

NASHOBA LEARNING GROUP

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



Letter from the President:

As NLG's 15th year draws to a close, we look back and forward with thanks and gratitude. We are so grateful for the opportunity to change the lives of those we serve and their families. We are thankful every day for our fantastic staff's devotion to enabling our students and adults with autism to succeed! We are thrilled that we are able to grow our programs and serve more of those who need us! We are pleased that our influence has reached far beyond those we serve directly through our outreach efforts, and through our applied research capacity. We are so proud of each and every one of our students and adult members for their hard work and all they have achieved!

And, most of all we are thankful for all of you! It is your support that makes all of this possible. Thank you for all you do to help those with autism! We are a team at NLG and we are grateful to you for being a vital part of the NLG team! Together we change the lives of those with autism. Your support means so much to the 155 wonderful individuals we serve in our School and Adult Programs and to those who will join us over the next year. We look forward to an upcoming year of growth for each individual we serve and for our programs.

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

Liz Martineau

Upcoming Events

Annual Appeal has mailed. Donate at www.nashobalearninggroup.org

March 10th FCCC Basketball Tournament

April 8th NLG 5K at Davis Elementary School

April 16th Boston Marathon

April 28th Playground Grand Opening at 170 Lexington Road

For more information on events and ways to help, contact Emily Wheat, emily.wheat@nashobalearninggroup.org

**Winter
2017 Issue**



Celebrate student and adult achievements!

B. started his first external volunteer position delivering items to a local agency!

S. is carrying laundry baskets of clothes up and down the stairs to help out at home!

N. is able to sleep in his own bed all by himself throughout the night!

D. now volunteers for an hour a week at the Woburn Senior Center!

T. is doing great work adding and subtracting!



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Go Green! Email

emily.wheat@nashobalearninggroup.org to join our emailing list!

Annual Fund

NLG's Annual Appeal was mailed in late November. If you have not received it, or you would like additional copies, you can access it online at www.nashobalearninggroup.org or call Emily Wheel at 781-275-2500. We thank you for your support! The Annual Appeal is the kick off for our Annual Fund. There has always been a need for philanthropy at NLG because payments from our School Districts and towns, the Department of Developmental Services and MassHealth do not fully cover our costs. Annual Funds are ongoing drives to raise unrestricted support. For instance, staff professional development and training is funded by donations. The specialized staff who are so critical to our adults and students' success in learning to manage their behavior so they can participate the community and work are funded through philanthropy.

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Applied Research at NLG

NLG has continued to be actively involved in conducting applied research this year! The purpose of NLG's research program is to help solve problems that our students and members are experiencing, and then share those solutions with the greater autism and ABA community. So far, over 30 students and members have participated in short-term or long-term research projects that seek to better understand common challenges in autism education such as addressing inappropriate behavior, learning to communicate when frustrated, and managing self-stimulatory behavior. NLG's work has been presented at multiple conferences around the country this year, and we now have several articles published in peer-reviewed journals -- with more on the way!

Expansion Campaign Update

NLG's Recreation Space is well on its way and so is the Campaign. Thanks to you, we have reached 80% of our one million dollar goal! The campaign will fund the recreation space, provide community opportunities for teens and adults, and fund continued growth of both programs. **Save the Date for April 28th** as we plan to host a reception and provide opportunities to tour the new playground and facilities.



Give Them Wings Auction

NLG's 15th annual Auction and Dinner was a wonderful night of inspiration, community, and support for NLG! Guests were inspired by our speakers, including a 10 year old student who shared her story of a day at NLG, a Clinical Director who talked about why she loves working at NLG and why staff training and development makes NLG the best, and a father of 2 NLG students who spoke of the difference NLG makes and the need to support NLG. The highlight of the evening came when an anonymous donor promised to match up to \$100,000 during the Raise the Paddle! This prompted additional generous donations and NLG received the full match amount! The 15th Annual Dinner and Auction was the most successful yet! Funds will help provide close the gap between tuition and the cost of the high-quality services we provide and fund our essential staff training and development activities.



Vocational Services

Over the past few months we have had great success placing our students and adults in both paid and volunteer jobs in the community! We congratulate our students/adult members and their coaches for doing a great job at their new work sites! New Placements include: **Market Basket, Pet Supplies Plus, Residence Inn Marriott, and People Helping People.** NLG thanks the management and staff at these new placements for hiring our students and welcoming them aboard!



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PAC Corner



Hello NLG community! Thank you for helping us put together a beautiful staff appreciation lunch for our incredible teachers and staff! We had a wonderful spread! They loved it! Please help us treat our staff this holiday season with cookies and more! The annual cookie swap will take place on December 20th.

Barb Baker will be transitioning her daughter to the adult program next year and will therefore step down as PAC CO-Chair. She has been an incredible parent leader demonstrating extraordinary care and commitment to our entire community. She will be missed at the school, but the NLG Adult Program is so happy to have her support there! Please welcome Stacey Lannan who will be taking on the PAC co-chair role. Take care, everyone and Happy Holidays!!

Nashoba Learning Group, Inc.

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