



## Young Adults Drive Need for More Housing and Supports

In 1984, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts enacted the Turning 22 Law which created a process to assist young adults with severe disabilities to make the transition from special education systems into adult services as smooth as possible. In recent years, the Governor's commitment to support young adults with I/DD has been strong as evidenced by fully funding the program. The Commonwealth's FY2019 budget again, fully supported Turning 22, a priority for DDS, who serves more than 1,000 students as they graduate into adult services. An additional \$5 Million was allocated in the fiscal budget to support young adults with a diagnosis of Autism. Many of these individuals are awaiting services, thus creating a large demand for family supports and placements.

In response to this increased need, Cooperative for Human Services recently opened two new, residential programs specifically designed for young adults turning 22 and their families. Students transition from school with a person-centered plan (IEP) that encompasses their unique interests, hopes and dreams for the future. The CHS team uses this information to then develop 'My Story,' a proprietary tool that assists the support team to better understand who the person is, what supports are required and where the person served can be assisted toward independence as they continue to mature into adulthood.

This September, CHS opened a 24/7 residential program in Reading, MA that is the new home to three young men, with the fourth housemate joining soon. All the men transitioned directly from school and are settling in to their new community.

In October, the organization opened a new construction, handicapped accessible, 5 bedroom home in Acton, MA with three men immediately moving in from their respective schools. Two additional housemates are scheduled to transition into the home over the next few months. CHS looks forward to serving and growing together with these individuals for many years to come.



*Your donations help us continue to serve people in need. Donate today at [www.cooperativeforhs.org](http://www.cooperativeforhs.org).*

### When you donate, you are helping to:

- Connect Individuals with their siblings
- Expand customized in-home services
- Access new technologies and supports
- Develop creative solutions to every need

Are you an Amazon Shopper?  
Did you know that you could support CHS each time you shop at no cost to you?  
Visit [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com) and select CHS as your charity. For each purchase you make, you are donating 0.5%.  
And for that, we thank you!

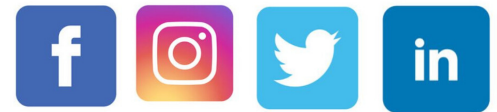


Acton, MA



Reading, MA

# Making What's Possible A Reality



On October 30th, the Northeast Region of the Department of Disability Services recognized individuals and their supporters who have worked together to achieve a significant accomplishment. Three CHS teams were nominated and recognized for accomplishing goals that were particularly meaningful to the individual served.

Hear about their stories at [www.cooperativeforhs.org](http://www.cooperativeforhs.org)

Connect with us today  
to keep up to date!



With support from Melissa, Mike's transition from living in a skilled nursing facility for five years restored his life.



Losing both of your parents, a foreclosure on your family home, and no job in the same year can be devastating to anyone. Mat and Charlie took one day at a time rebuilding Charlie's life, and the results are amazing.



What happens when you commit to waking up at 5am daily to walk a 72 acre farm? Ionannis and John are recognized by Commission Jane Ryder for their results.

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Cooperative for  
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A passion for what's possible

