



Celebrating those who empower the people we serve.

# Empower





# Lifeworks Empower Celebration Committee

We've come together to celebrate our Lifeworks community — the staff and the individuals served by Lifeworks. They are the reason why we are here tonight and have this opportunity to reflect on their collective accomplishments.

Lifeworks would not be who we are without them and supporters like you. Thank you for your part in contributing to our success!

Laura Ailinger

Nancy Borr

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Jennyfer Destin

Allison Diebus

Kristen Diebus

Dawna Gyukeri

Heidi Haggman

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Robyn Garth

Rhonda Jansky

Susan Linehan

Nicole Lochiatto

Christopher Page

Mary Sethna

Tracey O' Farrell

Garrett Traylor

Anne Siegle Yas



# Welcome

On behalf of the more than 2,300 people supported by Lifeworks, their families, as well as the more than 450 professional staff providing these supports, we welcome you to our 2023 Empower Celebration. We are looking forward to a wonderful evening, where old friends can connect, where people will become more aware of the wonderful programs and services that Lifeworks provides, and where our guests can enjoy a wonderful evening.

This year's signature event, the Empower Celebration, offers another chapter in our return to providing signature moments, great days, and wonderful programs for the people we support.

Lifeworks currently offers 18 residences with a new one to open soon. We are welcoming back more people every day to our Employment Supports, Life Enhancement and Day Habilitation programs, and we will be working with our partners at the Department of Developmental Services to grow programs such as Individual Home Supports, Adult Family Care, and Shared Living.

As we approach 70 years of serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities including autism, Lifeworks always reflects on our roots, on what is at the heart and soul of our agency. Families are the essential lifeblood of our agency — we were founded by 10 wonderful families in Walpole in 1954, our Board composed of all families, hired our first staff in the early 1970s and opened our first programs. Those families signed personal guarantees to help get our first homes and day programs off the ground.

This inspiration led to the development of our Family Support Program which provides staffing, training, and financial support to over 450 families in our region of service. The spirit of leadership and camaraderie led families to partner with our agency and form one of the first Autism Support Centers in the state, a center that now serves more than 1,100 people and their families.

Tonight, we recognize the wonderful accomplishments of the people we serve and the important and invaluable role of our staff in making these successes and opportunities happen. We thank you for supporting our event, hope you have a wonderful evening, and thank you for your contributions to making the evening an enormous success.



The Empower Celebration, Lifeworks' 2023 fundraising event, will highlight the amazing accomplishments of the people we serve, the importance of the mission of our agency in supporting over 2,300 people and their families and how this is made possible by our extraordinary staff. The services provided by Lifeworks, play a crucial role in the empowerment and accomplishments of the people we serve.

Proceeds from the Empower Celebration support the individuals and families we serve by providing the additional resources not met by state and federal funding. Resources like advocacy, life skills training, social and recreational programs, educational materials, quality improvements to the residences, individual and family emergencies, and so much more.

## Evening Program

Cocktail Reception, Silent Auction & Artists Gallery

Welcome: Dennis Carroll, Chairperson, Board of Directors

Opening Remarks: Emcee Heather Hegedus

Empowering Lives - Videos I & II

Dinner

*Visit the Artists Gallery and take another look at the Silent Auction Items.*

Recognition and Staff Honors: Daniel Burke, President & CEO

Empowering Lives Highlight

Kevin Murphy, Cindy Wadon & Heather Hegedus

*Silent Auction closes at 8:30 p.m.*

Empowering Lives - Videos III & IV

Live Auction

*A special work of art being created on sight for the Empower Celebration  
by Patrick Linehan*

Fund a Need

Empower Us Fund

Viennese Dessert Station in Lobby

Closing Remarks: President & CEO Daniel Burke

# Heather Hegedus

## Event Emcee



Emmy award-winning journalist Heather Hegedus will serve as the emcee for the Celebration. Heather recently joined Fidelity Investments as editor/on-air anchor for Viewpoints and Market Sense. Born and raised in Boston, for the past 23 years, she has reported on business, health/science, crime/the legal system, the environment, education, and DEI. She moved six times in nine years for anchor and reporter jobs in Hartford, New York, and D.C. Prior to Fidelity, Heather served as the weekday morning anchor of a live, daily 6 ½ hour morning show on Boston 25 News, the Fox affiliate, where she spent the bulk of her career. Highlights include an Emmy Award for her reporting on the opioid epidemic, and Emmy nomination for a documentary about early intervention waitlists and research underway to gain a greater understanding of autism. This spring, her work covering the Boston Marathon bombing will be featured in a Smithsonian Channel documentary.

