

Winter
2023

Cushing Community News

A message from President & CEO: Michelle Markowitz



Dear all,

I hope this message finds you healthy and well. We are busy at Cardinal Cushing Centers with many exciting projects and initiatives for the coming year, but I wanted to take a moment to pause and reflect on the holiday season and express my appreciation to everyone for their generosity. The spirit of giving was alive and well at Cushing!

From our volunteers who helped us sell Christmas trees at the Greenhouse and kept things running smoothly at the MarketPlace, to the Hanover Families who host a holiday party for our residential students each year, to all of the corporate and individual sponsors who purchased gifts for some of our adults and students, thank you. You made the holiday season extra merry and bright, and we are so incredibly thankful.

I hope you enjoy some scenes from the holidays in the slideshow, and that you enjoy reading our good news stories.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Markowitz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle Markowitz
President & CEO

Spotlight on Paul Beré, Cushing Café Regular

Paul Beré is a neighbor to Cardinal Cushing Centers and the MarketPlace. He lives up the street at the Cushing residences and when you speak with Paul, he'll proudly tell you he was the very first person inside the newly designed Café. An avid walker, Paul paid a visit to the new building as it was being constructed in 2020, chatting with the workers on his daily strolls around the neighborhood.

Paul's connection to the Café has stood the test of time. He visits almost daily after morning mass at St. Mary's, often bringing his fellow parishioners along for a coffee and pastry. "I've introduced all my friends to this place. I like to talk to people and I tell them this is the place to go."

Paul knows all of the staff at the Café and can recall the names of people who have moved on to different jobs. Even some of the Café customers know Paul.

"The food is tremendous, the serving sizes are generous, and the prices are affordable. But that's not what keeps me coming back. It's the people and the mission. I've met some of the nicest and most amazing people here."

Paul has tried everything on the menu, but his favorite is the grilled cheese with tuna.

We encourage you to stop by, Monday



through Friday from 7am to 2pm, to check out Paul's favorites and to meet the wonderful staff, with and without disabilities, that make the MarketPlace run.

The MarketPlace building provides employment training to Cushing students and job opportunities to adults with disabilities. With the retail shops more visible and accessible to passersby on Route 53, we have enhanced job training, and the individuals we serve are better prepared to obtain paying jobs in the community. Part of Cushing's mission is to remove barriers to integration and to create meaningful employment opportunities for people of all abilities.

Workplace Spotlight!

Kendra's warm smile and easygoing personality make her a perfect fit for her position at the South Shore YMCA in Hanover. Three mornings a week she can be found in the childcare room watching children while their parents get a little exercise. "I really love working with the kids," said Kendra, just as a little one was waving goodbye to her from their morning visit. Kendra, waving in return, explained how they colored and talked all about kittens earlier. She shared lots of adorable stories from many of the connections she's made with these children. When asked if there are ever any tears she said "sometimes but I always try to make them smile and after a little bit they stop when they find something they like." It's definitely a happy place, full of energy, and Kendra seems to be enjoying where her career path has taken her. After her shift, she typically has lunch with coworkers and then hits the treadmill for a brisk walk. It's such a nice perk of working at the Y, especially during these cold winter days. Kendra credits her job training at the Cushing MarketPlace for helping her land this job and is quick to say she still volunteers at Take 2 one day a week. We wish Kendra continued success and are so proud of her Cushing roots!



Valentine's Day at MarketPlace

If you're looking for unique, hand-made gifts for the special Valentines in your life, look no further than the Cushing MarketPlace. From potted tulips and herbs, to greeting cards, to handmade candy dishes and delicious Oreo and red velvet trifles, the Cushing Greenhouse, Unique Boutique, Take 2 Thrift Store, and Cushing Café have you covered.

All of the gifts we have were touched in some way by the students and adults with disabilities that we serve at Cardinal Cushing Centers. Your support helps us continue our mission of providing employment and employment training opportunities to these individuals.

You can shop for a cause with us during the following hours:

Cushing Café:

M-F 7am to 2pm

Take 2 and Unique Boutique:

M-F, 10am to 2pm

Saturdays 10am to 1pm.

