

# NASHOBA LEARNING GROUP

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

## NEWSLETTER



### Letter from the President:

It is finally Spring in New England, and as nature starts to emerge from winter, all of us at Nashoba Learning Group are hopeful that our world will also begin to emerge slowly and cautiously from its COVID isolation. We are eager to do so, but will continue to exercise caution in relaxing safeguards. These safeguards have allowed us to safely serve our students and adults for full days onsite for the past 6 months, after 7 months of remote then hybrid services. We are excited that substantially more than half our staff members are already fully vaccinated, and the numbers are growing daily. We are so proud of our staff for their courageous service during this pandemic. The individuals with Autism that we serve need in person education and training to fully meet their potential, and thanks to our fantastic staff, we have been able to deliver. We have learned so much through all the changes made to adapt to COVID, and by how our students and adults have responded to them. We will incorporate that learning as we slowly work our way back to more normal ways of interacting and begin again to access the community for programming.

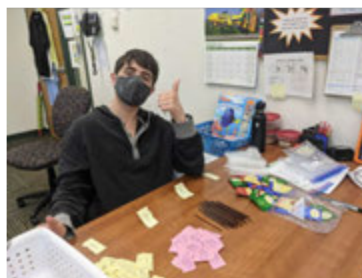
As we have worked to continue to provide the high quality services individuals more affected by Autism need, and as we have continued to implement COVID protocols and plan for our next phases, we have also been working on continuous improvement initiatives to ensure we are providing

the support that staff members need to serve our students and develop their skills, and that we are providing an inclusive and supportive environment for staff and for students. I am so proud of our leadership team for all their efforts and look forward to celebrating the results in the upcoming months.

We are so grateful for the strong support you have provided! This support has enabled us to persevere in our mission of providing essential services to 180 children and adults with Autism, so they can realize their potential. We appreciate your continued support that will allow us to emerge from this crisis, and meet the challenges of the future.

Thank you for all you do!

Liz Martineau



### Upcoming Events

Annual Fund Drive— April– June 30

Turning 18 Info Session— May 20

Virtual Student Spring Dance — June 12

Bikeathon —July 25

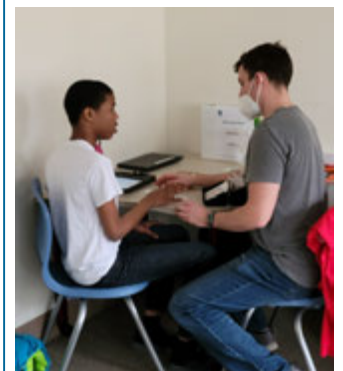
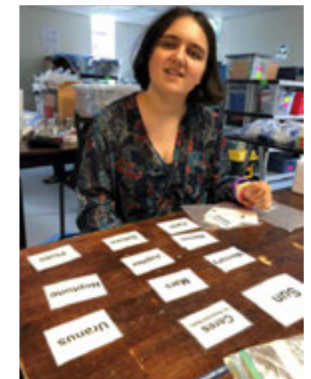
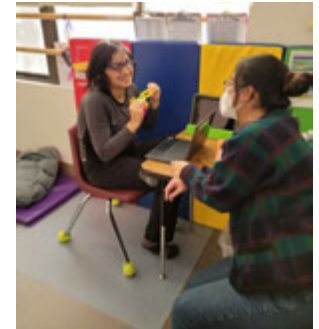
Fishin' with a Mission— July 25

Bike to the Beach— September 18

Boston Marathon— October 11

Give them Wings Auction— October 16

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



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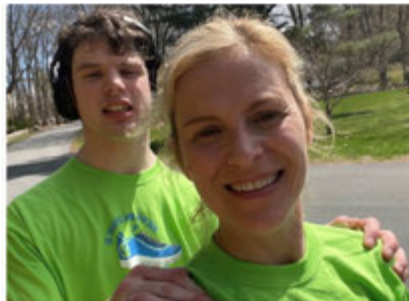
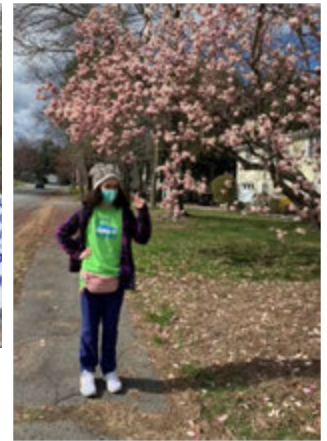
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Spring  
2021 Issue

## 9th Annual 5k Run for Autism

Nashoba Learning Group’s Virtual 5K Run for Autism was a huge success! Over 250 participants registered, running where they wanted to at any time during April 16-19th.

As in past years, we had a spirited team competition. Ella’s Shinning Stars kept up their winning streak and once again were the best fundraising team, and they tied with JKM Joggers for Largest Team! Team Max and Josh D in the News were right behind. Other teams included: Justin’s Lucky Charms, Claire’s Crew, Hashtag Adulting, Samantha’s Green Zone Gang, and Team Epic.



