

CARDINAL CUSHING CENTERS CONNECTOR



All ages. All abilities. All together.

VOL. 2, NO. 4

A PUBLICATION OF CARDINAL CUSHING CENTERS

SPRING 2015

RUN for the MONEY

BY RICH FAHEY

While nonprofit agencies welcome any and all people who want to help in any way, signing a check is just a contribution.

Training during the worst winter in Boston's history and then running 26 miles, 385 yards is a commitment.

So the three runners who comprise the second fund-raising team for Cardinal Cushing Centers for the 119th annual BAA Marathon on April 20 are "all in" — physically, emotionally and financially. By early April the team had already raised \$35,000.

Not only are they required to raise a significant amount of money — each runner pledges to raise at least \$7,500 in order to receive the official race number — but they have persevered to put in the training for the race.

Let's meet the three members of the Cushing team.

When Erin O'Connell of Wrentham saw the joy on the face of her younger sister Shannon's face after she became a student at Cushing, it was an easy decision to apply to be a member of the fund-raising team for the Boston Marathon.

"Quite honestly, the school has changed the whole family's life and



Erin O'Connell is running the Marathon for Cushing. Joseph Kelley Photography

See **MARATHON** Page 6



Cushing student Nicholas Pugsley works on crafts with Kelia McCullough of Thayer Academy.

Cushing students have perfect pals at Thayer

BY PAUL HALLORAN

The relationship between Cardinal Cushing Centers and Thayer Academy dates back three decades, and you might say it has been perfected over the years.

What started as a carnival put on by Thayer students for Cushing's St. Coletta Day School — an event that is still held annually — has expanded into a partnership in which students from the two schools meet and interact on a regular basis.

There is even a formal name for the partnership: Perfect Pals, a moniker tabbed by a Thayer student.

"About 15 years ago, some of our students wanted to do more (with Cushing), so we discussed ways we could expand the partnership," said Andy Gibson, middle school dean of students and a math teacher at Thayer.

Since then, Thayer students have participated in social, athletic and creative activities with St. Coletta students, in both

communities.

"We go to them and they come to us," said Nina Schleicher, an adapted physical education teacher at St. Coletta who coordinates the program on the Cushing end. "It provides inclusion opportunities for our students and gives them a chance to interact with kids their own age."

When St. Coletta students visit Thayer — typically in groups of five or six — they

See **PALS** Page 7

At Cushing, a neighborhood is rising



JO ANN SIMONS

transformed our community into an important mixed-use neighborhood, with retail and housing opportunities.

Shopping and dining are vital to any neighborhood, which is why we are excited about the Cushing Marketplace. This 30,000-square-foot building will house our stores and restaurants that have become popular with the community beyond Cushing.

The conversion of the Kennedy Building into workforce housing for typical individuals and families, and the construction of the new Cushing Marketplace hold both tangible and intangible significance in our Hanover community.

You can't see the physical changes yet, but they are not far off. Once they are complete, we will have

These shops give our students and graduates the opportunity to learn and put into practice a wide range of skills as they interact with customers. Equally important, we anticipate that Cushing Marketplace will attract more of our neighbors to visit and take advantage of the retail offerings.

We are also eagerly awaiting the beginning of construction of the Kennedy Building project. The 37 units will be home for people who can see the value of sharing space with Cushing students and adults with disabilities.

Both of these projects represent our desire to expand our perimeter and include our neighbors in our plans. We want to determine how our neighbors might fully participate in our community and take advantage of the cultural and recreational opportunities that we offer.

It is important to us that our neighbors look upon Cushing as a resource, whether it be dining in one of our restaurants or swimming in our pool. We fully expect the Kennedy housing to open wider the door to our

community.

We want people to see Cushing for what we are -- not only a place for people who need special services, but also one where everybody can enjoy the resources we have to offer.

We are grateful for the organizations partnering with us in our expansion efforts, including the Planning Office for Urban Affairs, Nadeau Corporation and Architectural Resources of Cambridge. We are equally appreciative of all those who have supported or pledged to our \$13 million capital campaign, the success of which is critical to our ability to transform our community.

