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All Day. Every Day.
For a Lifetime.*

GATEWAYS

9-1-1 Registration - Mark Your Calendar

by Dave Hackett

Families with children on the autism spectrum should mark their calendars, to make sure they don't miss the chance to 9-1-1 register their children this spring. Each registration event allows families to fill out some paperwork while their child is photographed. If the child were missing, this information could be essential in locating them quickly. Experts tell us that during the first hour, minutes saved can be crucial to their safety. The information is shared with the local police, who can send it immediately to the officers on patrol. The area to be searched is smaller, and the chances of success greater.

The Autism 9-1-1 program is a program that was developed by the NH Autism Safety Committee, and was piloted in Manchester. It has 2 goals: first, to educate the police officer or other first responder in signs of autism, and second, to help families to register their children with the authorities. Children with autism often appear quite normal, since their disability is in the areas of communication and behavior. Many times, they have little awareness of danger. This fact has allowed us to access the NH 9-1-1 system.

When a call is received at the 9-1-1 center, the family registered home phone number (landline only) causes a message to appear that there is a child with autism at that address. The operator can then immediately pass it on to the local responder. If the call comes in to a local department participating in the program, the information that parents have provided gives the individual officer not only identification, but what actions may work in calming the child when he is located. At each registration event, a uniformed officer is there to interact with the child, and show him the cruiser. Sometimes kids even get to run the lights and siren!

For more information, contact Dave Hackett at 459-2751 or dhackett@gatewayscs.org.

Nashua	2/16	Gateways Community Services
Merrimack	3/2	Merrimack Police Department
Hudson	4/13	Hudson Police Department
Milford	5/11	TBD
Wilton	6/1	TBD

All events run from 5:30-7:30 PM. Families may attend whatever event works for their schedule.

Gateways Autism Center ~ New & Improved

Gateways has renewed its commitment helping those with autism, and their families, by updating its Autism Center and engaging Michelle Abbott as the new Autism Center Coordinator. Abbott replaces Noel Marcoux, who will now be working with families in our Consumer Directed Services (CDS) program.

"I will be connecting with families and providing resources to individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and their families," explains Abbott. "As a parent of a child on the autism spectrum, I certainly understand the challenges faced during our autism journey, but more importantly, share the excitement of each step of progress made by our children."

The Autism Center has launched a social media network called the Nashua Autism Network (NAN), updated the Gateways web site with easily accessible information on our autism programs and links to resources, and assigned Pat Worsley to oversee autism intensive case supports.

The Nashua Autism Network (NAN) is an on-line, interactive, 24x7 Nashua region resource for improved communications and information sharing, amongst those with autism and their families. NAN provides up to date information on local and national autism news, services, and supports. NAN connects individuals who share the common interest of autism. With the increase of families that need help, we have created a way to bring people together and nurture their relationships with each other. NAN members have the ability to add and comment on discussions, blog posts, forums, photos, send personal emails, share experiences, make friendships and most of all, support and educate each other. Gateways encourages you to join the network and invite others to join as well.

Joining Abbott in the Autism Center is Pat Worsley who will assist with case management for those with ASD. Pat is a long time Gateways employee with a wealth of case management experience. Pat can be contacted at 459-2757 or pworsley@gatewayscs.org.

Gateways has also established an Autism Advisory Group composed of staff, families, and experts on ASD. The group meets regularly to review training programs, support group options, and outreach efforts. If you are interested in serving on the Council or would like to learn more, contact Michelle directly. The Gateways Autism Support Group continues to meet on the second Wednesday every month at Gateways. The next group meeting will be on March 10, 2010. The March topic will be www.CHARMtracker.com.

"2010 is going to be a very exciting year for the Center with many design changes in current programs, added resources, and new social-media technology. I encourage you to provide feedback as the Autism Center tests new approaches with families. You can expect a survey sometime within the next two months so we can get a better idea of how to support families and get a better definition of needs. I am here to serve you," closes Abbott.

To contact Michelle Abbott, please dial 459-1798 or email mabbott@gatewayscs.org. To learn more about the Gateways Autism Center, log on to www.gatewayscs.org and click on Autism Center. You can get valuable information on our Parent-2-Child Training, 9-1-1 Registration Program, the NH ASD Registry, a calendar of events, library listing, and a resource guide to local organizations that help with autism.



