs that the Arc of Greater Lawrence has offered.



Robert Ozoonian, Executive Chef at Joseph's Trattoria in Haverhill, teaches the art of making pasta at the Arc 'Cooking for Kids' program.

The classes were possible thanks to the donated services from the professional chefs and local restaurants. For future programs or any additional information please contact Kendrys Vasquez – Recreation Coordinator (978) 975-8587 ext. 1208

The Barry Faye Memorial Golf Tournament

June 21 at Windham Country Club



The 19th Annual CLASS/Arc of Greater Lawrence Golf Tournament will be held again this year on Tuesday, June 21, at the Windham Country Club in Windham, NH.

Starting with registration at 7am, the 8am shotgun start ends with lunch and an auction. Fun features such as a shootout contest with the individuals served by CLASS, and longest drive contest are included in the morning event.

Our Tournament has been renamed to The Barry Faye Memorial Golf Tournament. Barry was a long time Board member and supporter of our non-profit agency.

Golfers and sponsors are welcome to contact Nancy Kieran at 978-975-8587 ext. 1227 or nkieran@classinc.org. Please see insert to register for golfing and sponsoring, or register online at www.classinc.org.

Sponsored by: Eastern Bank

Our Mission The mission of CLASS/Arc of Greater Lawrence is to support, promote, and facilitate the inherent rights of individuals with disabilities to experience a life of opportunity for personal growth and active, meaningful engagement in their community.

CLASS Vending and local business team up for success



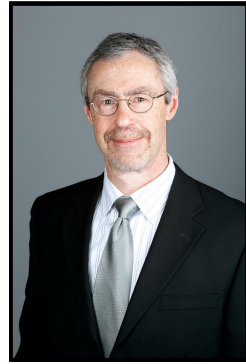
CLASS Vending and the Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union have teamed up to successfully create the first outside vending location for our new social enterprise. The MVFCU has helped create a new corporate partnership in agreeing to place the machine in their employee cafeteria, and the reception by the employees has been great! "We have been proud to support and work with CLASS over the years. "The addition of their state-of-the art vending machine to our Corporate Office has been a welcome convenience for our employees." said Peter J. Matthews, Jr., President/CEO of MVFCU. The CLASS Vending team continues to clean, fill, and service the machines.

"We have been proud to support and work with CLASS over the years. The addition of their state-of-the art vending machine to our Corporate Office has been a welcome convenience for our employees." – Peter J. Matthews, Jr., President/CEO



For the past year the team has been overseeing 8 machines at our own facilities, gaining the experience they need to create this new business venture. Our goal is to find more businesses to provide space for our vending machines, creating new partnerships and supporting individuals with disabilities in a real work experience. Contact Dave Gerry at dgerry@classinc.org if you would like to be a partner in this new social enterprise.

A Note from the President



Turning 22 students at risk

When a special needs student completes their public school education they are typically 22 and together with their parents they have already begun the process of selecting a provider like CLASS who will continue their training. The continued service needs of the student will dictate the program the family is looking for. Frequently the student and their parents want entry into an employment program that will provide training and support that will someday help them to secure their own job out in their community. For years this process has been termed "Turning 22" and has been accompanied by state funding to support this phase in which their skills will continue to grow and new opportunities are provided.

"We need to work together to ensure that students Turning 22 will have an opportunity to achieve their dreams."

All of this is now at risk for parents whose children are still in public schools special education programs across the state. The legislature is not allocating sufficient "Turning 22" funding and unfortunately many students are left no choice but placement in a Medicaid-funded service called Day Habilitation. Day Habilitation has historically been a vital service for individuals with greater needs for clinical and medical supports.

With an increasing enrollment of individuals with complex medical needs, Day Habilitation provides a critical state service. However there are students leaving special education programs who are ready and able to prepare for a job in their community. There are shrinking funds to support them and there is no end in site for this situation to be remedied. When you add to this the growing number of individuals with autism that will soon be leaving special education services, the issue will only become more severe.

For CLASS this situation takes on special significance. CLASS was founded by parents in 1976 specifically to ensure that their children will have services upon Turning 22. We are now voicing our concern to our legislators and through our membership in the Arc of Massachusetts and our trade association, the Association for Developmental Disabilities Providers. It is also important that parents get involved in advocating with their legislators. We need to work together to ensure that students Turning 22 will have an opportunity to achieve their dreams.

Grants Received

CLASS is pleased to be the recipient of 4 new grants from the Stevens Foundation, The Clipper Ship Foundation, the Charles Pringle Foundation, and Rotary Club of Lawrence. These donations support our Integrated Youth Program held in collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence.

Our Leadership Team

Board of Directors

- Tim Allen**, Chair
- Marie Pouliot**, Vice Chair
- Carol Bowen**, Secretary/Clerk
- Ray Decker**, Treasurer
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- Jean Walsh**
- Daniel J. Sullivan**
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- Debra Silberstein**
- Rick Manser**

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- Steve Celi**, CFO
- Jessica Cimini**, Vice President
- Nancy Kieran**, Director of Development
- Teresa Strangie**, Director of Human Resources
- Kati Sweeney**, Assistant Vice President
- David Libunao**, Director of Career & Employment Services
- Lisa Accardi**, Director of Health & Clinical Services

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Metro North Office
48A Main Street
North Reading, MA 01864
Phone: 978-276-0765

Free Dental Clinic



Pam Kuhs, RDH and Mistie Crocker, CDA providing dental care at CLASS.

For 10 years, Pam Kuhs has visited CLASS twice per year as a registered Dental Hygienist from the Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. Pam sees more than 80 individuals each time she visits, and provides Oral Health Screening and Education, Fluoride Varnish Application, and Dental Referral Services.

This preventive dental program is designed to identify dental disease in its early stages and to develop self-help skills that will reduce future oral health problems. Each participant receives a quality toothbrush as well as instruction on how to care for their teeth and gums. There is no patient billing or billing for co-payments or deductibles. Pam uses the Tell-Show-Do technique to increase the confidence of the dental patient.



Families invited to join new Council

You may not know but CLASS has recently formed a Family Partnership Council. The purpose of this council is to build a bridge between families served by CLASS and the CLASS organization. It is an informal group of regular people who care about their extraordinary family member. I encourage any family member or caregiver to think about joining us. We plan to meet about five or six times during the year (we will not meet during the summer months). We discuss a range of topics such as program funding, contacting our legislatures, guardianship, special needs trust,

recreation opportunities or any other topic that may be of interest. Our job now is to invite all CLASS families to step out and join us. We promise you an evening of meeting other CLASS families, discussion of topics close to all our hearts, and a light supper.

Eileen D'Entremont, CLASS Parent

(For more information about the Family Council, contact Jessica Cimini at 978-975-8587 ext. 1261 or jcimini@classinc.org)

CLASS Honors Our Community Partners



CLASS presented awards at our Annual Recognition Dinner on March 31. Clockwise, starting from lower right, the honorees receiving their awards from Bob Harris are:

- Jim Warren, Special Business Recognition;*
- Jeff Burke of Fred C. Church, Community Partner;*
- Louise Borke, Family Advocate;*
- Chris D'entremont Individual Achievement;*
- Burke & Elizabeth Driscoll of Salem Fitness, Employer of the Year;*
- Chris Doney, Melanie Malone, David Penn of IdeaPaint, Community Partner; and Jim McSweeney of the CIP Group, Community Partner Award.*