



Autism Services Association, Inc.

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*Information, Referral, Education, Supported Employment and
Rehabilitation Services*

Serving Central and Eastern Massachusetts

Year in Review of 2018

Hello Friends,



Well we finally are experiencing the New England weather. How about the New England Patriots going to the Super Bowl and the Red Sox won the World Series.

Just as our Boston teams are doing well, ASA Team has done well too. We received our Two Years Certificate from Quality Enhancement. Our roster increased slightly and we are able to transport more in company vehicles.

Our building venture has been a roller coaster ride and I am hoping we are near the end. Our offer to buy the building was finally accepted and we are now in the final stages of signing a purchase and sale agreement. Keep your fingers and toes crossed for us.

We have expanded our experiences in the community. We have been doing Yoga at a studio in Waltham, going to a farm in Concord, more opportunities for swimming and using gym facilities.

We also had music and dog therapy come to ASA. Tie Die shirts, cookouts, some light cooking and other arts and crafts being done.

Highlights from talking with everyone:

- Boston Red Sox Parade
- Tours of Fenway Park by the Boston Red Sox
- Our raffles and food at Thanksgiving Celebration with Boston Market Catering
- Halloween Party
- The Annual Meeting in May where several people received awards.
- Wellesley Fire Department training
- Going to the Bruins and Patriots practices.

- Another year participating in the Joy of Golf program

Our Employment Program continues to develop

- New England Sports Center hired the three workers
- Marks Low Price Distribution is currently evaluating hiring the three workers
- Bay Path continues to evaluate hiring two and continuing us with volunteering
- **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**

TRAININGS

- **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**
- **Prompts and Fading and Positive Behavior Supports**

Other News

- We have the software Therap to help with daily data and Progress notes.
- We continue to be members of ADDP and Providers Council
- We continued our membership with the Mass Health Coalition
- We have done an internal reorganization of our management structure, and have hired a new Program Director, new Operations Coordinator and new Project Director for Day Habilitation. We also created a new position that focuses on our transportation and IT needs.
- 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 our annual Thanksgiving Celebration and we were grateful for Boston Market for catering.

WHAT IS TRENDING FOR US IN 2019

- **Employment continues to be a need and ASA may not be able to continue to develop worksite agreements and pay sub-minimum wage.**
- **Purchasing a new building**
- **Increase community activities and enhancing curriculums**
- **Changes in Mass Health**

- **Re-contracting**
- **State Budget is always a concern.**
- **Our Certification in Employment and Community integration with CARF (March/April).**

As Always, we are grateful to all of you for your support and generosity. We could not do what we do without your support and input.

As always, if you have any additional suggestions, please let me know.

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

Sincerely

Sheela Smith, Executive Director.