

Editor:

Carole Tagg

CHS Community News

Fall/Winter 2012

Volume 1, Issue 6

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Message from the Executive Director Welcome New Directors



Dear Friends,

Cooperative for Human Services, Inc. is pleased to announce the appointment of four new members to our Board of Directors : Brian Bialas, Esq., Michael Morris, M. B. A., Sheila Donohue King, M. Ed., and Jermaine Kidd, Esq. They were welcomed to CHS by our Senior Management Team and the Board of Directors at a special Board Orientation held on August 15, 2012. The primary focus of the meeting was to provide the new members with a comprehensive introduction to the organization. The presentation and discussions that followed reviewed our past success and identified the real challenges we will face going forward.

These remarkable people combined with our long term board members will assist us, in a very significant way, in meeting the growing needs of those we serve now and others we are eager to serve in the future. The willingness of our entire Board of Directors to so generously offer their time and considerable talents will continue to elevate and guide our organization as we fulfill our mission. Their vitality and informed leaderships will serve as a catalyst as we continue our progress forward.

We will continue to focus on our five core elements 1)Service Quality, 2)Workforce Development, 3)Communication & Marketing, 4)Information Management & Technology, and 5)Finance. The people we serve and their families motivate us. The Board of Directors guide and strengthen us. Our Mission, Values, Goals and Objectives organize us in our efforts to support those we serve.

As always, I welcome your comments, suggestions and ideas. Please call me at 781-273-2123 x 211 or send me an e-mail to k Leahy@cooperativeforhs.org.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Leahy
Executive Director

See Also.....



Roger's Round Up's
Celebrate 3rd Year
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ATTENTION

State & Federal Employees - Did you know ?

CHS is an approved non-profit organization for both Federal and State employees who contribute to their respective Combined Charities Programs?

If you, your friends or other family members are employed by a State or Federal agency, this contribution can be directed to the Cooperative for Human Services by indicating our provider number on the pledge card.

Our Massachusetts Combined Employee Campaign Number is **700417** and our Combined Federal Campaign of Eastern Massachusetts number is **42522**.

Thank You!

Introducing our New Board Members

CHS Board of Directors :

Officers :

Chairperson

Helen Cushman

Special Educator
Family Member

Treasurer

Stephen B. Darr

Mesirow Financial Consulting, LLC
Senior Managing Director

Assistant Treasurer

Carol E. Tully, CPA, JD

Wolf and Company, P.C.
Director of Tax Services

CLERK

Lori Maida

Shore Educational Collaborative
Director of Human Resources

Directors :

Brian P. Bialas, Esq.

Foley Hoag, LLP
Litigation Associate

Kathia G. Manzi

Wheaton College
Senior Development Officer

Michael E. Morris, M.B.A.

United Health Care
Vice-President,
Network Management

Sheila Donahue King, M.Ed.

MA Exec. Office of Elder Affairs
Director
Family Caregiver Program

Jermaine L. Kidd, Esq.

Ogletree, Deakins,
Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.
Associate Counsel



Brian P. Bialas, Esq., Boston

Foley Hoag, LLP - Litigation Associate

Mr. Bialas is a graduate of Bucknell University and Boston College Law School. He joined the firm of Foley Hoag, LLP in 2008 where he is a member of the Security and Privacy practice group. He clerked at the U.S. Court of Appeals 10th Circuit in Santa Fe, NM. Author of 2 published articles, he is also an accomplished public speaker and a member of the Board of Directors for the MA Bar Association Young Lawyers Division.

Michael E. Morris, M.B.A., FACHE

United Health Care - Vice-President, Network Management

Michael Morris is an accomplished and seasoned health care professional with significant management experience in health care operations, finance and administration. As Vice President of Network Management with United Health Care, he is responsible for contracting with acute care facilities, primary care physicians, special physicians and ancillary providers in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. Prior to this position he served as Principal of Accountable Care Solutions, LLC and acting Director of Managed Care at a major New England teaching hospital. Mr. Morris holds an MBA in Health Care Administration from Boston University. He is also a licensed Nursing Home Administrator and a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Sheila Donahue King, M.Ed.

MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs

State Director, Family Caregiver Support Program

Ms. King is a highly regarded professional in the field of gerontology and intergenerational program development. She holds a B.A. in Human Services and M.Ed. in Instructional Design from the University of Massachusetts in Boston. As State Director of the Family Caregiver Support Program for the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs, she monitors 27 area agencies on Aging/Aging Service Access Points (ASAP's). Her outstanding work has earned her 3 prestigious awards: Manuel Carballo Governor's Award, Paul Tsongas Impact Award and Fran Pratt Intergenerational Award.

Jermaine L. Kidd, Esq.

Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P. C. Associate Counsel

A graduate of Morehouse College and Boston College Law School, Mr. Kidd currently holds the position of Associate Counsel for Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C. of Boston. He formerly held the position of Labor Counsel for the MA Department of State Police for 2 years. His experience includes working as litigation associate for Edwards, Wildman, and Palmer, LLP and as a contract attorney for Ropes and Gray, LLP. Mr. Kidd is also an accomplished community volunteer. He is a big brother for Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Mass. Bay, a Mentor for Morgan Memorial Goodwill's Good Guides Youth Mentoring Program and an active member of the MA Black Lawyers Association.

CHS Receives 2 Grants for Health Education Project

Clipper Ship Foundation

On July 10, 2012, CHS received a \$7,500 grant from Clipper Ship Foundation of Boston to help fund a new Health Education Project. The major goals of this initiative include:

- 1) Provide a comprehensive in-service health care training series for direct care staff and managers.
- 2) Develop a Health Resource Library with information, research and inter-active resources for adults in the CHS Individual Supports Program.
- 3) Provide training and information to local area health care providers.

Thank you Clipper Ship Foundation for your support.

BCBS Catalyst Fund

CHS is proud to announce that in August, 2012, we received a \$5,000 Catalyst Grant from Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foundation of Massachusetts. This grant will also support our new \$50,000 Health Education Project, an initiative designed to expand our capacity to :

- 1) Meet the changing needs of our aging population so our individuals can "age in place" in their own homes;
- 2) Provide resources that to expand CHS services to young adults who have chronic medical and health care needs; and
- 3) Serve adults of all ages who have multiple disabilities requiring intensive health care services to meet their physical, medical, mental health and personal care needs.

CHS is very grateful and sincerely appreciates the award of this grant.

Thank you to everyone at the BCBS Foundation for this grant.

CHS Health Education Project

One of the major challenges faced by CHS is finding the resources to deliver quality health care services to individuals served who are aging, as well as individuals who have multiple disabilities. CHS has developed a new Health Education Project designed to improve health care services over the next two years. Our goal is to raise an additional \$35,000 by January of 2013 to fully fund this exciting initiative that includes three components :

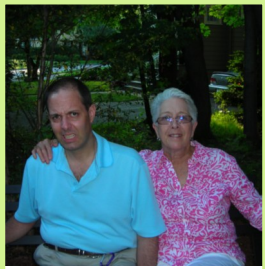
1. A comprehensive In-Service Health Care training series for direct care and management staff;
2. A new Health Education Resource Library for individuals, direct care staff and managers with materials and equipment designed help individuals with disabilities learn about their health care conditions and participate in their own health care decisions.
3. A Community Education program to teach local area health care providers about communicating with people with disabilities in order to improve their medical services.

Unique to this project is the sustained focus on educating individuals with disabilities so they are able to advocate and participate fully in their own health care decisions and plans; training CHS staff to better understand and more appropriately provide care to meet our individuals health care needs; and forging partnerships that include individuals, CHS staff and community health care providers working together to manage each person's health services while maintaining quality of life goals for each individual served.

We believe that our project will greatly improve the quality of health care and medical services to our population. If you would like to donate to this project, please contact Kevin Leahy, Executive Director at 781-273-2123 x 211 or at k Leahy@cooperativeforhs.org.

