



**A Message from
President and CEO:**
Michelle Markowitz

Dear all,

We hope this finds you well and enjoying the holiday season. We know this year has certainly been challenging, but as we reflect on the last 12 months, I hope there are moments that can bring you comfort and joy.

As I do my own reflection, I am reminded of the many heroes within the Cushing Community. From our front-line staff who continue to provide a safe and engaging environment for the students and adults in our programs; our families who showed patience and understanding as we navigated uncharted territory together; to our donors who joined us for our Virtual Run to Change Lives, sponsored one of our student holiday wish-lists this season, or made a donation to the Opportunity Fund. We would not be here without you, and are so thankful for each and every one of you!

If you haven't yet, there is still time to contribute to the **Opportunity Fund** before 2020 comes to a close. Your support ensures that our programs provide the very best education, job coaching, transition services, residential care, therapeutic and recreational services.

Giving back to our community does not always have to be monetary! We are looking for top-notch volunteers for our recently opened MarketPlace to help run the daily operations of Take 2 and the Unique Boutique. For more information, please fill out this **form**. We are also looking for volunteers with unique talents who can lead virtual activities for both our students and adults with intellectual disabilities. In order to get started, please contact Laurie Maranian, Director of Development, at lmarianian@cushingcenters.org

Wishing you all a happy and safe holiday season, with hope for a brighter new year.

Sincerely,

Michelle Markowitz
President & CEO

Opening The MarketPlace



THE MarketPlace

at Cardinal Cushing Centers

Logo designed by
Cushing Staff,
Allison Gurney

Handmade jewelry and artisan crafts, designer brands and fresh baked goods are a sample of what's available at Cushing's new MarketPlace.

The new MarketPlace Building, visible and accessible directly from Route 53, is a 20,000 square foot, environmentally friendly building that houses the Cushing Café, Take 2 thrift store, and Unique Boutique gift shop, along with state-of-the-art training classrooms. We are pleased to report that we have achieved our fundraising goal of \$10 million which completely covers the cost of this project.



Students are excited to check out their new space

The new 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, Cushing Centers hopes to increase the number of customers we serve, enhancing job training so our students are better prepared to obtain paying jobs in the community. Part of our

mission is to remove barriers to integration and to create meaningful employment opportunities for people of all abilities.

Along with the addition of the Bethany Apartments, 37 units of workforce housing that were added to our neighborhood in 2017, the MarketPlace Building plays an important role in fulfilling our vision for an inclusive community where people with and without disabilities live, work, learn, shop, and socialize together. This type of model community is unlike any other and places the organization on the cutting edge in their field.

Stay up to date and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) @cushingmarketplace.



Cushing Café Manager,
Maren Newall



Board Member, Joanne Jaxtmer
and her son, Michael were some
of our first customers!

A Garden for the Community



The Nautical Way Free Farm Stand

Andrew Robbins, a resident in our Adult Services programs, has a passion for gardening. He brought this passion to his residential home in Manomet when he created a garden bed for him and his housemates, Trevor Thomas, David Treppel, Ian Feddersen, and Alec Himmel, to enjoy. When the Covid-19 pandemic hit, Andrew and his housemates decided to expand their garden, not only for themselves, but for their neighbors as well!

With more time being spent at home, the residents at Nautical Way expanded their garden to include 8 garden beds, and a mound to specifically grow butternut squash and a pumpkin. With the help of staff member Louis Petruzelli,

Andrew and his friends were involved in the entire process, from deciding what vegetables to plant, to constructing the beds, shoveling and mixing soil, and tending to it daily. Everyone had their own special tasks to complete for the garden, with Andrew being the leader in the daily watering.

While the home used much of what they grew for many of their meals, there was an abundance of product! Rather than let it go to waste, the group decided to offer their produce to their neighbors by creating a farmstand for community members to visit for free. While neighbors were able to pick up vegetables, it also gave them the opportunity to meet Andrew and his friends, an opportunity they



Andrew Robbins watering the garden beds

may not have had without the farmstand. Their hard work certainly paid off, as one neighbor frequently stopped by for tomatoes, and made sure the housemates knew how delicious they were.

The residents at Nautical Way are already looking forward to next summer, when they hope to create a large space to feature and their products and draw more of their neighbors in. We can't wait to see what they come up with!



Team work makes the dream work when it came to prepping the beds!

CCC Virtual 5K Success!



Our students, adults, and staff helped us kick off the event with their own walk/run at our track!

From November 18th through November 21st, more than 175 runners and walkers of all abilities participated in Cardinal Cushing Centers' Virtual Run to Change Lives Run, Walk, or Roll. Registrants and sponsors helped raise over \$20,000 to support the many programs Cushing offers for students and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Event sponsors included allways Health Partners, Comprehensive Benefit Administrators, The Raymond Family, HFI, Florence Electric, Kaydon Integrated Technologies, DiPesa & Company CPAs, Cape Cod 5, and Team Jaxtimer-Barry.

Though all were unable to gather and celebrate together like last year's inaugural event, a virtual event gave supporters of Cushing the opportunity to participate from all around the country. Overall, runners from 8 different states participated, including Pennsylvania, Florida, and California.

Erick Nedeau of Newton had the fastest time, completing his 3.1 miles in 18 minutes, 45 seconds. Laura Summers of Southington CT was the fastest overall female, with a time of 24 minutes, 41 seconds.

"Though I could not thank our runners and walkers in person, I hope everyone who joined us virtually knows how much their support means to the Cushing Community," says Michelle Markowitz, Cushing's President and CEO. "From the photos you shared with us as you logged your miles, to your wonderful fundraising efforts, it is clear that so many of you care about the students and adults we support. Thank you for always being there for us!"



Great job, Hannah Delorey!



Dylan Singer poses with our lead sponsor banner.