



**SOUTH SHORE BANK &
CARDINAL CUSHING CENTERS
HOST A SPECTACULAR EVENT
TO PROVIDE THE TRIP OF
A LIFETIME TO GRADUATES**

By Erica Ford

Thanks to the generosity of our South Shore community and South Shore Bank, each year Cardinal Cushing Centers' graduates are treated to a Disney Trip of a Lifetime. On March 12, you can lend your support to this tradition at the school's annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner & Auction fundraiser, held at the stunning Granite Links Golf Club in Quincy.

For over 70 years, the Cardinal Cushing schools have provided the services and supports that facilitate healthy emotional, personal and physical growth for all students with mild to severe special needs including autism, intellectual disabilities and other multiple challenges. Both schools, in Braintree and Hanover, respectively, follow the Massachusetts curriculum and include academics, supportive employment, recreation, social skills and community living. When graduation day comes, these students have an incredible way to celebrate their hard work: a five-day trip to Disney World.

"For many Cardinal Cushing graduates, this is their first time to Disney World; their first time at an amusement park; their first time on a plane," says Cardinal Cushing Centers' Development

Manager, Ricky DeSisto. "Students get so excited about this trip." DeSisto says that, for him, the most rewarding part of the Trip of a Lifetime is seeing the students' faces: "They're overwhelmed with joy and amazement. It reminds us why we do this; we give them a lifetime of memories that they'll never forget."

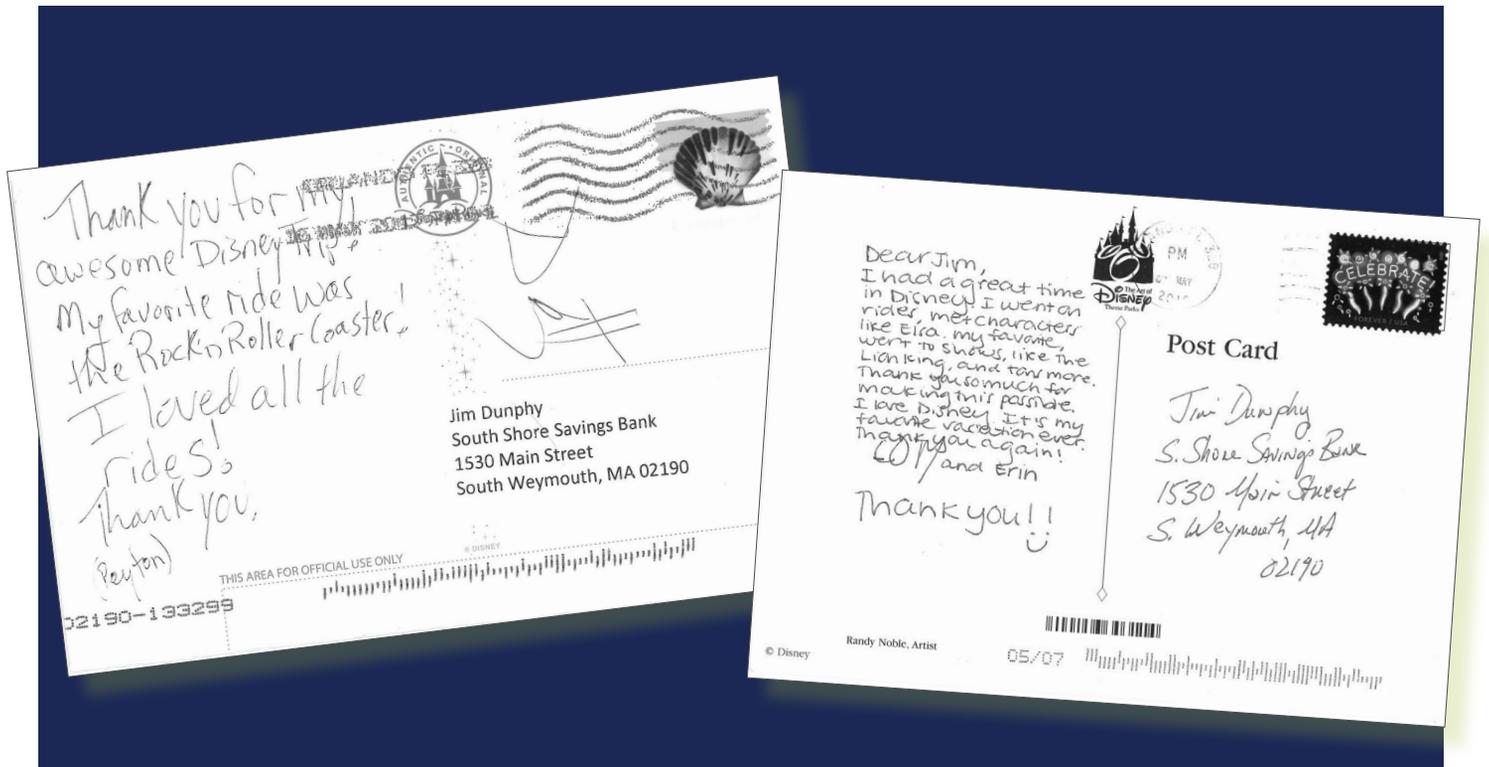
The special Trip of a Lifetime begins with a VIP bus ride to Logan Airport complete with police detail. After arriving in Florida, the students enjoy dinner and then hit the park early the next day. "We really celebrate their accomplishments," says Director of Development, Laurie Maranian. "To see students of all ages and abilities overcome challenges and go on the trip is amazing." Almost 50 people go on the trip: the 21 students have one-on-one support and a healthcare staff.

