



Our Club self-advocacy group



Opportunities for community engagement. Caitlin enjoying bowling night.



Noah working hard at Shaw's

April 11, 2022

Dear Lifeworks Community,

Spring is here and we are looking forward to what is to come. The past couple of years have been both an exciting and incredibly challenging time for Lifeworks, our staff, and the individuals and families we serve. As part of our community, your commitment and support are vital to our mission of **Advocacy**, **Empowerment**, and **Opportunity**. We cannot do what we do without you. We are successful because of our community, people like you, who help us meet the needs of all whom we serve. Thank you!

Advocating for high quality supports, programs, and services that improve the lives of our community is key to our mission. Our program participants know the importance and value of advocating for themselves just as much we do. Our Club, Lifeworks' self-advocacy group, has been busy this past year. Members participated in an online seminar to advocate for Katie's Law, which strikes outdated and hurtful terminology in documents. They also raised funds through events such as Hip Hop Café. Their fundraising efforts not only support advocacy initiatives, but also projects such as scholarships for educational courses and exercise opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This self-advocacy group is truly giving back!

While the pandemic has caused disruptions, empowering our staff and the people we serve through continued employment has been a top priority. Our direct care staff have done a tremendous job, and in January we were able to provide significant wage increases to all our staff. But that is not enough—we must continue to do more to support these essential employees and we will through support such as yours. The Lifeworks employment programs in Norwood and Boston continue to provide training and job supervision to the people we serve. One notable success story is Noah who works for Shaw's Supermarket. He continued working throughout the

## PROGRAMS

Lifeworks serves more than 2,200 individuals across a wide range of programs:

### **Day Habilitation Programs**

Connections: serving 23 persons  
Abel Therapeutic Center: serving 108 persons

### **Residential & Individual Supports**

Serving 147 persons

### **Day & Employment Supports**

Norwood: serving 123 persons  
Boston: serving 92 persons

### **Harbor Counseling Center**

Serving 383 adults

### **Adult Family Care**

Serving 36 families

### **Autism Support Center**

Serving 1,081 families

### **Family Support Center**

Serving 460 families

### **Social & Recreational Programs**

Serving 190 families

## COMMUNITIES SERVED

Lifeworks serves individuals throughout Boston, Attleboro, Canton, Dedham, Foxborough, Medfield, Millis, Norfolk, Norwood, Plainville, Sharon, Walpole, Westwood, Wrentham, Natick, and the MetroWest area.

These services include day programs and offices located in Norwood, Westwood and West Roxbury, as well as homes in 18 locations.

pandemic. While he was initially fearful, as were most people, he persevered and says he felt proud to be working and felt good to be in the store helping customers. Work is empowering to everyone's sense of self-worth and certainly is a source of justifiable pride. With the philanthropy of donors like you, and other sources of funding, we can continue to support the individuals we serve, like Noah, as well as our dedicated employees.

Lifeworks strives to provide impactful opportunities whenever possible. We are thankful that we were able to provide four people with the opportunity to live independently in two newly renovated residential living spaces which were completed in 2021. The beautiful, two-story property in Dedham is an apartment program for persons on the autism spectrum and the first of its kind for Lifeworks. The residents are living in their community and have access to all the necessary daily supports, services, and experienced coaching from dedicated Lifeworks staff. This is such a great opportunity for them to reach their potential while living independently in a safe and secure environment.

To succeed and continue our mission of **Advocacy, Empowerment and Opportunity**, we will need teamwork and your help. You have been a generous supporter of Lifeworks in the past and I hope you will consider making a gift once again this year.

Thank you,

Dan Burke  
President and CEO  
Lifeworks