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*Information, Referral, Education, Supported Employment and
Rehabilitation Services
Serving Central and Eastern Massachusetts*

Year in Review of 2017

Greetings All,

I wanted to take this time to begin a new trend in communicating to you about what has happened and what is happening with all of us at ASA.

In 2017, ASA was open to trying new things in terms of community integration, employment, spreading/sharing our logo, and to continue to provide the best services that we are known for.

OUR SNAP SHOT

We started off the year in looking to expand our building and there is a small chance that we may continue to look at doing that. However, in doing our research, our goal at this time is to locate a new building in the surrounding area.

EMPLOYMENT

With our New Job Developer Sashary Ortiz, we were able to expand our employment and change some of our sub-minimum employment to competitive employment.

- **Vanderbilt was a work site agreement but worked with us and hired 2 workers at a competitive wage**
- **We now have 3 CVS locations, 4 workers were hired and 1 is still under a work site agreement with 3 workers.**
- **Market Basket hired 2 workers.**
- **Target hired 4 workers as seasonal workers and will keep openings available for next year or if there is a need to hire for the year.**
- **Baypath added another route for us in the Marlboro area (meal delivery)**
- **Democracy Center worked with us in a work site agreement for three workers on Friday**
- **Marks Low Price Distribution worked with us on a worksite agreement in have three workers 3 times per week (We will be working with employer to hire them).**
- **ASA Janitorial and Landscaping.**

We did lose our Springwell contract as they did not want to Hire individuals for the routes

We lost 2 of our liquor stores for budgeting reasons. They could not hire nor could they increase what they were paying in the work site agreement. Neither company was interest in doing volunteer.

VOULUNTEER

- **Newton Wellesley Hospital worked with us to have 3 volunteers on Monday and Friday**
- **Crayons to Cradles calls us to have five volunteers once a month.**
- **We worked with the Town of Wellesley to clean up the parks once or twice a month**
- **We volunteered to do tasks for Epill.**
- **BayPath approached us and asked if we wanted to volunteer in meal delivery. We have three routes that allows 9 volunteers daily.**

COMMUNITY ACTIVITES

Our Program Managers and our New Operation Coordinator Chris Starnes, work together in expanding our Community involvement.

- **We toured the Fenway Park home of the Boston Red Sox and several of the guys received Bobble heads of David Ortiz.**
- **We went to the Super bowl parade**
- **We continue to have an annual membership (5 people and staff) at the Jewish Community Center (JCC). We used the track, pool, and basketball courts.**
- **Chris worked with the Boys Club and we are able to use the pool weekly.**
- **Chris also reached out to Vanderbilt about a membership. We have an annual membership FOR 3 people and a staff.**
- **Chris was able to coordinate tours at a Samuel Adams beer factory, Wellesley Fire House, Transportation tour, Bruegers Bagels, Charles River Museum, Wellesley College Museum, Sport Museum.**
- **From our surveys we found that patriots and bruins practice, were a continued interest, so we make sure everyone has a chance to go.**
- **We continue to schedule outings to pumpkin, blueberry, strawberry and apple picking.**
- **Several of us enjoyed going to Danvers Maze.**
- **One of the biggest hits for us was golfing. We were invited to join the “Joy of Golf” Every Tuesday, for 10 weeks, 10 participants with 4 staff learned to golf. We will be doing this again this year.**
- **We went miniature golfing and indoor golfing**
- **Some enjoyed a matinee.**

OUR CURRICULUM ACTIVITES

Our Program Managers and Operation Coordinator have increased our in-house curriculum.

- **We have increased our arts and crafts to building and painting bird houses, painting flower pots, making magnets, dream catchers**

- **Working on money management**
- **Music therapy**
- **Using You tube videos for hygiene, and other ADLs**
- **All were trained in Fire Safety, Emergency evacuations, Human Rights**
- **Mass Rehab, did a training about employment.**
- **Social games**

TRAININGS

With our new Trainer Shawn Shepherd, we continue to have staff trained in the following areas and he developed some trainings for everyone we serve.

- **All staff completed training in Fire, Human Rights, DPPC, Protect, Report and Preserve, Transportation, CPR/First aid and AED**
- **Pro Active Alternative for Change (Executive Director continues to train the staff)**
- **Progress notes, Autism Spectrum Disorder and other disabilities**
- **Shawn put together a training about Prompts and Fading**

Obviously Training is something we need to do annually and we try to keep up with Best Practices and inform everyone as we learn ourselves.

Other News

- With the help and direction of ASA's Board, we were able to hire an IT company to get us into the 20th century. We now have new email addresses and other efficient IT.
- We moved our Banking to Wellesley Bank
- We did have an increase of our population and the need to purchase vehicles and new job coaches/developmental specialist.
- We have had a FACEBOOK account but with all the regulations about pictures and such we have not really added much to it.
- We Joined ADDP and Providers Council
- We continued our membership with the Mass Health Coalition
- We did have a person who had been with ASA for 20 + years passed away in July. We held a memorial BBQ for him and balloons.
- In May we held our Annual meeting and handed out awards for employee of the year, employer of the year, growth in independence and job coach of the year. Others were recognized for long term employment with ASA and individuals who have long term employment.
- We held out annual Thanksgiving Celebration and we were grateful for Boston Market for catering.
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WHAT IS TRENDING FOR US IN 2018

- **Emploment continues to be a need and ASA may not be able to continue to develop worksite agreements and pay sub-minimum wage.**
- **Increase community activities. (We may be sending out letters to ask for community funds as several activities have a cost to them)**
- **Continue to look for a larger building**
- **MASS HEALTH has changes that we all need to be paying attention too.**
- **Jane Ryder Appointed DDS Commissioner**
- **TRAININGS**
- **Enhance our Website and hope to stream line our record Documentation**
- **State Budget is always a concern.**

In the meantime, I would like to thank you all for your support and Most of all, we are grateful to you. If you have any suggestions or ideas that would add to what we are doing, please share with me.

Hopefully, we will be able to continue to do an ASA newsletter quarterly or Semiannually. As we know that this has been something families and others have been inquiring about what we do.

Again Thank You from all of us at ASA for your support, interest and patience.

Sincerely

Sheela Smith, Executive Director.