



## A Message from President and CEO:

*Michelle Markowitz*

Dear all,

I hope the latest edition of the Cushing Community News finds you happy, safe, and well. Much has changed since our last update; not just in the Cushing Community, but the world at large. Hopefully these stories from around our community will bring you some joy during these times of uncertainty. It would be difficult to share these updates without mentioning the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on all that call Cardinal Cushing Centers home. Our day students have not been able to step into their classrooms since March. Adults in our day programs have had to work on valuable life skills remotely. Through all of our challenges, however, we remain Cushing Strong! Our staff have gone above and beyond to provide a safe, happy home for the 100 individuals in our residential programs. They have taken the time to reach out to day students that were having a hard time, just to brighten their day. Your strength has not gone unnoticed, and I am proud to work alongside you.

From families, community members, and corporate partners, our donors have also stepped up to help us continue to provide quality care for the individuals we support. With our biggest fundraising event, our annual Springtime gala, cancelled, **the Cushing Fund** was launched to help cover the costs of unexpected expenses due to the pandemic. Because of your donations, we have raised over \$450,000 of our \$500,000 goal! There is still time to make a donation to help us reach our goal by June 30th; click [here](#) to make a gift.

While these have certainly been difficult days, all you have done for the Cushing Community continues to inspire me. I am honored to continue my career at Cushing as President and CEO at this time. While we continue to learn what our temporary "normal" may be, we will work together to continue to provide the best possible support for the students and adults at Cardinal Cushing Centers.

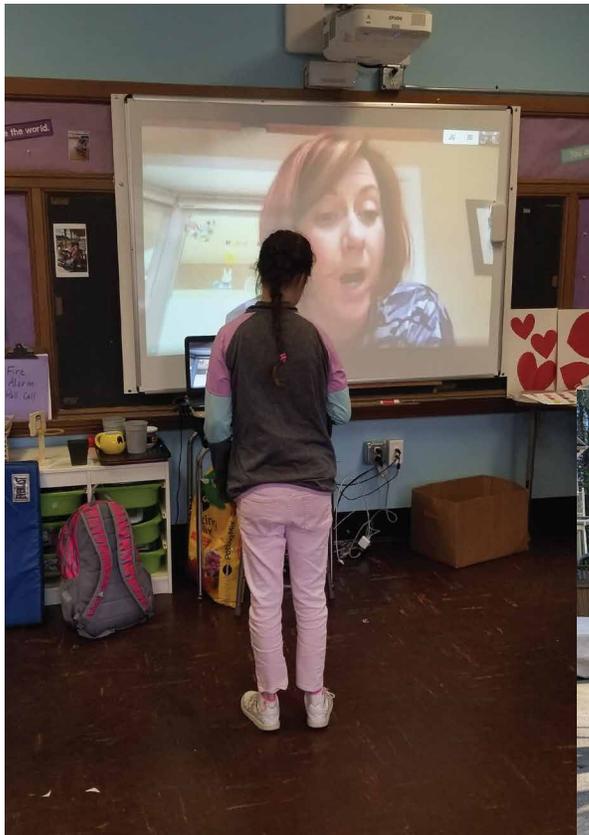
Be well,

Michelle Markowitz  
President & CEO

# Remote Learning

The impact of COVID-19 on our communities has been filled with obstacles, challenges, sadness, loss, uncertainty – the list goes on. But one positive, unexpected impact of the virus is that many of us have also been pushed outside of our comfort zones as we adapt to our new normal and a new way of doing things.

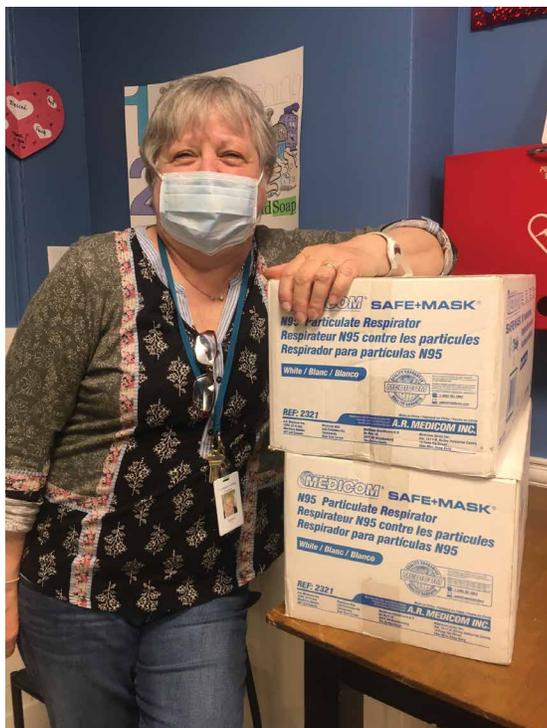
At Cardinal Cushing Centers, students, adults, staff, and family members have all been asked to step outside of their regular routines and pivot to remote teaching and learning. Particularly for our day program participants, this was the only way we could stay connected and continue to help them make progress on their personal goals while COVID-19 keeps us physically apart. It was a challenge that we didn't have time to prepare for; we just had to dive in and figure it out. It was a change that required help and support on all fronts, from our IT department to the moms and dads and family members supporting their children at home as they learned to connect with their peers through a screen. The Cushing Community stepped up in a big way and the results have been amazing.