A neighborhood is rising at Cushing. We are genuinely excited and we hope you share that sentiment.

Jo Ann Simons is president & CEO of Cardinal Cushing Centers.

**CARDINAL CUSHING CENTERS
CONNECTOR**

A PUBLICATION OF:

Cardinal Cushing Centers

405 Washington St.

Hanover, MA 02339

Tel. 781-826-6371

www.cushingcenters.org

Jo Ann Simons

President and CEO

jsimons@cushingcenters.org

Jansi Chandler

Vice President of Development

jchandler@cushingcenters.org

Michelle Markowitz

Vice President of Admissions

mmarkowitz@cushingcenters.org

Laurie Maranian

Director of Development

lmarianian@cushingcenters.org

Jenna Smith Gomes

Director of Planned Giving

jgomes@cushingcenters.org

PRODUCED BY:

PKH COMMUNICATIONS

pkhcomm@gmail.com

Two pair of pioneers to be honored at Springtime gala



LENNY FLORENCE



TIP O'NEILL

BY PAUL HALLORAN

This year's Springtime gala will honor the memory and legacy of two pioneers of the event as well as two brothers who have set the standard for employing people with disabilities.

Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill and "Mr. Springtime" Lenny Florence will be honored posthumously with the Richard Cardinal Cushing Award, while Leo and Paul Vercollone, owners of VERC Enterprises, Inc., will receive the Franciscan Leadership Award.

O'Neill was introduced to Cardinal Cushing Centers by his parish priest in Cambridge, Father Larry Cronin, who was a Cushing board member. Father Cronin appointed O'Neill chairman of Springtime. O'Neill, in turn, recruited Florence, who became the face of the event for many years.

"It's appropriate we honor two people who allowed us to grow and prosper to get to this point," said Jo Ann Simons, Cushing president and CEO. "What Tip started, Lenny took over (in the mid-1970s) and made his thing."

Simons said O'Neill imparted to groups that supported him the importance of also contributing to Cushing.

Twenty-five years ago, VERC — a family owned company that operates convenience stores and gas stations

throughout Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire — hired a person with an intellectual disability. Little did the Vercollones know that would fundamentally change their outlook on employment.

"That was transformative for their company," Simons said. "They started hiring more people with intellectual disabilities and, in an industry that has a high turnover rate, realized there was a very low turnover rate among them."

Today, VERC is committed to comprising 20 percent of its workforce with people who are intellectually or developmentally disabled.

"They are a role model for other organizations," Simons said.

The 49th Springtime will be held June 4 at 6 p.m. the Westin Copley Plaza. The event will include a cocktail reception, silent auction, live auction and the popular Cardinal Cushing fashion show, featuring celebrity models Ted English, CEO of Bob's Discount Furniture; boxing gym owner George Foreman III; Eastern Bank Chairman & CEO Rich Holbrook, Boston Business Journal Publisher Gale Murray; BJ's Wholesale Club President & CEO Laura Sen; and Boston Globe CEO Mike Sheehan. For ticket and sponsorship information, contact Laurie Maranian at 781-829-1247 or visit www.springtimegala.com.



LEO VERCOLLONE



PAUL VERCOLLONE

A will to give

Bourque family designates gift to Cushing in estate plans

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

As Kendra Bourque approaches her 30th year at Cardinal Cushing Centers, she and her family have much to be grateful for. That's why her parents, Acushnet residents Maurice and Germaine Bourque, decided to designate a gift to Cushing in their estate plans.

"Every five years we look over our plans, and we decided this year that this is important," said her father, Maurice. "This whole school environment was started by Richard Cardinal Cushing to help students learn, grow, thrive and achieve their individual success, and that legacy will continue with enough support. We know our daughter is in a place where she's loved and

“ Cushing is such a big part of Kendra's life and she's made great strides. Her quality of life is so much better and we hope that we can help others to improve their quality of life by supporting Cushing.”

