Welcome!

Welcome to our second newsletter of the year! On warm, sunny days you can bet that we are enjoying our outdoor activities all over the Merrimack Valley. You might see some of our participants volunteering at Three Hearts Farm, visiting the YWCA for a swim, or exploring local parks for geocaches!

Read more about our recent events and happenings at Opportunity Works in the following pages.

For more information, or to schedule a tour, please contact Monica Albach, Newburyport Division Director or Melissa Merrow, Haverhill Division Director

Opportunity Works
Empowering People...
Changing Lives

Opportunity Works at 3-Hearts Farm

Events Calendar

Upcoming Events:
June 21st-July 1st- OpArt Exhibit at the Newburyport Art Association
September 28th- 34th Annual Lend-A-Hand Auction

Events You Might Have Missed:
June 21st- OpArt Show at Newburyport Art Association
June 21st- Hollywood Nights Summer Soiree
May 25th- Project Search Graduation
May 14th- Spring Golf Classic
April 23rd- Shaheen Mixer and Fundraiser
February 6th- Basketball Fundraiser at NECC
Positivity!

Meeting with Dr. Lane Glenn,
President of Northern Essex Community College

Our staff at Opportunity Works embraces the dynamic environment of person-centered care. We aim to elevate our services and we achieve our goals through company-wide trainings. Recently, one of our trainings revolved around aspects of *appreciative inquiry*.

One aspect in particular is the **positive principle**, which proposes that **momentum and sustainable change requires positive affect and social bonding**.

Glenn asserts that **hope, excitement, inspiration, camaraderie** and **joy** increase **creativity**, **openness** to new ideas and people, and **cognitive flexibility**. He facilitated group workshops for our staff on leadership that feels inclusive and welcoming of our successes.

Our training involved learning about this positive principle, but also realizing that we already are involved in this concept within the agency through **Positive Behavioral Supports**.

Our Partnership with 3-Hearts Farm

"**We groom the horses, we walk them in the field, and we give them hay. My favorite part is grooming the piggies! Once you start, they roll over on their backs and let you groom their bellies! Hahaha! they love it.**"  

- Billy Junkins

The farm provides: "**Therapeutic programming dedicated to creating an environment in which mindful exploration of the extraordinary bonds between animals and humans results in the benefits of mutual healing through care, partnership, and love.**"

3-Hearts Farm  
186 Bachelor Street, West Newbury MA 01985
Awesomeness

International Day

International Day at Opportunity Works is arguably one of the best days at program, but the weeks leading up to the event is really where our organization shines. Every year we host an international day where our participants can tour the world learning and tasting things from various places.

A note from our COO to the staff

"Over the last couple of weeks I did some extensive traveling. I went to China, Columbia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Greece, Hawaii, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lichtenstein, Madagascar, Netherlands, Nigeria, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Spain, UK-England and British Colombiia, Vietnam and the Moon.

Along the way I met some AMAZING people, many wearing beautiful clothing native to the country they represented. It was easy to see the planning that went into fully exploring the uniqueness and rich culture of each country. The decorations at each country were beautiful and creative. World class chefs prepared INCREDIBLE food that I got to sample at each country along the way. My friends all got stamps in their passports as they visited each country making for a great memory of an incredible event.

You should all take great pride in the work you did to prepare for and celebrate the diversity of our varied backgrounds and bridge the gap between cultures, and for making it so special. Just another reason why I am so proud to be part of the Opportunity Works Team!

Keep up the great work—it IS appreciated!"
Ken Moran
Chief Operating Officer

Left to Right: Corey B represented Kenya by wearing his zebra shirt, mango smoothies from India and Richie G shows off his double-decker bus from the UK
Hollywood Nights Summer Soiree

The much anticipated Opportunity Works ‘Summer Nights’ Soiree has arrived. It was an amazing event for multiple reasons. First off, the support from the local communities is what really gave our event momentum. With the support of Tammy’s Closet, Arc of Haverhill, and everyone else who donated dresses and suits, the people we serve were able to have a truly magical night. Our friends from Interlocks provided hair and make up services on site, and we also received donations from General Linen, Richardson’s Ice Cream, and Denise’s Flower Shop. Hosted at our Newburyport location, it was a great night for participants and community members to mingle. Let’s not forget to thank our amazing staff that transformed the space into a gorgeous dance floor.

Golf Tournament

Our new SPRING golf tournament was a success. Held on May 14th, 2018 we welcomed over 70 golfers to the Renaissance Golf Club in Haverhill for a day of friendly competition, on-field catered barbecue and a light cocktail reception. Congratulations to all of our winners, and we hope to see you all again next Spring!

Thank you to our lovely sponsors:

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And special thank you to our hole sponsors!

Couldn’t have done it without the help of our volunteers!
Employment and Growth

We anticipate serving an additional 60 people in the next three years, along with those we already support.

Employment preparation includes community based experiences and hands-on activities that are designed to lead to employment.

We match each individual's interests and training needs to available employment in the community. Our communities have embraced their employees and many call us with additional jobs for new employees because of the quality of their work and work ethic.

If you’re interested in hiring one of our participants, please call 978-462-6144.

Volunteer Spotlight

A group of graduating seniors from the Berwick Academy in Maine has been spending their time on the road, learning about different communities, and making music along the way.

Thankfully, they chose Opportunity Works as one of their stops on their journey home.

"Berwick Academy seniors Ryan Brown and Chris Yates, along with alum Gil Hamel '17, are walking home for their senior project.

Living in northern Massachusetts, Brown and Yates travel 40 miles and cross two state lines every day to attend Berwick Academy in South Berwick, ME. They decided to use the opportunity of a senior project to explore the towns and communities they pass by every day on their way to school, walking from campus to their hometowns, stopping along the way to volunteer in the surrounding communities and perform music."

They landscaped in our front flowerbeds, prepping them for future planting. After their hard work, Ryan and Chris performed for our participants, who were so receptive to their music that there was a post-performance line in order to thank them and ask questions.