Autism Housing Pathways, Inc.

2011 Annual Report

The last year has been one of growth and development, as Autism Housing Pathways has moved from a start-up to a young but maturing organization. A clearer vision of our future has developed, helping us to better define our niche in the Massachusetts autism community and nationally.

This spring our President, Catherine Boyle, was invited to participate in an Autism Awareness Month listening session at the White House in April, and in meetings with officials from the White House and federal agencies in May. These meetings allowed Catherine to network with the heads of FAST-ARCHway in Maryland, the Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center (SARRC) in Arizona, and Aging with Autism in New Jersey. All four organizations share a collective belief in the need to improve training for both families and professionals, particularly direct support staff.

As a direct result of these interactions, AHP developed a vision for a series of free, internet-based video trainings targeting direct support staff. The proposed series would focus on the challenges of working with adults in residential settings, and, unlike most existing trainings, would meet the needs of staff who speak English as a second language. We pursued grant funding and received funding from State Street Corporation for a pilot video just after the end of the fiscal year.

Family training and capacity building is an equally important focus for AHP, and one that is playing out in a variety of efforts:

- In September we launched a survey of housing needs and resources; the results will inform development of the curriculum for a daylong housing workshop for individuals and families. Characterizing the market will also allow us to develop workshops for property managers, developers, and public officials.

- A script has been drafted, funds raised and a videographer engaged for a public service announcement on the importance of individuals with autism signing up for a Section 8 housing voucher immediately upon turning 18.

- We have begun to develop in-house expertise in person-centered planning techniques, which will allow us to work with individuals and their families to develop person-centered plans to meet their residential needs.

- We continue to take our introductory talk, “Thinking about housing”, on the road to family support groups.

On the state level, Catherine Boyle has continued to participate in the Adult Services subcommittee of the Autism Commission, which will be making recommendations to the governor and the legislature in January. In that capacity, she has given presentations on the structural challenges faced by families trying to find or create housing for their family members with autism, and on opportunities for change, and has been asked to provide input to the problem statement on housing in the Commission’s final report.

This spring saw us receive our 501(c)(3) status from the IRS, allowing us to start fundraising in earnest. We had a successful event at Flatbread Pizza Company in June, and have been invited back next year. Planning has begun for what we hope will be a fun and exciting ballroom dance fundraiser with members of the MIT Ballroom Dance Team.

Finally, we have expanded our outreach by increasing:

- Paid membership to over 50
- Yahoo group membership to almost 120
- Facebook group membership to over 100

Our goals for the coming year include:

- Reporting the results of the survey of housing needs and resources
- Holding day-long workshops around the state for families interested in creating housing
- Completing and piloting the initial staff training video
- Launching the public service announcement
- Offering person-centered planning services
- Expand the geographic representation of our membership and leadership to better represent the central and western parts of the state
- Upgrade our website

****

Financial Report

October 1, 2011

Balance Sheet

Assets

Cash assets	
Bank account ……..	5231.37
PayPal account ……1558.16	
Pledges ……	235.00
Inventories and supplies ……..……..	25.00
Total assets ……..	$ 7049.53

Liabilities

Debts …….....	354.39
Net Assets …… ….	$ 6695.14

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

Revenue

Contributions and fundraising…...…….....	4435.00
Membership and joining fees …….	1900.00
Exempt purpose related income:	
Workshops …….	75.00
Interest income …….	3.81
Total revenue ……	$6413.81

Expenses

Supplies and copies ……..……..	682.38
Mailing ……..	9.16
PayPal fees ……...….	51.52
Booths and conference fees ……..……	565.00
Governmental filing fees ……...	18.50
Webhosting and domain ……	103.35
Travel ……	408.80
Personnel ……...	375.00
Services …….	48.00
Total expenses ……...	$2261.71

Change in Net Assets

Net Assets as of Oct. 1, 2010 … ……	2518.04
Revenue less Expenses …….	$4152.10
Change in Inventories and Supplies …… ……	25.00
Ending Net assets …… ……..	$6695.14

Board of Directors

Jane Becker	Arlington
Linda Cox	Westford
Laura Noble	Winchester
Brenda Spezzaferri	Danvers

Officers

President:	Catherine Boyle Winchester
Vice-President	Richard Spezzaferri Danvers
Secretary:	Brenda Spezzaferri Danvers
Treasurer	Kevin Boyle Winchester

****

Autism Housing Pathways, Inc.
22 Willowdale Road
Winchester, MA 01890
(617) 893-8217

https://www.autismhousingpathways.net/

Autism Housing Pathways … building roads to home