

SPRING
2017

CUSHING Community News



A Message from President & CEO: *Peter O'Meara*

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share this edition of Cushing Community News with all of you. As usual, there are many wonderful stories to share, from the photos of our very successful drama club performance, *Shrek the Musical*, to our new partnership with Marina Bay Nursing Home, I hope you enjoy.

It is with sadness and fond memories that we also share a tribute to one of our own who is no longer with us, student William Powers. I hope this story, written by one of our staff who worked very closely with Will, will bring you comfort as we reflect on all the light and positivity Will brought to this world.

Sincerely,

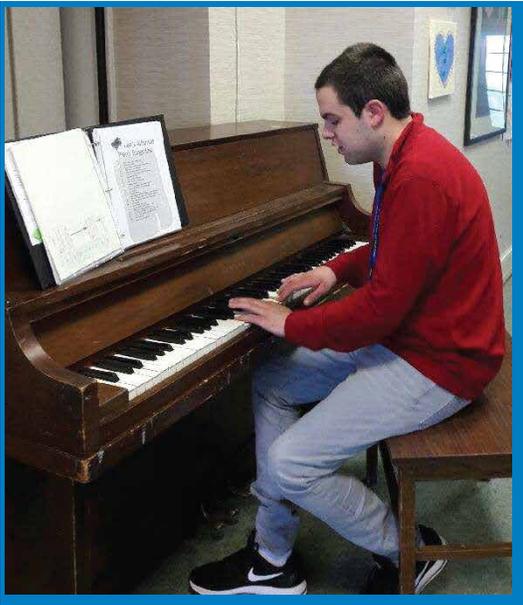
Peter H. O'Meara



Good News Travels Fast

For many years the adults in Cushing's South Shore Industries program have been volunteering regularly at the Alliance Healthcare Center Nursing Home in Braintree. When Sarah Moran, Activity Director at the Marina Bay Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, heard about this great relationship she reached out to see if they could spend some time with her seniors as well.

Today we have four members of our South Shore Industries



program visiting the Marina Bay center on a weekly basis. Clara Nichols, whose goal is to be a Certified Nursing Assistant someday, spends quality one-on-one time giving manicures, hand massages or doing crafts. Even more special is the attention she gives to each person, sometimes to those who rarely leave their room, but still longing for conversation and companionship.

Allison Getz is there every Wednesday calling BINGO. Allison is a pro as she gets to do this job in other locations as well. It is a great way to bring a group together for a fun activity and the opportunity to win

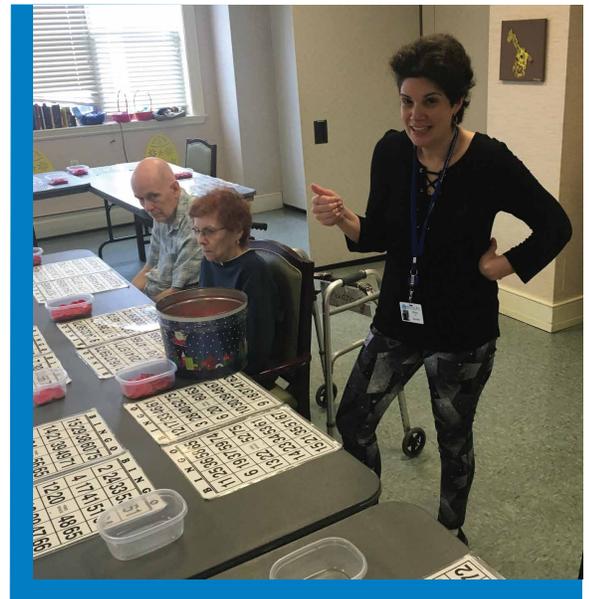
prizes. After BINGO Allison will stay and have lunch with a resident who has become a friend.



John Gault spends his time playing chess, cards and poker. The gentlemen residents say that they like having a man visit who will spend time doing some of their favorite pastimes. John will also fill in on BINGO days with great skill.

Lee Rasiel, an enthusiastic young man always known for his vocal and musical skills sings, reads and plays the piano. He brings happiness to everyone who has the opportunity to be around him.

As the Activity Director, Sarah Moran says that she loves this program. Partly because she has a nephew with special needs and sees how the relationships between the volunteers and residents are mutually beneficial, but mostly because she sees the joy that each group brings to each other.