”

- Germaine Bourque



Kendra Bourque, center, with her Cushing housemates, from left, Michael Wood, Suzanne Michaud, Christopher Keith and Maureen Wood.

protected, and every child should have the same opportunity to live his or her life out in this setting for years to come.”

Kendra, who has a pervasive developmental disorder, came to Cushing as a residential student in January 1986, at age 14.

“She needed the extra help, academically and socially,” said Maurice. “When she got to Cushing, she had a complete turnaround. She felt in control and comfortable with her peers, and she started to overcome her shyness and feel good about herself.”

“She's incredibly social and outgoing today,” said Germaine. “She's really thrived in this environment.”

Kendra graduated in 1993 and has since stayed on in Cushing's adult residential program, living in the Hanover community with four housemates—one of whom she has lived with for 22 years.

Over the past 17 years, Kendra has participated in South Shore Industries, an integral part of Cushing's adult services program that helps residents gain the training, skills and opportunities to find meaningful jobs in the community. Kendra was employed by Jordan's Furniture for 13 years and worked at the Weymouth Stop & Shop for nearly two years. She currently volunteers at the Hanover YMCA, reading to children, and was honored in 2012 and 2014 as Volunteer of the Year. In 2010, Kendra was also honored with Cushing's Adult Services Personal Achievement Award.

“Cushing is such a big part of Kendra's life and she's made great strides,” said Germaine. “Her quality of life is so much better and we hope that we can help others to improve their quality of life by supporting Cushing.”

In her spare time, Kendra is active in Special Olympics and many activities at Cushing. She takes part in charity walks for causes such as diabetes, cancer and arthritis research. She loves to swim and makes regular use of Cushing's pool. She also started running 5K races with her father. The family frequently travels together and Maurice runs in at least two half



Kendra Bourque enjoys a family vacation with her parents, Maurice and Germaine.

marathons a year. He has completed 46 so far.

Kendra's younger sister, Michelle, lives in New Jersey with her husband and two children. “Kendra adores being an aunt,” said Germaine. “She loves children.”

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE



An artist's rendering of the new Cushing Marketplace.

Cushing Marketplace, workforce housing to transform Hanover community

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

As Cardinal Cushing Centers looks ahead to the future, it is with a goal to build an intergenerational neighborhood where people with and without disabilities can live, work, learn and socialize together as one community.

At the centerpiece of its vision is the creation of a new 30,000-sq-ft, multi-use building to house office, classroom and retail space. It will be the new home to the Cushing Marketplace, which includes the Cushing Trader, selling handcrafted jewelry and artwork designed by students; the Cushing Greenhouse that raises and sells flowering plants; the Bass Village Café, which offers homemade sandwiches, soups and baked goods; Timeless Treasures Thrift Shop; and the Recycle Center. In these shops, Cushing students and graduates work and learn new marketable skills as they interact with customers. On one side, the Cushing Marketplace will face Route 53, attracting more shoppers to its easily accessible parking. On the other side, it will face a village green, embracing the entire Cushing neighborhood.

Cushing President & CEO Jo Ann Simons said the building will serve as a connector, “carrying diverse people and potential in and out of the Marketplace and the community.”

The initial design for this new front door to the Cushing campus was completed pro-bono by ARC/Architectural

Resources Cambridge (ARC). A result of successful collaboration between stakeholders, the steering committee and the design team, the building will be consistent with Cushing’s vision for seamlessly integrating its students, residents and visitors.

“Ultimately, the goal of the building was to provide flexible spaces that could serve multiple functions throughout the day,” says Jan Taylor, ARC’s senior architect in charge of the project. “It was very rewarding to contribute in such a meaningful way and to further enhance the Cushing community.”

ARC also assisted in the development of design documents for estimating, fundraising and marketing materials.

Nadeau Corporation’s Community Projects Division has also teamed up with ARC to complement their design and planning services. Nadeau connected with Cushing through its South Shore Young Professionals event and has since engaged specialized subcontractors for input and pricing while providing consulting on key items such as how to stage the construction to maintain access by the public to the existing retail shops and café during construction.

