



A Message from President and CEO: *John F. Von Ahn*

Dear all,

I am pleased to share this edition of Cushing Community News with all of you. For some this may be our first interaction, and I am looking forward to meeting you in the near future.

My time at Cushing has shown me how dedicated all of you are to the success of our students and adults. From the warm greetings you give to each student as they step off the school bus, to the words of encouragement you offer before

the first day of a new job, it is clear to me that our mission is brought to life through the staff at Cushing.

From our annual Staff Appreciation Dinner, to the Springtime Gala, and our incredible graduation ceremony, your passion shines through in everything you do. I'm looking forward to working, learning, and growing with all of you.

I hope the stories shared in this edition of Cushing Community News continue to move you, and I look forward to sharing more stories of possibility, opportunity, and hope with you in the future.



Maggie Bolstad smiles as she receives her diploma from Samantha Taylor and John F. Von Ahn during the Cardinal Cushing Centers Commencement Ceremony June 15, 2019.

Randy Wiskow Honored with Light of Dawnn Award

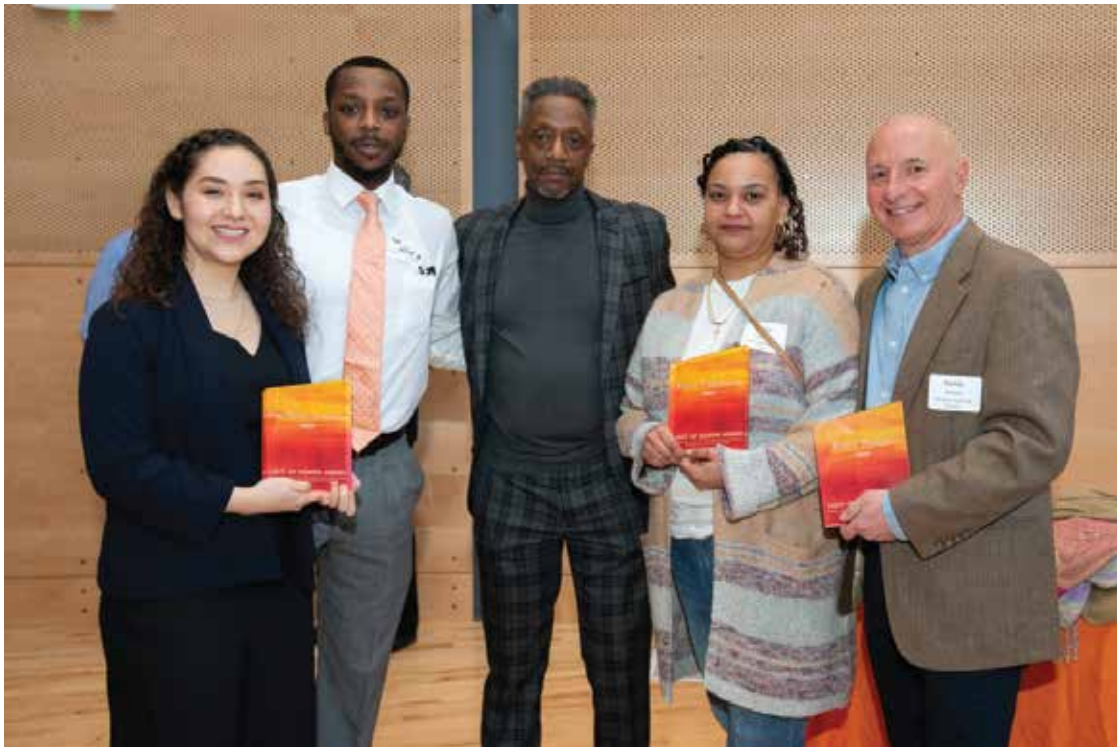
On February 26, nonprofit leaders, government officials, and community members came together at the West End House Boys and Girls Club in Allston for the fifth annual Light of Dawnn Awards Ceremony to honor the life of Dawnn Ashley Jaffier. Three front-line nonprofit professionals and three high school seniors who embody Dawnn's legacy were recognized for their service to their communities, including our very own Art Director, Randy Wiskow.

The Light of Dawnn Awards were created to honor the memory of Dawnn Jaffier, who was killed on August 23, 2014, while on her way to a neighborhood celebration. At 26 years old, Dawnn had made a significant impact in her community through her work at nonprofits, including the West End House, Playworks, City Year, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston.

After Dawnn's death, her family, friends, and colleagues came together to create the Light of Dawnn Awards to honor Dawnn's legacy of compassion and service. The Awards aim to raise the public profiles of nonprofit workers doing important direct-service work, particularly those who do not have prominent or externally-facing roles.

Every year, three direct-service nonprofit professionals are selected to receive a Light of Dawnn Award and a \$5,000 cash prize. The Awards are presented by the Highland Street Foundation and managed by the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network.

In addition, three high school seniors were awarded the Light of Dawnn Scholarships for their community work. Now in their fourth year, the scholarships were created by John Hancock, where Dawnn's mother is a longtime employee, and the Foundation To Be Named Later. Scholarships of \$5,000 are given to each recipient for higher education.



Randy Wiskow far right

The following story was written in collaboration between LOU North Participant Marissa and LOU Site Director Vicki Allen.

I had the chance to speak with one of the LOU North participants the other day. While we discussed things that will be happening this summer, we also took the chance to reflect on the past months.

The program has been through many changes over the past year or so, but we have been blessed with one constant: A core staff that are committed to working with the individuals, and helping them while they learn new skills. There were many bumpy days – sometimes we couldn't get people out into the community because we didn't have enough staff, and sometimes rooms became extra full when we needed to split groups up so we could meet commitments, such as delivering Meals on Wheels to those in need. The LOU staff pulled together and made it happen, usually with a smile on their faces. Creativity and teamwork were the driving forces behind the staff as they worked successfully to create the program.

We are fortunate to be approaching the warmer weather with an almost complete staffing roster. The staff continue growing and supporting each other, as they continuously work to improve what the program offers – the activities and outings proposed, the topics worked on within the curriculum, and the supports we give everyone who crosses the threshold. And while I look at the full tables at the morning meetings knowing they will each be working to contribute to the success of the program, I look at those core ladies and know nothing would be possible without them.



LOU North Staff

Nicholas Santacroce Celebrates Forty Years

Nick worked for the Cardinal Cushing Centers for 40 years. His last stop before retirement was St. Coletta Day School. Even though recently retired, Nick still works part time to come by and care for our grounds. Nick is a caring, friendly and thoughtful man. He loves the students and is kind to everyone he comes across. Nick helped revamp the baseball field in Hanover for all to enjoy many years ago. He is always thinking of others.

Nick is the definition of waste-not-want-not; this man will recycle a piece of glitter if he finds it! All joking aside, Nick is so aware of our environment and how others suffer and go without, that he makes sure to never waste or spend for unnecessary things. Nick is never short on kind words, a full-faced smile, or a great story of his many climbing and hiking adventures. Everyone who has ever had the pleasure of knowing Nick is a lucky person. And if we could all find it in ourselves to be half the person he is, the world would be vastly improved.

Nick, all of us, from St. Coletta to our Hanover community, thank you so much for your 40 years of service. You are an incredible man and we thank you.



Nicholas Santacroce, front row left with red tie