

Appeal video transcript

Hi, I'm Cathy Boyle, President of Autism Housing Pathways.

I'd like to tell you about the past year at AHP and the ways we've expanded how we serve families. This past fall we introduced a new initiative, Family Action Meetups, or FAMS, which brings families together monthly on Zoom to have extensive time networking with one another while discussing housing models. Families can also connect outside FAMS through a dedicated list serve for FAMS participants. We've introduced a new "taster" presentation, "Getting on the Road to

Housing”, and packaged it with our existing offerings on combining funding streams and applying for housing, into a new four-part series which has become very popular as a “lunch and learn” option offered through a number of family support programs. We have also completed translations of all of our key presentations in six languages, posting them online. Our hope is to develop video recordings of many of them. We already have video of our signature presentation, Thinking about Housing, in Vietnamese on our website.

Additionally, we delivered the results of our statewide survey of housing needs in the

Massachusetts autism community to key stakeholders. Continuing in that vein, we carried out a study on housing needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Medfield area for the Medfield Affordable Housing Trust.

Thanks to the support of the Cummings Foundation, we have also been able to hire a Vice-President, Dave Iborra, who will help us expand our capacity to meet the needs of even more families.

Because in the end it all comes down to individual families and the housing needs of their person. In that department, our wins this

year include helping a young person who had been homeless for a number of years find housing and helping a family improve the financial stability of their daughter's housing arrangement. I'd like to share the words of the mother in the latter case. "M's shared living providers home was approved for her section 8 housing voucher and the housing authority has (given) them a \$1,000 a month payment standard for rent! What a wonderful bonus this is for them after supporting her for 10 years. They love her but this really sweetens the pot. I am forever grateful for all of your help and guidance over the years. You laid the groundwork for this a long time ago. I never

would have been able to navigate the process without you and Autism Housing Pathways.”

But stories like these are not possible without your help. We count on our spring fundraising event to bring in about a third of our annual budget. We are relying on you to lean into our mission. If you can make it in person, come to the Fundraiser on the Farm at Wright-Locke Farm in Winchester on Tuesday, June 13th. If you can't, consider participating in the online portion of the silent auction. You can also donate via PayPal, a donor advised fund, Network for Good, through Facebook, or by writing a check.

Help us to reach our goal. People are depending on you.