

# NASHOBA LEARNING GROUP

PROVIDING HELP FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM, AND HOPE FOR THEIR FAMILIES.



Thank you everyone for all your support of NLG this year! 2014 was a year of growth for each individual we serve and for NLG. I asked our clinical staff to give me a few examples of individual achievements that stood out and got back a long and wonderful list! You will see some of these listed in this newsletter. These success stories are all the more remarkable because most of those we serve were making no progress in their prior placement. These achievements and many, many more are made possible for our hard working students and adult members through the skill and dedication of our amazing NLG staff and with the support of our entire community!

All of you, parents, staff, family and friends are vital to our community! In 2014 we all came together to support each other in mourning the loss of NLG student Ella Biggio and honoring her memory. More than ever, we are stronger together.

Your generous support means so much to the 110 individuals we serve in our School and Adult Programs. Thanks to you, we are poised to grow both programs to help more of those who need us!

All of us at NLG wish you joy and peace in the New Year.

Liz Martineau

**President and Clinical Director**



Celebrate student and adult achievements!

C. met his goal to run a mile!

D. learned 80 vocabulary words in Language group and uses them naturally!



R. learned to request headphones when the room is too loud and to request a break on his beanbag when he's feeling sad!

M. learned to exchange the next highest dollar amount out of a wallet!

D. has learned to receptively and expressively identify prepositional phrases, which is a huge accomplishment that took 3 years.!

## Upcoming Events

March 14th FCCC Basketball Tournament

March 15th Leprechaun 5K

April 20th Boston Marathon

**December  
2014 Issue**

For more information on events and ways to help, contact Emily Wheel, [emily.wheel@nashobalearninggroup.org](mailto:emily.wheel@nashobalearninggroup.org)



**Go Green!** Email

[emily.wheel@nashobalearninggroup.org](mailto:emily.wheel@nashobalearninggroup.org) to join our emailing list!

# Annual Fund

NLG’s Annual Appeal was mailed in mid November. If you have not received it, or you would like additional copies, you can access it online at [www.nashobalearninggroup.org](http://www.nashobalearninggroup.org) or call Emily Wheet at 781-275-2500 to request one. We thank you for your support!

There has always been a need for philanthropy at NLG because the tuition payments from our cities and towns, Department of Developmental Services and MassHealth do not fully cover our costs. This coming year, in the continuing evolution of our fundraising program, we are building an Annual Fund. Annual Funds are ongoing drives throughout the year to raise unrestricted support. For instance, the professional development and training that teachers receive is funded through donations. The specialized staff who are so critical to students’ success in learning to manage their behavior so they can participate in learning, the community, work, and life activities, are funded through philanthropy.

Our Annual Fund will include our year-end appeal with additional opportunities to participate throughout the year. We hope that you will be able to support our Annual Fund. These funds are critical in ensuring that we provide the high quality programs and services our children need.

## Student Achievements

S. independently uses her device when she is misunderstood!

S. has learned how to unload the dishwasher independently!

M. learned to use My Fitness Pal & lost 15lbs!

O. rides the subway, navigating the stops to and from the city!

I. learned to use his device, making those around him aware of what he would like identifying all of his teachers and friends!

F. asks for her headphones when it is too loud!

A. is now very excited to show off his work to his parents when they come in for meetings!



An easy way to finishing your holiday shopping while giving back.

- By choosing NLG as your charity Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support NLG by starting your shopping at **smile.amazon.com**.



## PAC Corner

Holiday Greetings from your NLG Parent Advisory Council!!

In December, there are two very important collections from our parents!

\*Please watch your email and contribute to the staff holiday gifts so that we can give every staff member a gift card!

\*The annual staff cookie party will be on Friday, December 19th! Please send in 1-2 dozen of your favorite cookies. Each staff member puts together a variety of cookies to take home! They love this! The more cookies the better!

If you would like to contact other NLG parents over the holidays to plan activities, don't forget to post on the NLG Google Group for all to see! If you would like to be a part of this group (and are not already), please contact Una at [ujbasak@gmail.com](mailto:ujbasak@gmail.com).

Mark your calendars for our next PAC meeting and parent lunch on January 23 starting at 9:30!

Have a wonderful holiday season!  
Barb and Una



## Give Them Wings Auction

NLG's 12<sup>th</sup> annual dinner and auction was a wonderful night of inspiration, community, and support for NLG! Parent speaker Lisa Alexander, student speakers Adam Rubin and Ethan Freimont, and Clinical Directors Lauren Savioli, Mandy Smart and Maureen Lacerte gave eloquent testimony of what NLG means to the individuals and families we serve. Our 250 guests bid on an exciting variety of items setting a live auction record! Thank you to all who participated, your support enables individuals with autism to soar!



## Halloween at NLG



All of our students and staff had a blast dressing up and trick-or-treating for Halloween!



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