

Changing Lives - Building A Community

MarketPlace Update
Summer 2019



June 2019

Dear all,

We are thrilled to bring you the first MarketPlace Update, an electronic communication we will send periodically as construction progresses on our new building. This is our effort to keep you informed about the project, so please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns along the way.

Thanks to the generosity of over 150 donors, including Cushing families, board and committee members, volunteers, corporate funders, family foundations, and other supporters from the Cushing community, we have been able to turn our vision of creating an integrated neighborhood where people with and without disabilities live, work, learn, shop, and socialize together, into a reality. A cornerstone of this vision is the new MarketPlace building, which will house our Vocational Inclusion Pathways (VIP) program, including six state-of-the-art classrooms and three retail shops - the bakery, gift shop, and thrift store, as well as some offices and conference rooms.

The new Marketplace Building will be visible and accessible directly from Route 53, a busy thoroughfare where 20,000 cars pass by on a daily basis. Greater visibility and accessibility will increase the number of customers we serve and increase the number of opportunities we can provide to people with intellectual disabilities. Job training will be enhanced so the individuals we support at Cardinal Cushing Centers are better prepared to obtain paying jobs and find success in the workplace.

Connolly Brothers, Inc. of Beverly, MA will be constructing the MarketPlace building. While we are planning a formal groundbreaking ceremony for July 18th, if you drive by now you will see the construction fence has been put into place and the work has started!

We have made plans to ensure that our retail shops can conduct business as usual during the construction, which is estimated to take 12 months from start to finish. There will be a specific opening in the fence that will lead all the workers right to the Bass Café for all of their coffee, breakfast, and lunch needs, and no outside food truck vendors will be allowed to set up shop on the property. The Thrift Store has moved to a new temporary home in the main parking lot off of Route 53. This building was once our Welcome Center and most recently housed our IT Department.

We are so very excited to begin this stage of a project which began with a dream and a vision 5 years ago. Thank you so much for all of the support you have provided to help us get to this point!



Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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