

Quarterly Review

August 21, 2018

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Letter from the President

Dear CLASS community,

I'm happy to say, we're all back to work and focused on our primary goal of redefining what's possible.

At the 11th hour on the last Friday in July, we reached an agreement with the Service Industries International Union Local 509 and employees' bargaining committee which represents the direct-care staff at CLASS, Inc. They had intended to strike until they reached an agreement for higher wages. Fortunately, a strike did not occur.

Some parents contacted us, naturally concerned about the negotiations. The idea of a pending strike was agonizing for our families - as well as our employees and nonprofit



partners - but a strike would have had the greatest effect on the individuals we serve.

Nothing is more important to us than the positive support and safety for sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, entrusted to our care. Our dedicated and passionate staff creates singular experiences for individuals in programs, in the community and with each social interaction.

[Read more on our blog](#)

In the Loop

CLASS Logo Launch



Our logo has a new look. We changed the graphic two years ago to position the star even higher in the sky with the swoosh reaching to grasp it.

Now our tagline is different, too, in order to embrace everything we do.

Our new tagline reflects our commitment to our multiple constituencies: every individual we serve, our passionate employees, employers who hire individuals from CLASS, caregivers in our Adult Family Care program, and the many donors and community collaborators who support the work we do. Our job is to redefine what's possible for them all ... Redefine what's possible for caregivers. Redefine what's possible for adults with autism. Redefine what's possible for adults with disabilities. Redefine what's possible for employers.

You get the picture: new tagline, new logo to embrace all we do.

But everything else about us is the same, including our pride in being the Arc of Greater Lawrence. We're the same hard-working human services agency, striving to make a difference in the lives of the people we support, redefining what's possible.

Partnership Highlight

Special Stars Performing Arts Program

Hands in the air for one of our favorite community collaborators, Special Stars.

Every morning, Samantha Kuczun, owner and director of [Special Stars Performing Arts Program](#), warms up her classroom with her bright smile. Special Stars, which opened in 2014, changed the way performing arts are taught to those with disabilities. It caught our attention at CLASS and individuals began attending the program in early 2015.

To prepare for each performance in front of friends and family, CLASS participants develop their talents at the Special Star's studio in Salisbury, Mass., for a full month.

"Special Stars is dedicated to helping each individual discover their own personal strength, talent, and potential," Samantha says. "Our mission is to provide access to the performing arts for those with special needs. We inspire, encourage, and empower."

Students learn to express themselves through creative group music and movement classes to perform in front of an audience with confidence.

"In just four short years, we have shared dance, music and acting exercises with more than 300 individuals," she says. "We've also hosted performances at a variety of venues, such as the Blue Ocean Music Hall Tree Festival, the Newburyport Yankee Homecoming Parade and multiple sporting events across New England.



Charlene and Linda, left, and Jonathan, right, get moving during the dance warm up led by Samantha Kuczun, center.

"This fall, we're planning a truly inclusive dance program," she continues. "Stay tuned -- we will bring the entire community into our classroom to create interactions with everybody."

*Thank you, Special Stars Performing Arts Program,
for helping CLASS redefine what's possible.*

Facilities Update

Outdoor Ramp Installation



CLASS staff members enjoy an early-morning coffee break next to the brand-new ramp

connecting our deck to the ground level. We've had a lot to celebrate this summer!
Thank you, Steve Doherty and Diamond Iron Works, for donating the ramp metalwork
to make our outdoor space accessible by all!



Thanks to Shaun Cohan, shop teacher at Greater Lawrence Technical High School, for teaching woodworking skills to individuals like Liz, left, in the TREE program at CLASS.
We now have a place to store facilities equipment that can't be stored indoors.

Upcoming Events

The 26th Annual Barry Faye Memorial Golf Tournament

Monday, October 1, 2018



Have you always wanted to golf at Andover Country Club?

Now is your chance to experience this USGA course recognized as one of New England's finest and support adults with disabilities served by CLASS, Inc.

Proceeds from the Golf Tournament help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities flourish by making it possible for them to volunteer, obtain jobs and earn a paycheck, learn living and social skills, and find their place in their communities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.CLASSincGolf.org



Visit [our website](#) to learn more about how CLASS is *redefining what's possible!*

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