From virtual, interactive **Google classrooms** (<https://cushingcenters.org/interactive-classroom/>), music, gym and art lessons, we've covered so many topics. Students and adults who are not physically at Cushing have been so happy to connect with their favorite instructors and staff. According to their families it has made their days brighter! Meanwhile the residents at Cushing have been looking forward to seeing their friends who are at home for the chance to connect and check in.



# Community Steps Up For Cushing



It is with great appreciation that we share how our needs for critical supplies were fulfilled by our amazing Cushing community over the past few months! We put out the word that we were in desperate need of masks, face shields, and hand sanitizer and then donations began coming in from all different directions. We will be forever grateful for the generosity of so many. Some sat right down at their sewing machines while others started coordinating with local businesses and suppliers. We partnered with so many along the way; it has been truly wonderful to see the collaboration from parents, staff, and friends. Special thanks go out to the Northeast Arc for their help in fulfilling our hand sanitizer supply and to the South Shore Vocational Technical School who produced an abundant supply of face shields through the use of their 3D printers. We also owe another big shout out to Steele Canvas and to the group of volunteers that were rallied together by Jody Nash to keep us supplied in cloth masks. We really are proud to have remained operational through such unprecedented times and are so appreciative

for all these donations that made it possible. We hope we have included you all in the list of thanks below but if you've been missed please know that your donation has been so valuable and that you are all our heroes.



## Thank you:

Don Belanger	Stephanie Middleton
Lisa Bellantoni	Andrea Mulford
Paul Bello	Jody Nash
Joan Burns	Ned Nedeau
Molly Burr	Northeast Arc
Debra Chisholm	Harriet Nugent
Julie Ciriello	Jeffery and Carolyn Nutt
Diane Denapoli	Tom O'Conner
Aileen Eileey	Lana Odell
Caroline Gibson	Joanne Owen
Russ and Mary Heissner	Jerry Shaw
Kim Littell	Mandy Siegel
The Massachusetts Association of	Steele Canvas Basket Corp
766 Approved Private Schools (maaps)	South Shore Vocational
Jessica Melville	Technical School
	MC Whamond

# Ways To Give Back

As you may have seen, Cushing has been open and operational for about 100 student and adult residents who have stayed with us throughout the pandemic.

We managed to make it to the other side of some positive COVID cases within our community; all of those impacted by the virus have made it through their quarantine period and we were able to get testing for all of our students with the help of the Hanover Fire Department and South Shore Hospital.

What was a scary few weeks could have been much worse.

We've also managed to operate all of our day programs virtually, helping the individuals we support stay connected remotely and continue to progress on their individual goals.

As you can imagine, we have incurred additional expenses to keep everyone healthy, safe, and connected.

With the cancellation of our Springtime gala and uncertainty around our future in-person events, we have made a big push to raise much needed funds for operations via **The Cushing Fund**.

**You can also consider donating or registering to one of our June fund-raising events:**



**Cush Fit Crew Cycle Challenge:** Between now and June 30th, you have a chance to give back to Cushing, get some healthy and safe exercising into your schedule, and the chance to win a top-of-the-line bicycle from South Shore BMW/MINI, valued at \$995!

You can also donate to one of our Cycle Challenge team members. Go to [www.CushFitCrew.org](http://www.CushFitCrew.org) for more information.



**Boston Marathon Team:** Although the 2020 Boston Marathon is now a virtual event our runners are still fundraising for Cushing. You can check out our team page [here](#).



## Help Us on Social Media:

Share Cushing's **Facebook**, **Instagram** and **Twitter** pages with your friends and social media networks. Speaking about the needs that exist and sharing how you are helping can inspire others to action as well.