Michelle Abbott



From The
Desk of
Sandra Pelletier,
President & CEO



“A Good Man” – Remembering Dave Goelz

Recently I had the privilege and sorrow of sharing with our Gateways staff that one of our own had passed away. Dave Goelz, a long time volunteer, was very much a part of our community contributing 5,420 hours of service here at 144 Canal Street. Dave had been dealing with a heart condition for an extended period of time and had recently been hospitalized. Many of you interacted with Dave as he helped with copying, follow-up phone calls to families, mail delivery, and much more. So, whether you were attending an event, doing a mailing, or dropping off a time sheet, you probably had a chance to meet or work with him. Dave will be missed by Gateways and his passing has made it clear to me once again the importance of volunteers.

Dave's passing made me reflect on the many people who volunteer at Gateways and in New Hampshire. Last year, 30.4% of New Hampshire's citizens volunteered, contributing more than 31.6 million hours of service, and that each hour donated is valued at \$20.25. The majority of volunteers in our state help with fundraising and 17.2% of volunteers assist non-profit, social services agencies. It is clear that volunteers dedicate their time, talents, and energy to making a difference.

Gateways would not be the same without volunteers. There probably wouldn't be the new Mission Possible program or the DSP Event or the Parent-2-Child Autism Training. The Wait List legislation might have stalled without volunteer support for testimony, printing, calls to representatives, and so much more. Without the input and dedication of our many parents, Family Support Council members, or Board of Directors, many programs would not be identified, funded, or launched. Even more volunteers enter through our doors to assist with everything from clerical work to planning fundraising events. Interns have proven most valuable as we launch pilot efforts and explore new ways of doing business. These many volunteers are the heart and soul of Gateways; making it the special organization that it is. In my mind they deserve a great deal of credit for our success.

So, Gateways volunteers, thank you for rolling up your sleeves and working so hard to deliver services to those in need. And, thank you Dave.

Five thousand four hundred and twenty hours is a lot of time to give. Yet that is the amount of time that Dave Goelz gave to Gateways during the last five years. He gave us so much more than time. Dave was a very kind and caring man. He was a friend to staff, consumers, and anyone who came into our building. Dave cared about each of us. He remembered our children's names, our spouse's names, and the particulars about each of them that we shared with him. He would ask about each one by name. Dave loved to talk about politics and sports. He had an amazing memory for statistics of the members of his favorite teams. Dave would always tell amusing stories about some article he read online that he thought was ridiculous; mostly about people not taking responsibility for their actions.

Dave helped everyone who asked him and there were many of us who asked. He made copies, assembled booklets, made phone calls, delivered mailings, and helped with functions. One staff member said, "He would struggle with things I would never attempt on my own, such as making pamphlets that would end up in

a tri-fold, and having copies you didn't have to turn upside down to read! He seemed to be a very patient man as he dealt with copier malfunction. He would always smile and have a sense of calm about him."



Dave Goelz

Dave started here on November 2, 2004. He lived on the other side of the large parking lot behind our building. He walked to Gateways every day, no matter what the weather. The trip home was up a steep hill. He never took a vacation. He never called in sick. His only time off was the week he was in the hospital in September 2009 and the week after when we insisted he stay home to recuperate. Officially he was here for 20 hours per week. His work hours were supposed to be 9 to 1 but he rarely left before 2:30 or later.

As Charles Schulz would say Dave was "a good man!" Dave made a connection with a number of the clients that we work with and they will miss him terribly.

Gateways Welcomes New Board Members

Gateways has just appointed three new members to its Board of Directors. Joseph Gamache, Helen Honorow, and Debra Vanderbeek (pictured left to right) are the newest members to join the team.



Mr. Gamache, of Nashua, is the lead architect for Fidelity Brokerage Company Technology (FBCT) in Merrimack, NH. He has an MS in Computer Systems Engineering from Northeastern and a BS from Trinity College.

Ms. Honorow, of Nashua, is a partner in the law firm of Barry & Honorow, where she specializes in family law. Honorow graduated from Washington University in St. Louis, MO, with a degree in Spanish and Human Services and Education Certification. She received her juris

doctor from St. Louis University. She is a member of the New Hampshire, Illinois, Nashua, NH Women's, and American bar associations. She also serves on the State Board of Education.

