

WINTER
2014

CUSHING Community News



A Message from President & CEO: Jo Ann Simons

Possibility. Opportunity. Hope.

These three words are the meat and potatoes of our mission statement:

Cardinal Cushing Centers is a place where people of all ages and all abilities find [possibility](#), [opportunity](#) and [hope](#).

When you speak with our staff, families, students and adults and listen to their stories, you will find that these are not just empty words that sound great on our grant applications and brochures. Members of our Cushing Community embody this mission every day. It drives our current work and inspires our vision for the future.

I could sit here and tell you all the ways we provide possibilities for growth and advancement, how we change lives by providing quality education and employment training within a nurturing and caring neighborhood. How we create opportunities for people with disabilities to build and maintain social relationships. And of course, how we couldn't do this without your help, our friends, families, donors and supporters. But instead of listening to me, let's see what those who are close to us have to say:

Because of Cardinal Cushing [Centers] my son now has a productive and happy life. As Jonathan's Dad, I thank you. – Robert Weintraub, Parent 2010

*My happiest memory at Cushing is having a new room.
– Kamari Little, Current Student*

*I love working at Starland. The owners are really good to me. I am a cleaning person. I clean the bathrooms, arcade, gym and lunchroom. I also sweep and mop the steps and the entrance. I also collect and take out the trash.
– Nick Hanson, Cushing & Alum South Shore Industries Program Participant*

*Today I shared Robert's prom and graduation album with my oldest, dearest friends. While they all thought the photos were wonderful, I know that they could not possibly fathom just how precious those photos actually are to us and why...As a parent of a child with special needs, often you are forced to let go of so many hopes and dreams that you have for your child, including attending a prom and graduation. For us as parents and for Robert's sister, these events probably held more meaning for us than for him, but to participate in something that most take for granted was truly special for us and something we never expected to see. It marked a milestone on a road full of struggles... Many thanks to all the staff that made these events possible and to the school as a whole for recognizing that our children (and their parents) deserve the same rites of passage.
– Phyllis Kizner, Current Parent*

As 2014 comes to a close, please [make a gift](#) to [The Opportunity Fund](#). Your support makes dreams come true. And you don't have to take my word for it.

Jo Ann Simons
[President & CEO](#)

Jill Alongi Soars at South Shore Industries



At the Cardinal Cushing Centers, we are in the business of changing the lives of the people we support even after someone earns their diploma. At South Shore Industries (SSI), found at our newest location in Braintree, we are focused on finding employment for adults with disabilities. Staff offer training on resume writing, interviews, and job skills to ensure our members have the confidence and tools to find success in the workplace. Members have the opportunity to find employment in a group setting as well as individually. Many of the adults also volunteer at a variety of programs, from nursing homes to Meals on Wheels.

Jill Alongi, an attendee at SSI, is a prime example of how successful our adults can be. While attending SSI Jill has been able to find employment at not just one, but two South Shore stores! Every Monday, Jill works at Hutcheon's Flower Shop in Abington, where she helps care for the flowers used in their arrangements. Later in the week Jill can be found working at the bakery department at the Stop & Shop in both Braintree and Weymouth. While there, she helps bake a variety of desserts, from cookies to cakes. Recently, Jill was entered into the MDDC's Disability Employment Photo Contest, where she came in first place! Jill will receive \$600.00 in prize money toward the expense of attending any future disability-related conference or training.

When not offsite at one of her jobs, Jill continues to show her work ethic at SSI in a variety of roles. During afternoon breaks, she often helps prepare and serve coffee, tea, and hot chocolate to both staff and coworkers. She is always willing to help with a number of tasks, from cleaning the lunchroom, to handing out any printouts for trainings. Jill's hard work is evident in everything she does, and we are glad she is part of our community.

If you would like to learn more about our South Shore Industries program contact:

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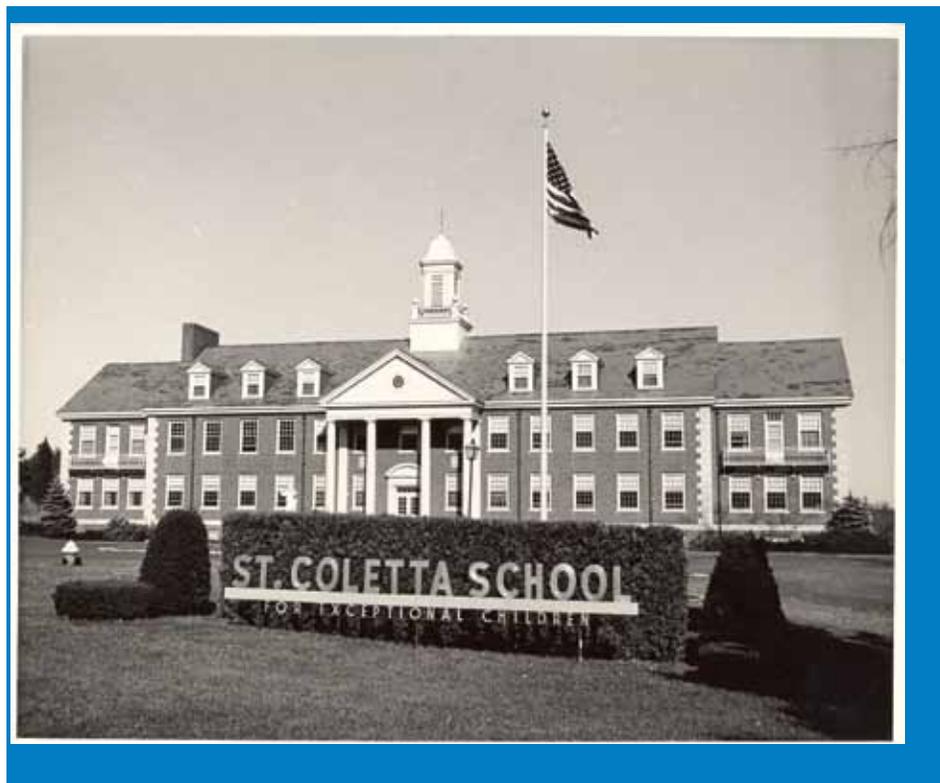
It's Good to be Back

