

Changing Lives - Building A Community

MarketPlace Update
Summer 2020



July 2020

It's hard to believe that we started the pre-planning of the [Changing Lives, Building a Community Capital Campaign](#) more than five years ago. Our vision board: to create an integrated neighborhood where people with and without disabilities live, learn, socialize, shop and become a part of the same community.

We started with the Bethany Apartments, converting one of our underutilized buildings into 37 units of workforce housing. Today all of these apartments are occupied and when social distancing is not in affect, the individuals who live here grab coffee at our Cushing Café and join us for summer movie nights.

The next chapter in our storybook involved raising \$10 million to create the MarketPlace Building. This would be our retail shops' new home, providing more realistic employment training opportunities for the people with intellectual disabilities that we support. The community has greater access to our businesses due to the new location on well-traveled Route 53, and a more welcoming entrance with traditional retail parking.

The pages in this chapter have unfolded in the last 5 years and if you have been able to leave your house during the pandemic, you will see that we have a MarketPlace Building, and it's almost complete! In fact, its release date is this fall. If you haven't had the chance to see our progress, we hope you will watch this video which will get you caught up to speed:



To complete our novel, we hope you will help us cross off the last item on our to do list, besides celebrating, of course. (But we have to wait for that until the state tells us it's safe to do so, and until then we will look forward to the day we can gather with all of you.)

We have \$100,000 left to raise to reach that \$10 million goal. That's \$9.9 million down, just \$100,000 to go.

We invite you to be a part of our narrative and [make a gift](#) to the Changing Lives Campaign. And then help us by sharing our story.

If every reader [makes a contribution](#), no matter the size, we'll be able to achieve our goals. Thank you in advance for your support.

With gratitude,

Michelle Markowitz
President & CEO

Jansi D. Chandler
Vice President of Development

Jody Nash
Capital Campaign Chair



Photos from our tour with Brian Hoeg, Project Superintendent at Connolly Brothers, with business managers and campaign leadership.