Ms. Vanderbeek is a partner in Legislative Solutions, a legislative consulting firm located in Concord. The firm provides strategic government relations services to companies and trade associations. She is a magna cum laude graduate of Suffolk University where she majored in government and minored in communications.



Thanks to TD Bank!



Gateways CFO Tim Leach and President Sandra Pelletier accept a \$10K grant from TD Bank's Carrie Poole and Mary Hankins in support of its Nashua Partners in Health Program.

Campership Support Available

by Carole Poulin

It's hard to believe that in the middle of winter it's time to start thinking about summer camp. Many camps have already begun their registration process. Some individuals can barely wait to go back to their favorite summer camp just to rekindle friendships. For many, going to camp is the highlight of their summer vacation. For parents and caregivers, it is a time to relax knowing that their family member is being well cared for and having a great time.

Camp offers individuals a sense of independence outside of school or home, as well as an opportunity to explore the outdoors through various activities including swimming, boating, horseback riding, drama, music, and socializing. Whether it's day camp or residential, camp offers a variety of options to meet just about every need.

Gateways, through the Family Support Advisory Council, provides campership assistance to eligible individuals who are not able to obtain financial funding elsewhere in the community an opportunity to attend one session of camp per year.

To learn more about how you can apply for a campership simply go to our WEB site at http://www.gatewayscs.org/fs_camp.htm or contact Carole Poulin at 459-2705 for more information.

Family Support Council Update

by Eric Shaffer, Chairperson

For the past couple of years, the council has been fortunate to receive monies from a Bureau of Developmental Services (BDS) Employment Grant. The council works closely with Gateways to design a series geared around giving the general information to young adults with disabilities (and their parents/caregivers) transitioning at the beginning and end of school and obtaining employment. Lisa O'Connor and Pat Fair attended the September meeting to review the employment sessions from April through June. Based upon feedback from those sessions, we are already working on the next series of employment sessions. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters.

In October, we had Neil Rogers attend to educate us on the work of Parents Assisting Special Educators (PASE). PASE, started by Neil and Lori Rogers over 15 years ago, is dedicated to working collaboratively with local school districts by providing funds for resources needed or wanted by special educators which may not be in their school's budget. Over the years, the Council has been able to provide funding to PASE through our discretionary funds. You can learn more about PASE by visiting their website at <http://www.pasenh.org>.

Carole Smith gave a presentation on Consumer Directed Services (CDS) in November. CDS is made up of two different programs: Adult Custom Services (21+ years) and In-Home Supports (birth to 21 years).

Adult Custom Services has 110 participants with 3 account managers. Families have the creativity of how they would like to use their dollars within their budget and receive monthly statements regarding their budget. Families have the ability to recruit providers, hire providers, check references, give annual performance evaluations, pick a vendor or negotiate cost for services.

In-Home Supports has 73 participants with 3 account managers. Families can use their budget funds for Personal Care Services (PCS), after school care, respite care, behavior or social consultants and Home Modifications.

More families are using the CDS model for services given their flexibility. The

Council helps fund some CDS budgets from our annual budget.

In December, the Council invited Sandy Pelletier to give an update on how Gateways has done over the past year. She highlighted some areas of importance and interest along with providing an overview of some upcoming initiatives. One very important highlight to note is that the \$1.3M was received for wait list funding – this funding came in part from families being involved in the budget process and testifying about the importance of the funds. LinkAbilities has received \$160,000 of Federal stimulus monies to replicate Project Search program in Concord and Keene.

Lisa O'Connor attended our January meeting to share about the Dream Partnerships project. Dream Partnerships is a self employment initiative that Kaarla Weston started as a business plan form. Initially, the project was hoping to get 20 families to apply; they ended up with 3 different business plans from consumers. A \$3000 dollar grant from LinkAbilities assisted the project to assist with funding to provide monies to the consumer to write the business plan and pay a provider to a provider/worker to help with it. Upon the acceptance of their business plans, the received a congratulations letter along with \$1000 to buy equipment and get their business started. The 3 consumers were able to start a scanning business, a pet sitting business and a photography business.

In other news... We had several members resign from the council. We would like to extend a "Thank You" to Jean Pickering, Pam Eddy and Lisa O'Connor for their time and assistance with helping on the council. We have been able to welcome Jo-Ann Sheehan and Larry Lutton onto the council.

