

SPRING  
2016

# CUSHING Community News



## A Message from Vice President of Development: *Jansi Chandler*

### **Partner.**

noun

1. a person who shares or is associated with another in some action or endeavor; sharer; associate.

It's a small word, but for us at the Cardinal Cushing Centers, it's a word that carries a huge importance.

We couldn't do our good work without our partners. Whether you come to our events, volunteer in our programs, donate to our Thrift Store, or provide a job for one of our students or adults with intellectual disabilities, we consider you a partner. An integral key to our success.

That's why we are celebrating all of you this year at our annual Springtime gala on Thursday evening, June 9th at the Seaport Hotel in Boston. The theme is *Together, We Are Cardinal Cushing Centers*. You can learn more by visiting [www.SpringtimeGala.com](http://www.SpringtimeGala.com).

I hope you can attend so that we can toast to all of you, our partners, who make our work possible.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jansi".



## A Great "Match"

Elaine Cosseboom is not just a volunteer, but a true partner to Cardinal Cushing Centers. After being introduced to Cushing by a friend whose daughter is a student, Elaine knew she found a special place. She started volunteering one day each week, first in the Bass Café and now in the Culinary department helping to prep the days' meals alongside our students and staff.

Not only is Elaine helpful in our kitchen, she brings another special talent to Cushing. Elaine is an excellent tennis player and assists in the after school tennis program. The time and attention she gives to our students is so valuable...just ask Michael Ryan who loves to play one-on-one with Elaine! She and



her husband Bud Schultz own the Cohasset Tennis Club so the expertise she brings to the tennis program is a treasure.

Wanting to share her love for Cardinal Cushing Centers and help spread the word, Elaine has hosted several "trunk shows" in the lobby of the Cohasset Tennis Club during tournaments so that people from all around the South Shore have the opportunity to meet our students and shop for jewelry, note cards, clothing, pottery and cookie kits. Her guests love to meet our students working at the table and take a piece of Cushing home with them.



As if she couldn't give more, Elaine is now serving on Cushing's Springtime Gala Committee. She has found several sponsorships and is turning the event into a "Girls Night Out" for her friends. Cushing certainly has the advantage with Elaine as our partner!



## Climbing to New Heights



Students at our Braintree St. Coletta Day School have been reaching new heights during their recent visits to Brooklyn Boulders in Somerville. Funded by a grant from the Flutie Foundation, students are trying rock climbing for the first time in this dynamic setting that features all levels of climbing. As they say on their site: "Here, kids can face and overcome challenges in a way that parallels their lives. They will learn to flex their problem solving muscles both as individuals and as part of a group, leaving BrooklynBoulders with more confidence, unforgettable memories and strong friendships that extend beyond our walls."

Dave Kelley, St. Coletta's Adaptive Physical Education Teacher, says that Braintree's students have been very excited about this opportunity. He works with each student to help them prepare so they know what to expect. About six students go on each visit. Some choose to climb while others cheer on their classmates and participate in the yoga classes offered at the site. One

student got to the top and liked it so much up there she didn't want to come down!



During these visits students are immersed in a large, busy fitness facility with people from all around the area who value taking on challenges and the satisfaction of accomplishment. It is clear that our students fit right in.

# Success Story: Amy Slater

Hard work. Learning new skills. Giving back. These are all important parts of Amy Slater's week. Whether she is earning a paycheck, participating in a culinary arts program or volunteering, Amy's schedule is filled with activities that make her happy and keep her motivated.

Through Cushing's South Shore Industries program Amy was hired and began working at the Tedeschi's Food Shops in Quincy just over one year ago. She works in the deli department helping prepare and package various food items. Her coworkers give nothing but positive reports about her. In a performance review completed by one of Amy's supervisors a few months ago, the supervisor commented that "Amy is very positive, has a great attitude, and is always smiling. She reminds

me how much she loves working here, and is a great addition to the team!!"

Amy loves her new job, and a few months back was even offered an increase in hours because of how well she was doing.

Always looking to increase her skills and knowledge, Amy is participating in Cushing's new Pathways to Employment culinary training program funded by BNY Mellon/Harriet B. Bayley Trust. She attends classes twice each week and learns different cooking skills to increase her qualifications for future jobs. She has made eggs, soups and her favorite so far...chocolate chip cookies! This training will help prepare Amy for future employment opportunities.

When not working or at class, Amy spends time giving back to the community. She volunteers at South Shore Hospital every Friday and brings joy to the elderly through the Meals

on Wheels program. Amy's parents Barbara and Richard Slater tell us, "We are thrilled with what the school has taught Amy. She is enjoying every part of the program and couldn't be happier....and that makes us happy."