“Nadeau Corporation is extremely proud to partner with such a great organization and will continue to provide these pro-bono services as needed,” said Sean Lamontagne, Nadeau’s Director of Business Development. “As this project moves forward, we are excited to

implement these plans and help Cardinal Cushing Centers turn this dream into a reality. Our hope is that this exciting project will further their ability to forge a real community for those with intellectual disabilities.”

To successfully realize the plan, Cushing must raise \$13 million through a capital campaign.

Phil and Rita Harris, who serve on the Cushing board of overseers and board of directors, respectively, have contributed to the campaign to ensure continued support of students like their son, Traves, who has been at Cushing for nearly 18 years.

“It’s a very special place,” said Rita. “We want to see Cushing thrive and continue to do the miracles they do every day. As often as the expression is used, it’s true. Cushing saved our son’s life.”

In addition to the new building, Cushing has partnered with the Planning Office for Urban Affairs to transform the Kennedy Building—which currently houses classroom and office space—into 37 units of workforce housing for people without disabilities. The apartments will feature modern amenities, new heating and cooling equipment, laundry facilities, a community room and Energy Star appliances and lighting, according to David Aiken, project manager for the Planning Office for Urban Affairs, the nonprofit housing developer that is partnering with Cushing on the project.

Cushing’s doors are always open for people to visit. At right, this group came for lunch and a tour: seated, from left, Brett Rugg, Jody Nash and Meg Maguire, all of Hingham; standing, from left, Gwen Traynor of Hingham, Milee Burns of Duxbury, Soon-Ae Bushing of Hingham, Mary McGoldrick of Cohasset, Andrea Burke of Norwell, Carrie Cochrane of Hingham, Stanley Blackmur of South Shore Magazine and Mary Semjen of Hingham.



Jan Taylor of Architectural Resources of Cambridge (ARC) speaks at an event at the Boston Globe. ARC did the design work of Cushing Marketplace pro-bono. Above left, a rendering of the floorplan of the new Cushing Marketplace building.



Bill Roderick, Erin O'Connell and John King, who will run the Boston Marathon to raise money for Cushing, with coach Laurie Maranian, second from right, before a training run.

Marathoners to raise money for Cushing

MARATHON: from Page 1

her life," said O'Connell, a 24-year-old nurse who is also the varsity field hockey coach at King Philip Regional High in Wrentham. "We were worried because her former school was like a second family to her but she fell in love with Cushing in just the first few weeks."

O'Connell's training for her first marathon — she has competed the Newport, R.I. Half-Marathon — has coincided with perhaps the worst winter to train in the race's history.

"In difficulty, it's been an 11 on a scale of 1 to 10," she said. "February was very tough. All my long runs on the weekends were wiped out. I hit the treadmill and the streets when I could. I did get one long 17-mile training run in."

Shannon arrived at Cushing at a trying time for her family. Erin, Shannon and older brothers Brian and Michael lost their father in July 2010, and a month later Shannon had her trial week as a residential student at Cushing.

"They were so supportive and did so much

for her," said O'Connell.

Seeing Shannon do so well has helped the family heal after its loss.

"There are a lot of personal milestones she's achieved at the school that we never thought she'd achieve," said O'Connell. "Yes, both the marathon and the fund-raising are a huge commitment but I would do anything for the school."

She has been raising money from family and friends and in mid-March was near her fund-raising goal even before seeking the support of local businesses. Being the athlete she is, she is keen on putting herself on the line with the other runners.

"I'm looking forward to enjoying the experience of Boston," she said. "No matter how much I raise for Cushing, I owe them more than I can ever repay them."

Bill Roderick, 43, has been with Jannell Ford in Hanover for 18 years, the past five as general manager.

The Marshfield native, who now lives in Plymouth with his wife and two children, has always dabbled in athletics, in such areas as kick boxing and mixed martial arts, eventually branching out into triathlons and marathons.

