

# NASHOBA LEARNING GROUP

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

## NEWSLETTER



### Letter from the President

Happy Summer! At Nashoba Learning Group, we have been enjoying the gradual relaxing of restrictions and the steps we have been able to take back towards our typical way of providing services! These steps are possible because of the substantial reduction of COVID cases in our community, the relaxing of crisis guidelines by the Agencies that regulate us, and by the high vaccination rate amongst our staff. At this point 88% of staff are fully vaccinated, a remarkable number! We are celebrating changes large and small, such as the ability to resume work on daily living skills, and the ability for each pod to utilize our Vocational classrooms and common areas. Our next steps will be to re-introduce volunteer and paid work sites and community based life skills programming beginning in September. A great deal of planning, communication, and leg work has been needed to emerge from the Pandemic. Once again, we thank our hardworking and heroic Crisis Management Team for all of their efforts over the last 18 months, and we thank our amazing staff, students, and families, for their adaptability!

In addition, we have continued to work on our number one COVID and post COVID challenge, hiring, training, and retaining the fantastic staff we rely on to provide the high quality services and loving environment our students and adults need. We are taking numerous steps to enhance retention and staff development, including redesigning mentoring and support for staff. Our Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Committee has been working hard to enhance our inclusive and supportive environment for staff and for students. I am so proud of our leadership team for all their efforts!



### Upcoming Events

**Bike to the Beach—September 18, 2021**

100, 50, 25 miles from Boston to Newport

**Give them Wings Auction - October 16, 2021**

In Person and Virtual Event!

**Boston Marathon- October 11th, 2021**

For more information on events and ways to help, contact Emily Wheet  
Emily.wheet@nashobalearninggroup.org

We are so grateful for the strong support you have provided! We are particularly excited by our Annual Fund results and so thankful for your help in reducing the gap between the funding we receive and what it costs to provide the services needed. The conditions of the pandemic and the post pandemic aftermath have increased that gap significantly. Your support has been, and continues to be, essential. You have enabled us to persevere in our mission of providing the essential services 180 children and adults with Autism and Intellectual Disability need to realize their potential. Thank you for allowing us to meet our current and future challenges!

Thank you for all you do!  
Liz

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## NLG's 20th Bike-A-Thon

NLG celebrated our 20th Annual Bike-a-Thon on July 24th! Riders gathered at Liz and John's home and set off for a 25 or 50 mile ride through Carlisle and the surrounding towns. Riders enjoyed the beautiful scenery, sunny weather and friendly conversations. There were lots of new faces including two staff members and multiple NLG families. Those that fundraised received a custom NLG bike jersey! We are extremely grateful to all the fundraisers for their efforts, raising \$36,500! We greatly appreciate Power Pedal in Acton for proving van support, our water stop volunteers, Whole Foods in Bedford and Starbucks in Concord.



### Thank you to our riders:

Srinivas Bhairreddy  
Kevin Boyle  
Cesar Brea  
Yurish Chitraker  
Mark, Pam & Henry Goldstein  
Liz Martineau & John McClellan  
Rob McMurrow  
Dheeraj Pamidimukkala  
Alex Rutfield  
Moral Sok  
Matthew Ullman  
Maya Waehrer

## Annual Fund Update

Thank you to all the families and friends who have contributed to NLG's Annual Fund. 91% of School Program parents participated by our year end, June 30th! 118 school families donated, raising a total of \$65,000 for the school. The Adult Program had 100% of families participate! These families contributed over \$140,000. We are so happy to have such a supportive group of parents. We also raised \$141,000 from friends of NLG for a total fund of \$350,000! 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. Students and staff created a video of thanks to show their appreciation. Check it out here: <https://youtu.be/SONpq5SxFVY>

## Boston Marathon

Nashoba Learning Group has 4 dedicated and motivated individuals running in the 2021 Boston Marathon thanks to John Hancock. Our team is made up of an NLG Parent, Staff member, friend and sibling of a student! This year may look a bit different, held on October 11th, but our runners still have the fundraising challenge of raising \$10,000 each! With a shorter amount of time to fundraise, they need all they support they can get! Scan the QR Code with your phone to learn more about the runners and support their efforts. Thank you!



## Spring Fling

Students 14 and older, and adult members, had a wonderful time during our virtual Spring Fling! Thank you to everyone who joined in and danced the night away! Everyone had a blast dancing, seeing their friends, requesting songs and doing the cha cha slide and YMCA!





## NLG in the Community

NLG spent an evening online with a group of Girl Scout Camp Leaders preparing for this summer's experience. One of our employees has worked with the scouts in the past and reached out to her coworker to offer some support in helping staff to address and manage campers (who may or may not have an actual diagnosis) who present with some unfamiliar and disruptive behaviors. In our vision of inclusion we strived to provide a presentation that would best support the leaders and allow each and every camper to have the experience they deserve as a member of the Girl Scouts.

The presentation was well received and many of the leaders had great questions. We will be working with them in the future as they reported that they found the information extremely helpful. We will be checking back in once camp closes out to see what other supports we may be able to provide their leaders.

NLG's DEI Committee hosted a sock and shoe drive for Cold Feet Warm Hearts (CFWH) this past Spring. Recovery after a hospital stay can be a long road, even longer if you are homeless or economically struggling. Cold Feet Warm Hearts help those first steps to health be more successful with access to free, fresh socks and shoes and a list of local resources. NLG was honored to partner with this CFWH by providing new and used socks and shoes to those in need. Learn more about Cold Feet Warm Hearts by visiting <https://coldfeetwarmhearts.org/>.



## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

James and Peggy Burling  
William Burling  
Concord Carlisle Community Chest  
Cesar Brea and Nan Leonard  
The Pemberton Family Foundation  
Stratford Foundation  
Van Otterloo Family Foundation  
Acton Boxborough United Way  
The Atamian Family  
Anthony Tomasiello, Jr. and Janet Amorello  
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Chris Pyne and Holly Swan  
James Robo and Meredith Trim  
Andrew and Judith Ursitti  
Andrew and Marta Wolf  
Don and Mary Woodward



Thank you to The Lannan Family for donating their time and supplies to build raised garden beds and plant flowers at NLG. Our vocational students look forward to testing their green thumbs this summer!

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Nashoba Learning Group's  
19th Annual Auction

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Date*

IN-PERSON &  
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OCTOBER 16, 2021



SCAN ME