Third Annual Roger's Round-Ups - Outstanding in Every Way

It was a hot summer, but not as hot as the fabulous CHS BBQ's known as Roger's Roundups. This 3rd annual event sponsored by CHS included BBQ's at 8 of our residences this year. Everyone at CHS - individuals, family members, friends, volunteers and staff - enjoyed a great outdoor feast skillfully prepared by Roger Plourde, Director of Residential Services.



APPLE I PAD - Applications for Individuals with Disabilities Donations Needed

Everyone knows that the Apple i Pad is a phenomenal electronic tool for communication and learning. It is also especially helpful for people with special needs. Did you know that there are over 500,000 applications available for people with learning disabilities, communication disorders and physical limitations? These devices are portable, easy to use and open up a whole new world to individuals with Autism, Down's Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, as well as, individuals who are non-verbal, non-literate and/or have language processing disorders.

Overall, these devices help people to be much more independent. There are apps that help with scheduling activities and send reminders. Recipes, instructions and other information can be conveyed by pictures and/or oral speech and can be accessed by touch, a stylus and/or assistive devices. Emotional and behavioral problems often associated with frustration and communication difficulties can be mitigated. Instead, these devices empower individuals, build confidence and self esteem and improve the ability to be more self sufficient.

Currently, we have 12 individuals who would see immediate improvements in communication and independent living skills if they had an I Pad 2 device. Donations to help defray the costs for purchasing I Pad 2 devices for these adults would be greatly appreciated. For more information, contact Janice Ellis-Ballerini, at 781-273-2123 or e-mail jellis_ballerini@cooperativeforhs.org.

2012 Self Determination Award Recipients



Arghand Essentials is an enterprising non-profit business of southern Afghanistan, developed to create fair and sustainable economic opportunities for women as a viable alternative to opium production, the major industry there. In 2011, the CHS Women's Group (a group of 12 women served by the Cooperative's Individual Supports Program) decided they wanted to help package goods for this worthy enterprise.

The ladies meet once every 3-4 months and package body lotions and various types of soap for retailers in the U.S. who sell Arghand products. They are very proud of their efforts and the difference they have been able to make in the lives of women living in Afghanistan.

This year, the MA Department of Developmental Services and Arghand Essentials acknowledged the outstanding volunteer efforts of the CHS Women's Group awarding each of the members a 2012 Self Determination Award. The awards were presented at the Metro North DDS Annual Regional Awards ceremony. After receiving their awards, the women described what this volunteer experience has meant to them:

★ "Making this difference has taken such a small amount of time."

★ "This experience has taught us so much. We have a better understanding of the mistreatment of woman in the region."

★ "It has shown us the benefits of living in the United States."

★ "We are proud to know that we are helping other women in the world make a better life for themselves and their families."

★ "We are proud to know that our small part can make such a significant impact in the lives of others, so far away."

★ "It has been an eye opening experience for all of us, and it feels so good to know that we are a part of a positive change in the world."

★ "I am stronger and happier knowing that I am making a difference."

Congratulations to the CHS Women's Group!

Mesirow Financial Consultants Sponsor 2012 Holiday Giving Tree

Steve Darr, CHS Board Member and Senior Managing Director for Mesirow Financial Consultants, LLC and his staff recently announced that they will again sponsor a Holiday Giving Tree. The 2011 Mesirow Holiday Giving Tree event generated gift cards valued at \$1500.00 benefiting 70 of the women and men served in the CHS Individual Support Program.

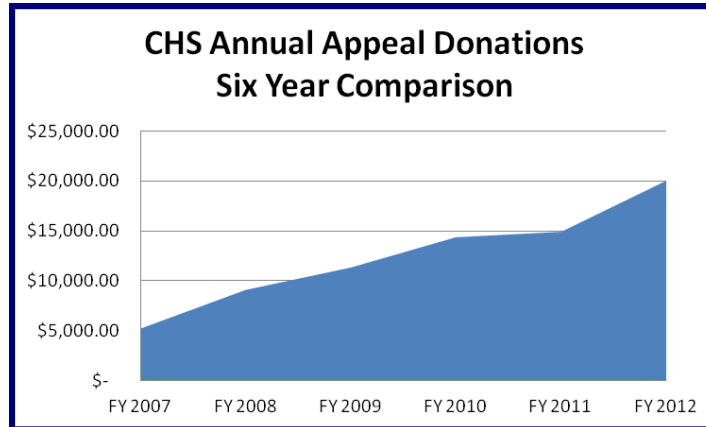
The Mesirow Holiday Giving Tree project genuinely reflects the true spirit of the holiday season. Last year, the staff worked hard and generated gifts from employees working throughout the Franklin Street building. It certainly contributed to a very memorable Holiday season!