### Thank you to our sponsors:

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## Annual Fund

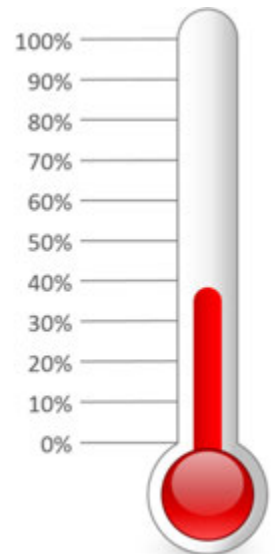
The Annual Fund is a critical source of unrestricted funding for NLG. Our goal is 90% participation by NLG parents. Last year we achieved 80% participation and our goal is to exceed this!

We also have set a goal of 250 donations from our wider NLG community. Last year we received 187 gifts. Please help us reach our goal!

Donations can be made at any time by sending in your donation to 10 Oak Park Drive Bedford, MA 01730, going to NLG’s website [www.nashobalearninggroup.org/support](http://www.nashobalearninggroup.org/support), or contacting Emily Wheet at [Emily.Wheet@nashobalearninggroup.org](mailto:Emily.Wheet@nashobalearninggroup.org).

With the help of some generous donors, \$70,000 contributed to the Annual Fund this Spring was matched! We thank everyone who contributed.

We will have set NLG’s Phone-a-thon. Stay tuned for information on the Annual Fund drive.



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## 2021 Boston Marathon

Nashoba Learning Group is proud to be an official Partner of John Hancock in the Marathon Non-Profit Program. The Non-Profit Program provides over 1,000 Boston Marathon® bibs to select non-profit organizations throughout the community, which provides these organizations with a significant fundraising opportunity. Nashoba Learning Group has 4 bibs and looks forward to creating a team for the October 11th event. If you are interested in running 26.2 miles and raising funds for NLG, contact Emily at [emily.wheet@nashobalearninggroup.org](mailto:emily.wheet@nashobalearninggroup.org). This is sure to be a day to remember! If you would like to support NLG's team in their fundraising efforts, visit our website [www.nashobalearninggroup.org](http://www.nashobalearninggroup.org) to donate.

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## Dr. Jessica Slaton Presents Workshop Virtually

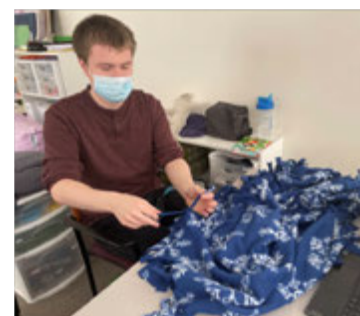
To extend our outreach, NLG has held two virtual workshops for Board Certified Behavior Analysts this year. Both showed our innovative work in teaching communication and self management skills as in alternative to problem behavior. The first workshop covered how to design and implement a practical functional assessment model using an interview-informed synthesized contingency analysis (IISCA). The second workshop focused focus on developing effective treatment plans. The workshops utilized data from the research conducted and published by NLG over the last several years. Over 175 professionals attended the workshops, conducted by Dr. Jessica Slaton. And we have made these recorded sessions available through NLG's website.

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## Vocational Services During the Pandemic

NLG's Vocational Program, created in 2006, teaches students 14 years old through adulthood work readiness skills, preparing them to then volunteer at non-profit organizations, and ultimately to be placed in competitive positions throughout the local community. During the pandemic, students have continued to learn job skills in their classroom, attend virtual work sessions completing projects with peers, and take part in virtual career exploration classes to learn about volunteer, internship, and paid work opportunities. Students have worked with Vocational Coordinators to develop preferred sites to explore once we are able to return to community programming.

During COVID, the Vocational Program has focused on collaborating with non-profits and business partners to bring in work that can be completed remotely at NLG. Some of these projects include: completing STEM kits for Science for Scientist, scanning documents for Orthopedics Plus, creating blankets for Sleep in Heavenly Peace, creating pet beds for Lowell Humane Society, sorting and sizing clothing for Cradles to Crayons, assembling floral picks for Power of Flowers, and assembling utensil packets for REBEL outreach. The Vocational Program has continued to develop new partnerships our during COVID. A full list of community partners can be viewed at: <http://nashobalearninggroup.org/news-events/nlg-in-the-community>.



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## PAC Corner

The PAC had a meeting in March that was well attended. Most of the meeting was spent sharing and supporting one another with whatever current challenges were being faced. Everyone agreed it was very cathartic and helpful, so another meeting is planned for this month. The group also discussed the desire to show appreciation to the NLG staff, normally done through a luncheon. Due to COVID, this year will need to be different, so the PAC is opting to pay for a snack/refreshments truck to visit both locations during an upcoming staff training day. The PAC sincerely hopes that staff will feel valued and appreciated by this gesture, especially with all of the extra work demands placed on them this past year.

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