

# NASHOBA LEARNING GROUP

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

## NEWSLETTER

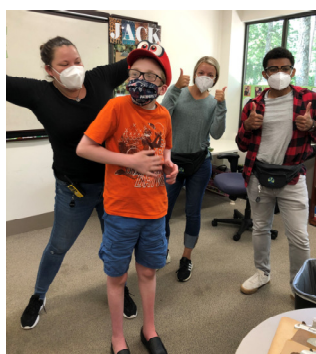


### Letter From The President:

First and foremost, all of us at NLG hope that you and your family are safe and coping through these unprecedented times. This has been a Spring and Summer like no other at NLG for our students, adults and their families! It is an understatement to say that it has been a challenge for many of those we serve, and their families, to lose their structure, routines and in-person learning time. Everyone at NLG has been working hard to serve our students and adults remotely for the past 4 months. Our NLG families have worked hard to support each child's remote learning. I am proud of the ingenuity and dedication of all of our staff in this effort. We have created a great deal of great content that we are sharing through our website. We were even highlighted in a Channel 7 news piece for our efforts. But, there is no real substitute for our in-person services.



For several months, with evolving guidance from state agencies, we actively planned for a safe reopening and resumption of services. Many thanks to our Crisis Management Team, led by Maureen Vibert, Shelli Silverberg RN, Steve Vibert, Lori Steers, Lauren DePetris, and Lauren Savioli, for their incredible hard work that has culminated in a partial reopening! We have had to invest heavily, over \$250,000, to rethink our layout and procure the equipment and supplies needed to keep staff and the individuals we serve safe. We have invested in medical grade PPE for staff, since their one on one work with students and adults requires close proximity to be effective. We have changed our layout into 4 self-contained pods per building to minimize points of contact, and we have spread out to ensure that we can maintain 6 feet of distance between each staff and student pair. Creating the pods has required reassignment and retraining of many of our teaching staff so that no one is moving between pods. We are requiring daily attestations regarding symptoms and exposure for each student/adult and staff member, and we are monitoring for multiple symptoms each day. We have protocols for when symptoms or COVID-19 are present, so that the impact will be minimized. To say that this is a lot of effort is an understatement, but we are committed to the health and safety of those we serve and our staff.



I write this on July 17th after our first week back in our transformed buildings! It is wonderful to be back! Our staff and students are adjusting well to the many changes and are delighted to be back together! Per the guidance we received, we can only have 25% of our students and adults in the building for half the day. We are running 2 sessions per day so that we can serve 50% of individuals directly. We focused on first bringing back the individuals who were struggling the most, but all of our students and adults need live services. We are continuing to serve the other half of our population remotely, and we are hoping to welcome them to our buildings over the summer, based on receiving approval.

We appreciate everyone's support during this time. We know that many in the community are struggling and that there are many needs, so we are more grateful than ever for the support we receive, both directly and by efforts to reach out on our behalf! Even as fundraising has become more difficult, the extra expenditures related to the pandemic, on top of the gap between funding and the costs of providing services, have made it more crucial than ever. On behalf of those we serve, thank you for all you do, we can't do it without you!

Liz Martineau  
President



Summer  
2020 Issue

## NLG's 19th Bike-Thon

You can still participate in NLG's Bike-a-thon virtually! Until August 19th, bike, jog, row, skate, 25 miles and you can be part of NLG's bike-a-thon. There are no fees or registration costs associated with signing up, but we do ask all registered participants to make a donation of any amount and to raise funds from family and friends. The live ride took place on July 19th and was a great success! Riders enjoyed the 25 or 50 mile ride. All bikers followed social distancing and safety rules. We are grateful for their fundraising efforts. For registration details or more information on completing your 25 miles contact Emily Wheel [emily.wheel@nashobalearninggroup.org](mailto:emily.wheel@nashobalearninggroup.org)



## Annual Fund Update

Thank you to all the families and friends who have contributed to NLG's Annual Fund. 79% of School Program parents participated by our year end, June 30th! 105 school families donated, raising a total of \$35,000 for the school. The Adult Program had 91% of families participate! These families

contributed over \$100,000. We are so happy to have such a supportive group of parents. We also raised \$70,000 from friends of NLG for a total fund of \$213,000! With the added costs of reopening, we are so grateful for this support! Thanks to all who donated and to our committee chaired by Una Basak, Stacey Lannan and Carol Rakers at the School Program, and Cynthia Reed at the Adult Program. Your donations are critical to ensuring that we provide high quality services.



### Celebrate Student and Adult Achievements!

Many students have learned to wear a mask for safety.

Students/members 14 and older enjoyed a virtual Spring Fling.

Staff had a drive by birthday party for one of our students.

Students learned how to learn remotely.



### Upcoming Events

#### Give them Wings Auction October 17, 2020

Save the date for our first Virtual Auction! Will include silent and live auction, Fund A Need, Games and More.

Keep a look out in your inbox for more details coming soon.





## Boston Marathon Update

NLG had 3 staff members and 1 parent who were training and fundraising for the April 20th Boston Marathon. Unfortunately, the 2020 Boston Marathon has been changed to a virtual event in September. The news changes our runners training schedule, fundraising events and more.

However, they are all committed to NLG and to completing the virtual run. We will cheer them on, virtually, during their 26.2 solo run! Check out their GoFundMe page under *Nashoba Learning Group 2020 Boston Marathon*.



## 5K Run For Autism

NLG completed its first ever virtual 5K from April 18th-21th. Over 300 registered participants ran or walked the 3.2 miles and sent their times to NLG. Each participant received a tshirt. Teams included: Team Max, Ella's Shining Stars, The Fab Five, Josh D for NLG, JK Joggers, Will Run For Coffee, Claire's Crew, Justin's Lucky Charms, The Brown Running Club and more. The event raised over \$20,000!



## Spring Fling

Students 14 and older, and adult members, had a wonderful time during our virtual Spring Fling! Everyone had a blast dancing, requesting songs and doing the cha cha slide.



## Score for Autism

Join the social media movement and support NLG and The Lurie Center for Autism. Film yourself making a basket, goal, putt, cornhole toss, etc. Challenge 2 people to post their scoring video and make a donation. #ScoreForAutism for more details or visit: [because.massgeneral.org/scoreforautism](https://because.massgeneral.org/scoreforautism)



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NLG staff worked hard to safely reopen on July 14th. We have had to invest heavily to rethink our layout and procure the equipment and supplies needed to keep staff and the individuals we serve safe.

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