

WINTER  
2017

# CUSHING Community News



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

Dear all,  
I hope this e-newsletter finds you well and fully enjoying the holiday season. This year I had the privilege of joining some of my colleagues on a pilgrimage to Assisi, Italy. Led by our own Sr. Joanne Schatzlein of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, we traced the footsteps of St. Francis and St. Clare as they embodied the values we hold dear at Cardinal Cushing Centers—caring, compassion and community.

Amongst all the merriment, we would like to take a moment to extend our warmest thanks and appreciation to all of you for caring for our community by contributing to [The Opportunity Fund](#) this year. Your generosity has helped us to continue to grow our programs for people with disabilities for over seventy years!

There's still time to make a contribution before 2017 comes to a close. I hope that after reading about some of the recent happenings at Cardinal Cushing Centers, you will consider [making a gift](#). Your support will open new doors for people with disabilities and their families and inspire more great stories like these for years to come.

In the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare, we're sending you and yours the best for a happy, joyous, and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

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

## Cushing Chorus Hits the Road

The Cushing Chorus has been putting their miles in this Holiday Season, traveling to spread good wishes and cheer! In addition to providing entertainment for the Best Buddies Massachusetts' Evening of Opportunity at the Seaport Hotel in Boston, students and Music Instructor, Ali Howshall, returned to Eileen Fisher at the Derby Street Shoppes in Hingham for a repeat performance. Twice a year the Hingham location hosts a Cardinal Cushing Centers trunk show, allowing us to sell our student and adult handmade artwork, jewelry, pottery, and other products at their storefront. The Chorus is always sure to stop by and help draw the crowds over with their live show.



The Cushing Chorus performed this holiday season at Eileen Fisher at the Derby Street Shoppes in Hingham

We're so appreciative of this partnership with Eileen Fisher, which has helped us spread awareness about who we are and what we do.

According to Patty Kelly, Store Leader, the partnership is mutually beneficial. "We love having the opportunity to give back to Cardinal Cushing Centers in this way while giving our customers an extra treat during the holiday season. And seeing the Cushing Chorus in action is icing on the cake. Their energy and enthusiasm put a smile on everyone's face!"



"We are grateful for all of these wonderful opportunities to take the Chorus on the road," said Ali Howshall. "Each time we perform the students gain more self-confidence! It's a great way for them to stretch beyond their comfort zone and work on teamwork skills, positive emotional expression, communication, and social skills at the same time."

Many thanks to Patty & Tanya (left, middle) of Eileen Fisher at the Derby Street Shoppes for their continued support of Cushing by hosting our seasonal pop-up shops! It was also great to see one of this year's Springtime honorees stop by, Joanne Jaxtimer (right)!

# Bank of America Party



Student Connor McLaughlin  
with Santa

The holidays are all about the traditions we have with our family, friends, and loved ones. At Cushing, we also have many holiday traditions that our students look forward to. Many of our community members help us make sure these traditions are able to continue for many years to come!

One supporter that we are thankful for at this time of year is Bank of America. For the past 29 years, the staff from the Rockland Bank of America branch visits the Braintree St. Coletta Day School for a Christmas party. The bank staff brings cake, ice cream, and their best Christmas sweaters to get the students and staff in the holiday spirit. They sing carols, and our students are always happy to sing along! Of course, no Christmas party would be complete without a visit from Santa Claus. The spirit of the season is certainly in the air as each student has their name called by Santa and they get a chance to talk with Santa and receive a gift.

Like all of our supporters, the staff from Bank of America are always incredibly kind, understanding, and generous. We look forward to celebrating with them again next year!



Bank of America staff with Santa and Mrs. Claus

# Self Advocate Advisory Council



Council Member Marissa Pitts in front of the State House in Boston

Cardinal Cushing Centers is pleased to announce that we have a newly formed Self-Advocate Program. The Self-Advocate Council is made up of 8 adults who play an active leadership role in our organization by:

- Teaching the importance of being an advocate on the local, state and national level.
- Making sure self-advocates are present and active leaders in CCC programs
- Developing personal leadership and self-advocacy skills
- Working as a team

Our inaugural council members are: Julie Ellis, Aaron Ramos, and Marissa Pitts, who started the council off at the first meeting and others will be joining the second meeting scheduled for January 2nd. "We are thrilled to add this important component to our organization," says Tara Jordan, Associate Vice President of Adult Services. "We always want to be sure we take into account the voices of the people we support, and providing an official forum and structure for their input and feedback is the perfect way to make sure we continue with this practice."



Council Member Julie Ellis attending a Red Sox game