Heather graduated Magna Cum Laude from Georgetown University and from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. Having a family member with autism and intellectual disability, Heather is passionate about helping special needs families advocate for themselves. She serves on the President's Council of the New England Center for Children and frequently volunteers to emcee fundraising events for organizations like Lifeworks.





# About Lifeworks

Founded by parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities who had a vision of inclusion and civil justice. Now in its 69th year Lifeworks continues to adhere to the same guiding principles today. We are committed to our mission of **Advocacy, Empowerment and Opportunity**.

As a leader in providing exceptional supports and diverse array of services, we encourage people with developmental and intellectual disabilities, including autism, to engage in the life of their community. We promote social inclusion and meaningful connections for those we serve and their families.

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at Lifeworks for the  
special things you do!

- Michael and Nancy Borr

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# THANK YOU!

**Staff at  
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**Staff at  
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**and to the Lifeworks staff that  
supports Kathy, our families, and  
helps build and execute the mission  
of the Forsberg Beautification  
Program**

**~ The Forsberg and Diebus families**



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# HERE'S TO THOSE WHO IMAGINE MORE.

We are proud to support the Empower Celebration and thank Lifeworks for their dedication to our community.

**Chad Robinson** *CPA, Partner, and the Partners of CohnReznick*



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the communities in which we work and live.


Becky Dowd  
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# Thank You Staff

Thank you Kate Kalinowski for all you have done for Patrick Reardon. Good luck in your new position at Lifeworks. We'll miss you.

-Patty Starr

Thank you  
Rockwood staff!

- Susan Lubitz

Nancy Borr, we appreciate all your efforts and hard work at Lifeworks activities!

-Estelle & Family

THANK YOU TO THE STAFF OF THE FAMILY AUTISM CENTER. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR ALL YOU DO FOR OUR FAMILY!

- MELINDA AND NICK COPPOLA

THANK YOU BUSINESS OFFICE TEAM!

- BRENDA CALDER

Thank you to the wonderful Lifeworks staff!

- The Yas Family

Tracy Coakley, Allie and her family very much appreciate all you do for her. Thank you!

Thank you to Family Support! You make such a difference in the quality of our Family's life!

-Melinda and Nick Coppola

THANK YOU DAVE FOULK FOR HELPING ME WITH PROBLEMS.

- KATE SALLY

• Thank you to the amazing Lauren Blushil!

• - Adrian

Thank you Nakisha Mack, Devante Rose, Derrick Rose, and Judy Consentino for all you do!

-Colin McNabb

Thank you,  
Derrick Rose!

- Thomas Erhard

THANK YOU TO ALL THE  
QUALITY AND COMMUNITY  
SERVICES TEAM MEMBERS.  
YOU ARE THE BEST!

- DAN SULLIVAN

Thank you, Mary Perry!  
She is a good friend.  
She helps me with many  
things like the doctors and  
shopping. She plans fun  
things and has a great  
sense of humor.

- John O'Connell

Thank you Jenny Jezak for sincerely  
acknowledging my capabilities as  
both intern program manager and  
residential teacher-counselor at the  
Lifeworks Rockwood house! I was  
thrilled to hear your praises about my  
work ethic! Rockwood house is truly  
fortunate to have an upbeat, personable  
director - such as you - overseeing  
our program!

- Scott Curley

Thank you Nicole & Brian.

- Joan Hoffman

Thank you Erinel Araujo!

- Cierra Sheehan

A BIG THANK YOU TO  
DAN SULLIVAN AND  
THE ENTIRE QUALITY  
ASSURANCE TEAM -  
ALL THOSE WHO WORK  
SO DILIGENTLY TO  
ENSURE THE HIGHEST  
STANDARDS OF  
OPERATIONS AND CARE  
AT LIFEWORKS!

- CAROLINE GOMBOSI

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so much for all of your  
assistance at bowling!

- Elaine Strug

Thank you,  
Lauren Blushi!

- Cierra Sheehan

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do for Robyn every day!

- Ted and Karen Maloney

Erinel Araujo -  
thank you for  
your time, your  
compassion and  
your commitment!

-The Sweets

Nancy Borr - we appreciate  
you and the staff at Lifeworks!  
It takes special people to do your  
job and you guys are all great at  
what you do! Keep up the  
excellent work and smiles!!

- Elaine Strug

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**DiNo DiNapoli and Joyce Laura - Artists Gallery**





Celebrating those who empower the people we serve.

# Empower



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