Pictured around last year's Holiday Giving Tree located in the Mesirow Financial Consultants office lobby are (from left to right) Timothy Martin, Tracy Genzale, Dave Rychalsky and Tanya Hiner. Stephen Darr and Elisa Satori (not pictured) were also a vital part of the Mesirow project team.

2011 - 2012 Annual Appeal Report

Thanks to all of our generous supporters CHS was able to raise \$20,015 in this year's Annual Appeal, an increase of 34% over last year's campaign. The growth of our Annual Appeal has allowed our individuals to experience a myriad of community activities, recreation & social events and volunteer efforts. All of these activities tremendously enhance their everyday lives. Thank you all for making our 2011-2012 Annual Appeal so exceptional!!!



Sponsors: (\$1000-\$5000)

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Dennis A. Conlin
Ann & David Perkins
Marjorie & Norman Wilson
Abel Womack, Inc.

Benefactors: (\$500-\$999)

George Coleman
Richard J. & Barbara Forsley
Helen Cushman
Carol E. Tully
Stephen B. Darr
Cardoza Flooring LLC
Mesirow Financial Consulting
Rick Catino
Fred M. Misilo, Esq.

Patrons: (\$200-\$499)

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Edwinna Richard Spillane
Ann Powers
Daniel Powers
Johnson's Transmission
Kirkland & Shaw Plumbing & Heating
Mary Bardwell
Anita M. Farrell
Roland Gregoire
Rachel & Norman Dionne
Skylark Properties
Victor & Michele Ramirez
Anonymous

Friends: (\$5 — \$199)

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Keane Fire & Safety Equipment
Robert Coleman

Join the CHS E-Mail List

Want to get your newsletter and other timely CHS news, updates and information via e-mail?

You & your family members are invited to join the CHS e-mail list.

It's easy!

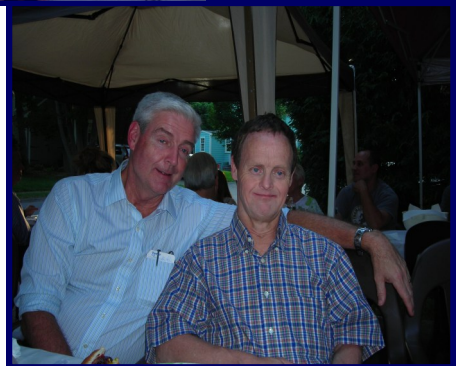
Just complete the enclosed post card and mail it back to us.

OR

Send us an email or call us - whatever you prefer.

Call Barbara Mague at 781-273-2123 x 200 or e-mail - bmague@cooperativeforhs.org

Watch for our new CHS E-News & Notes
Available when you sign up!



Please Contribute

Cooperative for Human Services, Inc.

A PASSION FOR WHAT'S POSSIBLE

___ YES, I/we want to help the Cooperative for Human Services continue its mission to provide quality residential, independent living, guardianship and other support services to individuals with developmental disabilities. Please accept my/our tax deductible contribution of \$_____. (You can also contribute on-line at www.cooperativeforhs.org)

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State/Zip _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Gifts can also be made in memory, in honor, or in celebration of a special person or occasion.

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Celebration of: _____

Please make check payable to Cooperative for Human Services, Inc. and mail to:

Cooperative for Human Services, 17 New England Executive Park, 3rd Floor, Burlington, MA 01803

Telephone: (781) 273-2123 On line donations: www.cooperativeforhs.org THANK YOU!

Cooperative for Human Services, Inc.
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Burlington, MA 01803