



NEWS & NOTES

PROVIDING HELP FOR THOSE WITH AUTISM
AND HOPE FOR THEIR FAMILIES

A Letter from the President

Fall signals back-to-school for most students, but at Nashoba Learning Group, our students and adults learn all summer long. We will, however, mark the new school year with a new event – **Back-to-School Night**. The event will bring together families and staff to meet, learn more about our school, and celebrate each child.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

September 27, 2023

GIVE THEM WINGS AUCTION

Charter Oak Country Club
October 28, 2023

NEW PARENT/GUARDIAN DINNER

February 8, 2024

ADULT SERVICES

PARENT/GUARDIAN MTG

February 29, 2024

PROFOUND AUTISM SUMMIT

Burlington Marriott
April 5, 2024

Questions?

events@nashobalearninggroup.org

We are also looking forward to our annual **Give them Wings Auction** and Dinner which we will host at Charter Oak Country Club in Hudson, MA on October 28, 2023. This is an extremely important community builder and raises essential funding. We hope to see you there!

We are also planning our first conference for April 5, 2024. The **Profound Autism Summit** will bring together clinicians, scientists, advocates, teachers, service providers, and parents/guardians to advance the state of treatment and care through informative sessions on the many aspects of enabling those with Profound Autism to thrive. Stay tuned for more details!

As we wrap up our 21st year, we are excited about our Strategic Plan and hard at work implementing it! Our goal is to provide the best services to children and adults whose Autism comes with complex needs by **focusing on each person as an individual**, with unique strengths, challenges, and desires, and by customizing state of the art teaching methodologies to that individual. We are pleased with our progress in becoming **the best place for the best staff** to work. In particular, we have substantially improved recruiting and retention by offering the wages and benefits needed to attract great staff and allow them to stay and build careers with us. We continue to advocate for the funding levels needed to support these market wages and we are grateful for your support helping us bridge the funding gap.

We are also continuing to seek **a new site to support our future growth**. Although this is made more complex by the current environment, we look forward to updating you on our progress over the upcoming year.

We are so grateful for your support as we **enable those we serve to reach their full potential** throughout their lives. We appreciate your continued partnership as we navigate these challenging times in order to **help those who need us most**. On behalf of our staff and the amazing individuals we serve, thank you for your support!

Liz Martineau

Liz Martineau, President and CEO



Fishin' With a Mission

Fishing & Friends! Boats, Bubbles, BBQ, & Bean Bag Tosses! Fishin' with a Mission was a BLAST! We loved seeing our NLG friends at this year's event, which raises awareness and support for Autism.

Special thank you to NLG parents Jim and Esther DeOliveira, [My Little Buddies Boat](#), and [Mystic Wellington Yacht Club](#) for organizing the event and to the staff who attended and represented NLG at this terrific family fun day.



NLG RECEIVES A “COOL” GIFT FROM THE YAWKEY FOUNDATIONS



During these hot and hazy summer days, Nashoba Learning Group (NLG) is especially grateful for a recent capital grant of \$100,000 from the Yawkey Foundations. The grant allowed us to invest in much needed improvements to the HVAC units at our Bedford Campus. The improvements make it possible for students to learn in spaces that are cool and comfortable all summer long.

NLG's has a long history with the Yawkey Foundations. In 2005, the Yawkey Foundations provided a grant that allowed NLG to expand its program. Including the \$100,000 capital grant NLG received this year, Yawkey Foundations has contributed \$1,510,000 to NLG over the past 18 years.

NLG has benefitted from the advice and counsel of the Yawkey Foundations team over the years. Support from the Foundation has enable NLG to grow from a small start-up in a church basement to a multi-service organization serving more than 190 children and adults. The Yawkey Foundations' commitment to serving individuals in need throughout their lives has allowed NLG to flourish and expand.



The Yawkey Foundation honors Tom and Jean Yawkey by continuing their generosity and commitment to those most in need. To date, the Yawkey Foundation has awarded more than \$550 million in grants to non-profits in the areas of Health Care, Education, Human Services, Youth and Amateur Athletics, Arts and Culture, and Conservation and Wildlife.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

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Annual Fund: Making a Profound Difference

At Nashoba Learning Group, our goal is to be the best at serving those with Profound Autism or other complex needs by becoming the best place to work for staff who are inspired by our mission and committed to excellence.

Donations to NLG's Annual Fund allow us to invest in staff recruiting, training, and retention - critical costs which are not fully funded by the tuition and payments we receive.

We cannot do this important work without your support. Please give as generously as you can!

*Scan here to
make a gift today!*



SUMMER FUN!

Students and adult members at NLG attend school and participate in their program all summer long. In addition to their normal learning and ABA therapy goals, they enjoy summer activities like Water Play and popsicle treats!



WHAT IS "PROFOUND AUTISM"?



In April 2023, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released new research related to the prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Their research indicated that 1 in 36 children have ASD and, of those who have Autism, about 27% have Profound Autism.

The term "Profound Autism" was adopted by the CDC to differentiate those with significantly higher levels of need. Profound Autism includes Autistic people with substantial intellectual disabilities and limited language abilities, who cannot be left alone and require 24-hour access to a caregiver.

The vast majority of individuals served by NLG have Profound Autism or other complex needs and our programs are designed to deliver the types of support they need.

BIKE-A-THON RAISES OVER \$42,500!

Thank you to everyone who supported our Bike-a-Thon event! Despite the rain which forced us to postpone the event by a week, we had a great group of riders and volunteers who helped us raise over \$42,500!

A few of our riders documented their adventures. You can read about **Cesar Brea's** (harrowing) ride on his blog post, "Scenes from a Ride: NLG Bike-a-Thon 2023." You'll also want to check out **Greg Austin's** journey on "Relive Greg's Nashoba Learning Group Sunday Ride" as he highlights scenic stops along his route, including a chance to meet up with Kristina and Lucas who joined him for part of his ride!



Cesar Brea's Story



Greg Austin's Story



Heather Angus, Program Director

Congrats to Heather Angus

It is with great enthusiasm that we announce the promotion of Heather Angus from Assistant Program Director to Program Director for the Day School! Please join us in congratulating Heather on this incredible achievement. Heather has been an integral part of our school and has consistently exhibited exemplary dedication, exceptional leadership skills, and an unwavering commitment to our organization's mission.

As the Day School Program Director, Heather will coordinate and oversee the program needs of the Day School. This is a role previously held by Lori Steers. Heather's promotion will allow Lori to focus more time and attention on the broader duties of the Executive Director, a role which she moved into in 2021.

Please take a moment to extend your heartfelt congratulations to Heather for her well-deserved promotion!!!



10 Oak Park Drive
Bedford, MA 01730

SAVE THE DATE!

GIVE THEM WINGS

NASHOBA LEARNING GROUP
AUCTION & DINNER

Saturday • 6:00-10:00 PM
October 28, 2023
Charter Oak Country Club • Hudson, MA

NLG SWAG STORE

Order your NLG gear from our Lands' End Store and have it shipped directly to your home. Visit <https://business.landsend.com/store/nlg/> or use the QR code below.

We have a selection of items and sizes to try on at Mini Mike's (10 Oak Campus) and Natalie's Store (170 Lexington Campus).



Lands' End Store