

22 Willowdale Road  
Winchester, MA 01890  
[www.autismhousingpathways.org](http://www.autismhousingpathways.org)  
617-893-8217



Dear Sir or Madam,

It is now widely known that 1 in 68 American children fall somewhere on the autism spectrum. What is less widely considered is the fact that children become adults, and they need a place to live. In Massachusetts, about 10,000 young people will be scrambling to find affordable, supportive housing over the next 20 years.

Autism Housing Pathways is the only non-profit in the state exclusively dedicated to the needs of families looking for housing solutions for their family members with autism or other developmental disabilities. We provide information and training to families and individuals about housing, supportive services and available funding streams, empowering them to create new, innovative housing models that are safe and sustainable. AHP also works with service providers and public officials to make them aware of the appropriate supports necessary for individuals with autism to be successful in a residential setting.

On March 12th, Autism Housing Pathways will hold its major fundraiser of the year, “Dancing with the Celebrities”, at St. Mary’s Church in Winchester. This year's celebrities are: Fr. Dick Messina, retired pastor at St. Mary's; Phil Campbell, former Commissioner of the Dept. of Developmental Services (DDS), former Pupil Services Director in Auburn, and now at leading service provider HMEA; Michelle Chapla, Director of Autism Services at Advocates, Inc.; Winchester Selectman Michael Bettencourt; “Katie”, frequently featured in the blog Diary of a Mom, which has over 200,000 fans; and Kim Edwards, CEO of Step. and Lizzie, and a former competitive figure skater. Our “professionals” are members of the national powerhouse MIT Ballroom Dance Team. The event will also feature a silent auction, and, *new this year*, a runway show of ballroom dancewear.

Please consider donating an auction item, purchasing an ad in our program book, or making an in-kind donation of food or drink, including the possibility of hosting a “taste of” table. Donations to Autism Housing Pathways are tax deductible. Our tax exempt number is 27-264564.

Thank you for your generous assistance – families need to know they are not on their own in creating residential solutions.

Sincerely,

Catherine Boyle  
President