The council is starting to plan two upcoming events. The first is a new event for the Council – a family movie event held at a local cinema. The other is the annual Family Support picnic that will be held in June. Look for more information soon. If you would like to help with either of these events or learn more about joining the Council, please contact Eric Shaffer at familysupportcouncil@gatewayscs.org



Donate to Annual Appeal - Just Like Libby



Sandy Pelletier and Libby Franck

The Gateways Annual Appeal is well underway with President Sandra Pelletier and Board Chair Carol Bambrick asking local families, businesses, and others to join Libby in making a contribution to support programs that help people, young and old, of all abilities realize their dreams. At

the beginning of the New Year, Gateways mailed to over 2,300 individuals Libby's plea to help support Gateways' Siblings Group, Adult Day Service Program, and Autism Center. But, just who is Libby?

Libby Franck is the daughter of Family Support Council Vice Chair Mary Franck and her husband Karl. Libby, at the beginning of the school year, was asked by her teacher what she would do with one million dollars and she replied, "If I had a million dollars, I would give it to Gateways for kids with disabilities. Gateways does a great job because they do a sibs group to help kids understand what is different with our siblings so we understand."

Mary Franck shared this story with Gateways, along with Libby's artwork, as a testament to the positive impact Gateways has on families. Libby, along with 2,415 other individuals, benefited from services provided by Gateways last year. Each week, we receive notes of thanks, accolades for new programs, and offers to volunteer. Very rarely however, do we hear from such a young child about the positive impact our organization has and as a result, we wanted to share this story with you.

"Libby's voice just spoke to me," notes Pelletier. "Gateways does a great job and we need continued financial support to keep successful programs up and running. It's great to know that this girl would give her million dollars to Gateways so we can continue to help her brother and her family."

And yes, there is still time to donate to Gateways' Annual Appeal. You can donate on line at www.gatewayscs.org or return the enclosed envelope with your contribution. You can also contact Cindy Morse, in our Development office, at 459-2716 or cmorse@gatewayscs.org, to make a donation.

Nancy Dowey Assumes Greater Role in Parent-2-Child Training

Nancy Dowey has been at the helm of Early Supports and Services (ESS) group for over ten years; working diligently with families, the State of New Hampshire, and staff to bring high quality supports to the youngest people we serve. Nancy has decided to step down from her leadership role with ESS, but will continue as a Senior Therapist and with the Parent-2-Child Training. Recruitment for Nancy's replacement has begun and Nancy will transition once the new hire is in place.

In her new capacity, Nancy will help establish a new Parent-2-Child Training in another region of the state. Nancy is excited to be a part of this new venture and explains, "The Parent-2-Child Training teaches the parent of a very young child with autism how to start the individualized teaching that will help their child start to communicate and learn. It is a natural setting that is highly motivating and supportive for the child and the parent and ultimately for their family."

Project SEARCH Expands

by Emily Manire

Thanks to the generosity and partnership of New Hampshire Vocational Rehabilitation (NHVR), LinkAbilities is expanding Project SEARCH in multiple regions of the state. With recently awarded ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) grant funds, LinkAbilities began working closely with Community Bridges (Concord) and The Moore Center (Manchester) this past October to develop and implement two new Project SEARCH healthcare programs. Soon to come on board for this exciting roll-out are the Monadnock and Seacoast regions, as well as other areas of the state that are starting to show their enthusiasm and interest.

As LinkAbilities leads the way in these statewide endeavors, we rely immensely on our core team members here in Nashua that has made this program a success. NHVR, the Nashua School District, the PLUS Company, St. Joseph Hospital, Dartmouth Hitchcock Nashua, Home Health and Hospice, and Green Briar have

all played integral roles in identifying and building new relationships in other regions of the state. As a core team, we work together to bring opportunities in the healthcare workforce, both for those we serve and for those who will be employing the individuals.

Since the inception of Project SEARCH at St. Joseph Hospital, we have experienced 100% job placement success and continue to achieve the height of our program goals. These goals are met with the determination and strength of our team members, and of course, the remarkable students and their families who participate in the program. Our team looks forward to fostering similar success in other regions of the state, as well as new sectors here in Nashua.

For more information on this exciting new rollout or our other initiatives, please visit us at www.linkabilities.org or become a fan on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/



GATEWAYS
COMMUNITY SERVICES

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