

NASHOBA LEARNING GROUP

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

NEWSLETTER



Letter from the President:

I write this at the end of our first week of full day on-site services. It is wonderful to be fully back, and our staff, students and adults are adjusting well to the change from hybrid services! We hope that with our comprehensive health and safety protocols, we will be able to remain fully open for the duration. But, if there is one thing this year has taught us, it is that events are unpredictable and we have to adapt to whatever comes.

I would like to salute our amazing staff for their creativity, adaptability, and team spirit as they have continued to provide excellent services to our students and adults throughout all the phases of this crisis. I would like to especially recognize NLG's Crisis Management Team (CMT)! This team, made up of managers and staff from throughout our organization, has worked tirelessly since February to create and execute the extensive and detailed planning that has allowed us to function successfully. The members of the CMT are listed inside, and I hope you can take a moment to thank them! This team has handled everything from the reconfiguration of our buildings into self-contained pods, procurement of PPE, development of sanitizing protocols, implementation of screening and entry procedures, preparations for managing students or staff with symptoms, development of procedures to provide staff with mask breaks, time for lunch, water, and coffee, re-training staff so that they serve students/adults in only one pod, creating mechanisms for staff to collaborate, disseminate information, and serve students remotely, developing remote curricula and schedules, adapting our hiring, onboarding and training for COVID.... The list goes on and on.

Carrying out the work of the CMT has required enormous amount of effort, more than any of the committee members could have anticipated when they volunteered to be part of the effort! I thank them and I would also like to thank our hardworking Nursing team for their daily heroics as they keep us all going.

Of course all of this has been extremely costly, with expenditures totaling well over \$300,000 so far, and continuing at \$20,000 per month. As of yet, we have received no additional funding from the Commonwealth to cover this enormous cost. These expenditures are in addition to the ongoing gap between our revenue and the costs of providing the quality services our students and adults need in order to achieve their potential. In this environment, fundraising is difficult, but more essential than ever. I was so gratified by the tremendous support we received at our virtual Give them Wings event on October 17! I ask for your continued generous support for our upcoming Annual Appeal.

Even as we have worked our way through this crisis, we have also been attuned to the world outside our doors, and to doing our part to nurture diversity, equity, and inclusion within our organization. A team of us, representative of our organization, worked this summer and fall to gather data and create a plan for doing so. We are proud of our plan, approved enthusiastically by our Board, and we are excited to work on our goals through the upcoming year. The plan can be viewed on NLG's website.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for supporting us so that we can weather this crisis and continue to change the outcome for individuals seriously affected by Autism. Thank you for all you do to support NLG!

Liz Martineau
President



18th Annual Give them Wings Auction

Thank you to everyone who participated, donated, sponsored, or attended our event on October 17th. We did not know what to expect from our first ever virtual auction, but we were blown away! 304 devices were tuned in to watch the live stream, over 840 bids were placed, and 91 guests donated during the Fund A Need!

The evening included a parent, Kay Jones, speaking about her partnership with NLG to enable her son to successfully access virtual learning. Clinical Director Steph Shaw shared her pride in the achievements of her students. Brandy, a student, shared his enthusiasm for being back at NLG. NLG's Nursing Supervisor spoke of the challenges of COVID. We had a very generous match that kick started the Fund a Need and helped us raise a record \$240,000 (including the match)! These funds are so important to NLG and we are very grateful. Thanks to all of the generous supporters and guests, we raised a net of \$367,000, our largest amount yet!

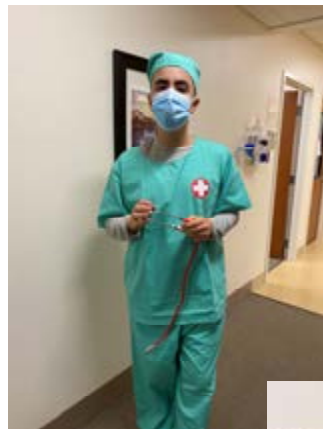
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- Adaptive Fitness
- J.P. O'Connor Hardware INC

Student Speaker, Brandy, talks about returning to school at the Auction



Halloween at NLG



Research and Development

NLG offered a virtual Workshop on how we conduct functional assessments to help understand the needs of students who are experiencing challenging behavior. The workshop was presented by Dr. Jessica Slaton, NLG's Director of Applied Research, and included peer-reviewed research that NLG has published, as well as practical tips for conducting functional assessments in a classroom setting and interpreting the results. The workshop was attended by 130 BCBA's from around the country.

Crisis Management Team

Thank you to the members for NLG's Crisis Management Team (CMT):

- Karen Abruzi
- Heather Angus
- Mary Kate Beswick, Parent at 10 Oak
- Samantha Carroll
- Samantha Cooper
- Steph Daniels
- Lauren DePetris
- Rebecca Ferry, RN
- Courtney Hinds
- Chelsea King
- Maureen Lacerte
- Chuck Morin
- Kate Raftery
- Cynthia Reed, AS Parent
- Lauren Savioli
- Shelli Silverberg, RN, Pandemic Response Coordinator
- Lori Steers
- Abby Stern, Parent at 170 Lex
- Robyn Stewart
- Emily Sullivan
- Alysse Taylor
- Maureen Vibert
- Steve Vibert
- Brianna White
- Linda Wright

Holiday Shopping while supporting NLG



Make a difference this holiday. Shop for gifts at smile.amazon.com/ch/01-0672424 to generate donations for Nashoba Learning Group.

The Jack and Mae Rosenberg Charitable Trust

We greatly appreciate the generous grant of \$100,000 from the Jack and Mae Rosenberg Charitable Trust. This grant will help NLG restore recreation activities to our students.



Our new look with COVID protocols

☀️ PAC Corner ☀️

The NLG Parent Advisory Council had its first virtual "Meet and Greet" event of the school year on October 27th. It was well attended and parents have expressed interest in having more events like this throughout the year. The PAC has been working hard to support our school and staff during these challenging times. In lieu of the usual staff appreciation luncheon, the PAC put together gift bags for each staff member to show our appreciation for all of their hard work and dedication to our children. The PAC will also be taking up a collection to provide holiday gift cards for every staff member starting in November. A detailed memo will be forthcoming and will include ways to donate by check or Venmo. Please keep an eye out for it in the coming days.

If you are a parent of a child at NLG and would like to join the Parent Advisory Council, please contact Kim Walsh (yeekimi@gmail.com) or Tina Cerulo (Jcerulo@comcast.net) for more information.

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