"I always wanted to test myself," he said. That's exactly what he did while training during the brutal winter, but because running Boston has always been on his bucket list he signed on to be a member of the Cushing marathon team when he learned numbers were available.

"I was able to get out a bit on the roads on

Saturdays and Sundays for 15-16 mile runs," he said, augmenting it with time on the treadmill.

His company's association with Cushing began with a fundraiser Jannell Ford did with the school in 2012, and Roderick has continued the association in a variety of ways.

"It's a great organization with great people," Roderick said. "People who work there love what they do and it takes a special person to do what they do."

Roderick said he has made it a point to raise money and expand the company's presence in the community by helping not only Cushing but other nonprofits.

"It makes you feel good to help," he said. "I've never really fundraised like this in the past and it's a commitment, but I'm happy I did it."

John King, 44, of Duxbury is involved in software sales, and his son Dylan, 11, has attended the Cushing summer programs for the past few years.

He and his wife, Nancy, are close friends of Cushing President & CEO Jo Ann Simons and have been involved in various fundraising activities with her since Dylan was born with Down syndrome. The couple also has two other children, Katie, 13, and John Ryan, 8.

King had been involved in sports his entire life but never ran more than a couple of miles until he took up the running as a stress reliever. Within six months he was completing a half-marathon. A year later, he

completed the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C.

He has raised money in other events but never before had to tackle the challenges of training as he has for this race. He has a treadmill but used it only once, continually braving the elements, including a memorable one-hour training run in Stowe, Vermont, with the temperature at -5 degrees.

"I didn't know before I got them they even made insulated running shoes for running through snow," laughed King. "You can run in almost any weather if you dress right."

He completed a training run from Natick to Boston which gave him the confidence he'll be ready when they leave the starting line in Hopkinton on April 20.

He has also been heartened by the financial support from friends, family and coworkers, and had already raised more than \$10,000 by mid-March.

"Cushing is such a great resource not only for the students but for the families, too," King said. "We've been strong supporters of the capital campaign and the other things Jo Ann is doing there."

King admitted the commitment is intensive — physically, emotionally and financially — but said the payoff is worth it.

"It's a way to help Dylan and his friends and Boston is the biggest destination in the world for runners," he said. "It's an honor to run it."

To donate to the Cushing team, visit <https://www.crowdrise.com/CCCBoston2015>

Learning knows no bounds at Cushing

By PAUL HALLORAN

At Cardinal Cushing Centers, learning is not limited by the time of day or the age of students, as evidenced by the success of the adult education program in Braintree.

The spring session of adult education started March 24 and classes will run through May 12. There are approximately 25 students enrolled, according to Jean Rogers, vice president of Community and Adult Services at Cushing.

This is the second session of adult education, after the program was instituted last fall. This spring's offerings include Introduction to Songwriting, Rachel & Deb's Cooking Show, Introduction to Basic Computer Skills and Crafts Again!

Courses are held at Cushing's Bay State Drive facility and taught by Cushing staff and others accomplished in their respective field, Rogers said.

The songwriting course, taught by musician Brendan McGuirk, will culminate in every student's writing his or her own song, according to the course description. Culinary instructors Rachel Bowman and Deb Raymond will teach students how to make healthy and tasty meals.

The computer course, being offered for the first time and taught by Tracy Martin, will cover basic functions and programs, including Word and Excel, as well as setting up an email account, using social media and Internet safety. Kathleen and Kori Garland return with the crafts course they taught in the fall. They will help participants make crafts for Easter, spring, Mother's Day and Father's Day.

Each course costs \$110 and runs for eight weeks with 90-minute sessions. Notable about the courses is the fact that they are open to the community at large, and not just Cushing alumni or participants in its adult programs. In fact, Rogers

said, there are at least as many students from outside Cushing taking advantage of the educational opportunity.

"We like the fact that the community beyond Cushing is getting involved," she said, adding that in the fall session there were a half-dozen students with a combination of physical and developmental disabilities and confined to wheelchairs.