For Jimmy Eads, an October visit to Hanover's Cardinal Cushing Centers wasn't just a nice way to spend an afternoon, it was a stroll down memory lane. Jimmy, now 78 years old, was a student and resident of the then named St. Coletta's by the Sea from 1950-1952.

Jimmy loved his time in Hanover where he gained skills, independence and built a strong work ethic thanks to the guidance of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi who ran the school. He explained that what is now housing down the street from the school was once Elmwood Farm where the staff and students grew clover, alfalfa, hay and oats. In addition to the crops, the farm had cows and chickens which provided much of the food for the school. Jimmy's jobs included milking the cows, pasteurizing the milk, making butter and carrying eggs to the kitchen.



These responsibilities make for an interesting contrast to the employment opportunities available to our current students: customer service in the Bass Café, sorting donations for the Timeless Treasures thrift store and making jewelry and crafts to be sold in the Trader, our very own gift shop.



As he walked around Cushing's Hanover Community, Jimmy recalled the Sisters who cared for him, friends who shared in his happiness and staff who ran the farm. He saw his old bedroom, walked the trails in the woods still familiar to him and told the story of one of his favorite memories.

Inside the steeple of the Leonard Florence Education Center there was once an Angelus Bell. Jimmy, being one of the oldest students, and having an affinity for counting, had the job of ringing the Angelus Bell every day at noon. He would

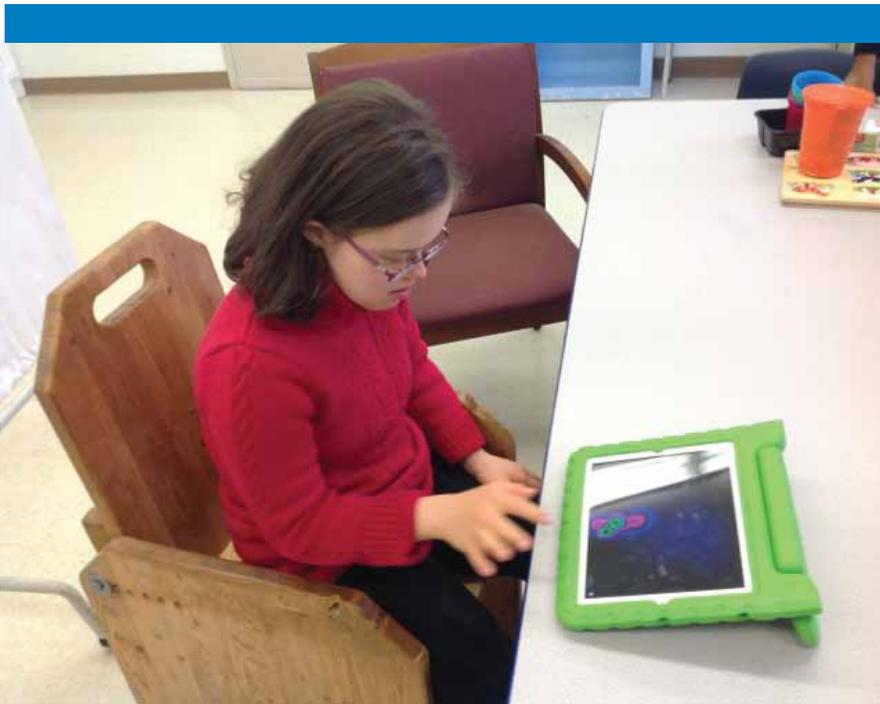
ring the bell in three sets of five and then 15 more times. For Jimmy, this was a special honor.

During this visit Jimmy was joined by his sister Betsy and her husband. Moved by the impact Cushing had on her brother, Betsy made a donation to the [Opportunity Fund](#), ensuring that Cardinal Cushing Centers can continue to change the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities as she has been able to see first hand.

iPads Create Opportunities

When Allie Crimmins walks into a room she will greet you by name. "Hi Laura" she says to her classroom teacher as they begin the task of creating a daily schedule. This vivacious 16 year old is known for being brave, trying new things, and being a hard worker both at St. Coletta Day School and at Cardinal Cushing Centers in Hanover. In the past year, Allie has made great gains in communication, including her ability to use full sentences and make requests for her wants and needs.

Allie can regularly be found working at the school store. With the help of iPads that were kindly donated to us, Allie is able to identify the product and price of items in the school store via the iPad. Following her identification, she is able to ask customers for change, and supply them with their purchase in a bag. Allie has excelled in customer service and uses the iPad to assist her in managing the school store.



On a daily basis, Allie enjoys using the iPad to listen to popular music, as well as using it for sensory input. She enjoys using it, similarly to any 16 year-old student. The staff here love singing along to Adele with Allie, and using different sensory programs. Currently, Allie works at the Hanover Campus where she thrives in a culinary setting. Allie also enjoys horseback riding and taking walks with our school staff. We are proud to have Allie as a member of our school community, and we are so proud of how far she has come.