

NASHOBA LEARNING GROUP

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



Letter from the President:

Warm New Year wishes to you and your family from the NLG family! We are so grateful for all you have done to help NLG bring achievement, joy, and hope to an ever growing number of individuals affected by Autism. NLG changes the lives of those we serve thanks to the talent, devotion, and teamwork of our fantastic staff! 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 applied research. We are so proud of each and every one of our students and adult members for their hard work and all they have achieved!

The classrooms and hallways of NLG crackle with positive energy, effort, and achievement because we tailor our teaching to meet the needs of each individual and allow them to be successful. We build on that success to help each person develop the skills they need to communicate, enhance their independence, and lead full, productive adult lives. It is your support that makes all of this possible. Thank you for all you do to help those with Autism! We are grateful to you for being a vital part of the NLG team! Your support means so much to the 170 amazing individuals we serve in our School and Adult Programs. We look forward to an upcoming year of growth.

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

Liz Martineau

Celebrate student and adult achievements!

C. is now volunteering at Home Goods!

A. has been independently requesting "what's happening?"

B. is volunteering for a 2 hour shift in the community!

K. has been working on dental tolerance at the dental clinic. At his past real dentist visit he let the dentist count, brush, floss, and scrape his teeth with ease. So proud of K!

M. is independently cleaning common rooms with his teachers faded outside of the room!

Upcoming Events

Annual Appeal underway. Donate at www.nashobalearninggroup.org

March 16th FCCC Basketball Tournament

Stay tuned for more information on NLG's Special Friends Event

April 7th NLG 5K at Davis Elementary School

April 15th Boston Marathon

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

Winter
2019 Issue



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Welcome to **amazon smile**



Annual Fund

NLG's Annual Fund began in late November with our Annual Appeal. You can access it online at www.nashobalearninggroup.org or call Emily Wheet at 781-275-2500. We thank you for your support! There has always been a need for philanthropy at NLG because payments from School Districts, 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 are 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 in the community, are funded through philanthropy.

Spirit Week



Friends of NLG Event in March

NLG is welcoming Friends and Family to learn more about our high quality programming and wonderful staff! Invite your relatives to spend an afternoon at NLG, tour the classrooms, and program areas. We know your loved ones are eager to learn more about your child and NLG, this is the perfect opportunity to show them how!

Stay tuned for date and details!

Give Them Wings Auction

NLG's 16th annual Auction and Dinner was a wonderful night of inspiration, community, and support for NLG! Guests were inspired by our speakers, including 18 year old Daniel, "NLG's Mayor", who touched everyone's heart with his speech. We thank Dr. Greg Hanley, Dr. Jessica Slaton and Judith Ursitti for their eloquent words on the impact of NLG on those with autism and their families. We are happy to announce that the Auction was also a financial success. Thanks to our Fund A Need Match and many supporters, we raised over \$300,000! Funds will help close the gap between tuition and the cost of the high-quality services we provide.



Applied Research at NLG

NLG's research team has had an exciting and productive year. Both of NLG's first two studies in the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis were among the top 20 downloaded papers from the journal last year. We published our third study in September, a review of different assessment and treatment methods for challenging behavior, and we just submitted our fourth study which we hope to see published sometime in the next year. This study was a collaborative effort with several other autism schools to evaluate methods for reducing stereotypy and teaching more appropriate functional skills. This past year, NLG presented our research at the Applied Behavior Analysis International Annual Conference in San Diego, CA, and at the Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy Annual Conference in Amherst, MA. Clinical Directors Kate Raftery, Dave DePetris, and Christina Caruso have been participating in our current research efforts, working alongside Director of Applied Research, Dr. Jessica Slaton, to study functional communication training with NLG students. As our research program expands to serve more NLG students, we have recently established the position of Research Assistant. Two of our current NLG staff members, Morgan Davis and Salvatore Daniele, will begin working with the research team part-time as Research Assistants to help with data collection and other support. We are looking forward to another productive year serving the NLG community in 2019.

PAC Corner

Hello NLG community! Thank you so much for your help this holiday season! We were able to put together a delicious "tail-gate" themed lunch, a massive cookie swap, and gift cards for all staff! Staff absolutely loved each event and we appreciate all the volunteers and donations that we received. We hope everyone has a wonderful start to their New Year!



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