The developmental abilities of those enrolled range from non-verbal to completely verbal, Rogers said, noting that many students have a 1-on-1 aide accompany them to the classes.

Rogers said she would like future course offerings to include something sports-related, perhaps a running class next spring that would prepare participants to run a road race.

Cushing plans to open a new adult day program in Hanover, and Rogers said adult education would be offered at that site as well.



Chef Deb Raymond helps Henry prepare chicken parmesiana.

Cushing students have perfect pals at Thayer Academy

PALS: from Page 1

sometimes join their Pals for lunch in the dining hall. "They walk through the line and the Thayer kids will help them get their lunch," Schleicher said.

Activities shared by the students include basketball, kickball, arts and crafts and dances.

"It's as great for our kids as it is for their kids," Gibson said. "The two populations are not that different. That's important for the kids to see."

When the Perfect Pals program started, it was limited to students in the Thayer middle school. About five years ago some Thayer

students who were moving on to high school asked if they could continue with the program, so a second group was formed. Gibson said about 50-60 Thayer students participate each year, and the entire eighth grade hosts the carnival for their peers at St. Coletta.

"At the beginning of the year, I talk to the student body and open it up to everybody, and I usually have a waiting list," Gibson said. "It's fun to watch the kids interact with each other."

"The peer interaction is the main benefit for our students," Schleicher said. "It's a great collaboration."



Students at Cushing's St. Coletta Day School in Braintree are enjoying new playground equipment donated by MountainOne Bank. Joining them are, left, Shawn George, senior VP, MountainOne; Jo Ann Simons, president & CEO, Cardinal Cushing Centers; right, Lucille Weare, community banking officer, MountainOne; and Bob Renna, director, St. Coletta Day School.

Finding a home in Boston



Cushing student Harry Rogan, right, enjoys visiting his brother, Griffith, a Boston College football player.

Cushing provides a world of opportunity for New York native

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Ever since arriving at Cardinal Cushing Centers in mid-September, Long Island native Harry Rogan has been feeling right at home.

Harry, 19, attended public schools until it was time to enter high school, and he had been a resident at a private school in Maryland before coming to Cushing. Living with an intellectual deficiency, he needed a stronger support system, as well as an environment that would provide him with social and recreational opportunities.

“He’s a big sports guy and he’s gifted in that, so we knew the clubs, sports and activities at Cushing would appeal to him,” said his mother, Vanessa Rogan. “It was the right choice. He’s been happy and we’ve been happy.”

Vanessa and her husband, Brian, live in Garden City, N.Y. Their oldest son, Griffith, is a senior at Boston College. Hanover’s proximity to Boston added to the appeal of their decision.

“The area has a lot more to offer in terms of social and cultural opportunities,” said Vanessa. “He can see his brother at BC or go to a Red Sox game or a museum.”

Being able to navigate a community such as Cushing was another priority.

“He’s seen Griff and other relatives go off to college, so a community atmosphere was important to him,” said Vanessa. “He’s thrilled to have basketball courts and athletic fields to use, dining facilities to choose from, movie nights to go to — you name it.”

Harry lives in Hanover with housemates as part of Cushing’s residential program. Each home typically has four to five residents who enjoy their own rooms decorated to their personal taste. The focus is on independence in the community in a supportive environment.

“It’s been a world of difference,” said Vanessa. “His home is bright and clean and he has his own room and Xbox. The staff helps to prep his meals and everyone in the house has dinner together. At his last residence, most of the kids were nonverbal. Here, he has peers he can socialize with.”

As part of the program, Cushing residents progressively learn to take responsibility for daily chores, enhance their functional and social skills and develop positive relationships with neighbors and friends. The residential program offers 24-hour support services, as well as memberships at local libraries and health clubs; community resources such as grocery stores, malls and movie theaters; and social activities including dances, sporting events and volunteer experiences. Harry has been involved in many of the recreational activities, including flag football, basketball, Boy Scouts and sledding. He is looking forward to participating in the Special Olympics games at Cushing this summer.