Since South Shore Bank began sponsoring the St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Auction in 2007, over one million dollars have been raised and over 250 students have gone on the Trip of a Lifetime. "We are incredibly grateful to South Shore Bank for its ongoing support of this event," says Maranian. This year, the Dinner and Auction will be on March 12, with cocktail hour beginning at



THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME!





5:30 pm at the Granite Links Golf Club. After that, guests enjoy a sit-down dinner—one of the choices is, of course, traditional St. Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage. Some of the excellent auction items this year include an African Safari, a Lake Buena Vista vacation and dinner for eight prepared in your home by chef Paul Wahlberg. The greatest highlights of the evening will be listening to the Cardinal Cushing chorus sing, and hearing a student speak of the wonderful time she had on the trip last year.

“We are especially grateful to South Shore Bank’s President and CEO James Dunphy, who has really invigorated this event since he became CEO in 2014,” says DeSisto. “He had many new and effective ideas and brought in committee members to help make it even more successful. The dedicated committee is extraordinary and devotes countless hours to making the dinner and auction as successful as possible. They put in considerable effort to secure sponsorships and auction items, promote the event and more. We cannot effectively express our gratitude for all they do.”

At Cardinal Cushing Centers, support goes beyond the classroom. In addition to the academic curriculum, it provides an employment training program so that each individual has the opportunity to be a valued member of their own community. “We provide support as they begin employment, and then slowly draw back so that the individuals can have independence,” says Maranian.

Students gain experience working at Cardinal Cushing Centers’ Hanover retail shops, where you can find handmade artwork and goods, a thrift store, a recycle center and a cafe with delicious coffee and sandwiches. There is also the Cushing Greenery,

offering fresh flowers and locally grown produce cared for by the Cushing students. These shops will soon move into a new space: “In the past four years we have raised almost \$10 million dollars to create a brand new building to house these shops and bring them to the forefront,” says Maranian. “Thank you to everyone who has helped to make it possible.”

Between working at the market place, studying and volunteering, Cardinal Cushing’s students achieve incredible accomplishments and give 100%. When they graduate, they go on the Trip of a Lifetime thanks to community generosity and the sponsorship of South Shore Bank. “The South Shore community really shows their character by supporting the students, the trip and the St. Patrick’s event,” says Dunphy. “Without this dedication, we would not be able to provide the students with these opportunities that they deserve.”

To support this incredible Walt Disney World trip, come to the St. Patrick’s Day Dinner & Auction fundraiser and enjoy a night out. This one evening helps to create a lifetime of memories. For more information or to donate, visit www.cushingcenters.org/st-pats/

St. Patrick’s Day Dinner & Auction fundraiser for Cardinal Cushing Centers’ Trip of a Lifetime, Granite Links Golf Club in Quincy. March 12, 2020. Cocktail hour begins at 5:30pm. **SSM**



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