



## Autism Support Center April 2022 Update

Dear Friends,

Autism Acceptance Month is an opportunity for us to come together and raise awareness of autism and ensure that people on the autism spectrum are included in all facets of the community. At Lifeworks, we strive to make this a reality every month of the year.

This time last year, we announced an expansion of our agency's autism services. I'd like to take a moment to update you on some the progress that we have achieved since then.

Our DDS Adult Autism Support Center contract went into effect in July, allowing us to offer our expertise and support to adults with ASD (no I/D) and their families across the DDS Metro region. In order to serve these additional families, we hired three new dedicated staff members who have been incredible additions to our team. Additionally, we worked closely with DDS Cultural & Linguistic Support Centers to better serve diverse populations. We also began offering life coaching and adult companionship services to respond to the needs of our community.

In the Newton/South Norfolk area, outreach efforts have connected Lifeworks with pediatric offices, senior centers, early intervention providers and public schools – including integrated preschools and special education departments. These efforts have helped to reinforce our community connections, while ensuring increased access to our programs and services.

We are particularly proud of the community for stepping up to help us enrich the lives of our clients. We have established community partnerships with We Rock the Spectrum in Wellesley, Lark Center in Norwood, Rodman Arena in Walpole, Norwood Sports Center, Bubble Dentistry in Newton, Sing Explore Create in Rockland, The Alchemist Baker in Canton, and Park St. Books & Toys in Medfield, and more. The list of connections continues to grow and we're so grateful to have their help.

This work is just the beginning! All of us at Lifeworks are looking forward to more great things to come from our Autism Support Center team. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

***Brian Clark***

Director, Autism Support Center  
Lifeworks