

Quarterly Review

May 16, 2018

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Letter from the President

This is my first letter as President & CEO of CLASS and the Arc of Greater Lawrence. I am excited to have the opportunity to lead so many dedicated professionals in serving the individuals supported by CLASS.

I have worked in the human services field my entire career, most of that supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. While completing my bachelor's degree in Rehabilitation Services during the mid-1990s I began working at a summer camp for kids with disabilities and substituting at a respite facility. Once I graduated, I moved into



management positions, and began pursuing a master's degree in Non-Profit Management from Worcester State University. My career included several years working with individuals with developmental disabilities in Vermont, as well as two short periods working with homeless families and elders in a managed care program.

As you have heard previously in Bob's letters, change is the only predictable thing in our field right now. This change, driven both by the desire to serve our individuals better, while also spending less, presents a significant challenge to continue to provide high quality services. I spent much of my time as COO for CLASS focusing on quality and efficiency. In the past two years we have become more efficient, while continually focusing on improving programming. This remains one of my top priorities as CEO, along with ensuring that CLASS continues to offer new and innovative programs that enhance the lives of individuals we support.

[Read more on our blog](#)



Tracey Chalifour named Director of Development at CLASS

CLASS, Inc., Lawrence, has named Tracey Chalifour, Project Management Professional®, their director of development effective March 19, 2018. Her responsibilities include fundraising, event planning, project management, grants management, and donor relations and development.

[Read more on our blog](#)

Partnership Highlight

New Balance Foundation

It was a perfect day for a kickball game at Lawrence High School in early May with blue skies and sunshine and smiling faces.

It was also the perfect day for [New Balance Foundation](#) to visit the program they have generously supported for the last three years.

Because of New Balance's grant funding, CLASS / The Arc of Greater Lawrence has run an after-school fitness program for Lawrence High School students with disabilities. New Balance's mission is "to support charitable organizations whose humanitarian efforts work for the betterment of our children and communities. The heart of our focus is the prevention of childhood obesity."

We couldn't do it without a collaboration with the [Merrimack College School of Health Sciences](#), whose students guide them through the fitness training by congratulating, reinforcing and helping them enjoy the experience, so exercise becomes a part of their daily lives. Prof. Zi Yan introduced the college's peer-to-peer fitness mentoring model to CLASS nearly five years ago, and we thank her for bringing her students to us, both as paid rec coordinators and volunteers, year to year.

*Thank you, New Balance Foundation and Merrimack College,
for helping CLASS redefine what's possible.*



(L-R) Michele Wong of New Balance visited the Healthy Balance after-school fitness program at Lawrence High and she, Arthur and Tyler show off their New Balance sneakers.

Facilities Updates

Outdoor Ramp Installation



It's been a busy year for facilities updates at our Lawrence location. There's still finish work to be done on the outdoor ramp, but we're well on our way! Stay tuned for the final reveal.

CLASS announces three-year accreditation for programs by CARF

CLASS announces that [CARF International](#) has accredited its programs - Employment, Job Development, Community Integration, and Organizational Employment Services - for another three years. This is CLASS's eighth consecutive three-year accreditation by CARF.



[Read more on our blog](#)

Upcoming Events

Community Partners with CLASS

is our annual event that raises funds to support adults with autism and intellectual/developmental disabilities, to enable their full participation in the community and their leading lives fully realized.

Friday, June 8, 2018 | 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.
The Stevens Estate, North Andover

Craving a taste of Italy? Join us for an Evening in Tuscany!

Tickets are selling fast - for more details contact:

Tracey Chalifour at TChalifour@CLASSinc.org
call 978-975-8587, ext. 1209
or visit <http://www.classincpartners.org/>

~ Stay tuned for exciting updates on our *Community Partners with CLASS* event ~