William Powers: Saying Good-bye to One of Our Own



It is hard to think of a person that is selfless, gentle, pure-hearted, and innocent without a shred of ill-will, moral missteps, or negative feelings. William Powers encompassed all these good and positive traits and shared his kindness with others. William put people at ease and brightened their days just by existing. When around other people, William did not speak too often, but he did not need to. Everyone knew he was there and felt the positivity he brought with him.

As a student William was a longtime and loyal friend to some but new friend and welcoming to others. He loved reading, history, science, writing, and learning everything he could about the world around him. William could never finish a book because he would jump to the next one before he could finish the last. Teachers and school staff would always catch William sharing all the new facts he learned. Being one of the oldest students at St. Coletta Day School, William was a role model to his younger peers and longtime friend to his older classmates. School was William's second home. He started at St. Coletta Day School at age 7 and was a student there for 12 years. In his second home, he has touched the many lives that have come through it and has forever left his compassionate mark on the school.

School was not the only part of the community William's presence impacted; William was a hard and dedicated worker. William worked in various positions throughout multiple communities south of Boston. He worked at the Greenhouse, Bakery, Sister's Inn, Library, Trader and Culinary programs at Cardinal Cushing Centers in Hanover. William ventured out into the community and worked at various organizations, such as the Independence Manor in Braintree, The Potting Bench in Braintree, The Fish Company of Norwell, Montilio's Bakery in both Braintree and Brockton, the University Sports Complex of Hanover, Interfaith Social Services in Quincy, Father Bills in Quincy, Kristen's Diner in Braintree, and Savers in Hanover. Each job William held was a source of pride for him, and he enjoyed his days at work. William was able to socialize, experience new things, and learn when he was at work and school. The supervisors, co-workers, clients, and customers William interacted with all instantly felt a sense of joy and happiness due to his presence. Each supervisor had the same smile of pride mixed with compassion when taking William under their wing. Customers would leave with a smile and a sense of warmth after interacting with such a kindhearted soul.

William's Grandmother cared for him with the love of a mother. Thelma Powers protected William, loved William, and raised William. She raised a boy with a pure heart into a young man that kept his pure heart and innocence. William had a bright future with adventures ahead. He was set on the path into adulthood, and in a few years, he was to graduate from St. Coletta Day School and start to live his life more independently, with excitement and new experiences. Maybe he would have lived with roommates in a group home, or continued his work at Montilio's Bakery, or been able to set and accomplish new goals that he could not have reached before. The future is not what is important; what is important is that William experienced love, compassion, excitement, and all that is good in the life he had and the memories he made. His soul was brighter than most and touched many lives. William and Thelma Powers will continue to be loved and can never be forgotten by those they crossed paths with.



Written by Thomas H. Alexander, William's teacher and friend

Civic Participation at Cushing

This winter was a busy month for the students at the Hanover School. Not only did we host a group of legislators for breakfast but one of our classrooms had a special visit by Nolan O'Brien, an aide to Senator Markey.

Through Cushing's affiliation with MAAPS, an organization representing private special education schools in Massachusetts, we hosted close to 20 State Representatives and State Senators at our Hanover school. Senator Michael D. Brady and Representative David DeCoste co-hosted the event so that legislators

could learn about our programs, meet students and staff, hear first-hand from a parent and tour the school grounds and classrooms. The goal of the experience was to provide an update and important information to help with upcoming budget discussions. The student led tours were a big hit with our guests!

Separate from this event, student Shea Frost asked her teacher if her cousin could visit the classroom. His name is Nolan O'Brien and he is an aide to U.S. Senator Edward Markey. Nolan came prepared to talk about the recent election, his favorite Presidents (Teddy Roosevelt because he has so much energy) and why he decided to get involved in government. Students prepared questions and shared stories about their favorite presidents as well. They learned that Nolan works long hours but really enjoys meeting so many people. He wants to make sure we have a safe planet and a clean, healthy environment. Classroom teacher Cheryl Clarke had recently covered a unit on the election and the Presidential race, so this was a great time to meet someone who is directly involved. Just as Nolan likes to meet new people, so do the students at Cardinal Cushing Centers. We are grateful for our recent visitors!

