

# The Correspondent

Early Intervention Program

Early Head Start

Wise Adult Day Health

Taunton Area School to Career

Volume 21, Issue 5

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## Meet the Wise Van Drivers



The Wise Van Drivers entrusted with the safety of the Wise participants to and from the Center (l-r): David Lima, Lisandro Vasconcelos, Tom Smith, Nancy Hurley, Edwin Nyong, William Pires, Chuck Hardy, Steve Vero

## Older American's Month

May is a month of fresh beginnings. May is also when we celebrate Older American's Month (OAM), acknowledging the perennial contributions of older adults to our nation. The 2016 OAM theme is Blaze a Trail. The Administration for Community Living will use this opportunity to raise awareness about important issues facing older adults.

When Older Americans Month was established in 1963, only 17 million living Americans had reached their 65th birthday. About a third of older Americans lived in poverty and there were few programs to meet their needs. Interest in older Americans and their concerns was growing. A meeting in April 1963 between President John F. Kennedy and members of the National Council of Senior Citizens led to designating May as “Senior Citizens Month,” the prelude to “Older Americans Month.”

Historically, Older Americans Month has been a time to acknowledge the contributions of past and current older persons to our country, in particular those who defended our country. Every President since Kennedy has issued a formal proclamation during or before the month of May asking that the entire nation pay tribute in some way to older persons in their communities. Older Americans Month is celebrated across the country through ceremonies, events, fairs, and other such activities.

Stay Tuned for more information on how the Wise Adult Day Health will be honoring Older American's Month as well as their 30th Anniversary Celebration on June 9, 2016.

# Wise Adult Day Health

by Nancy Pereira

## Staff Spotlight

This month's staff spotlight is on Tom Smith, our Transportation Manager. Tom has been a valued member of the Wise team for 4 years, starting out as a one of our safe, courteous drivers and currently responsible for overseeing the entire transportation department from vehicle maintenance and daily scheduling to the supervision and training of drivers. With the majority of our participants requiring an assistive device or wheelchair for mobility, Tom is right on top of our participants' complex transportation needs. Organizing the daily van runs is no small task when trying to accommodate the individual needs of 30 or more families on any given day, including last minute changes. Tom works diligently to arrange the schedules in a manner to meet both family and program need. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your loved ones transportation services, Tom is your go-to man!



## Cinco de Mayo!

HOLA! Senorita's e Sehora's! The world around celebrates Cinco de Mayo and Wise participants got into the celebra-



tion of the season, coloring decorative Sombreros to decorate the center. Coloring is both relaxing as well as therapeutic and our participants love the opportunity to express themselves in various creative ways!

Jean N. enjoying her time coloring.

## Fun and Games

There is always something fun to do at Wise Adult Day Health, and getting into Trouble is one of them! Besides our crafty side, there is a bit of a gamer in us all. Wise participants enjoy a little competition now again with games like Trouble and Uno.



Karen M. strategizing her next move in Trouble.

## "Kitchen Addition"

Please join the Wise program in welcoming our new Food Service Worker, Antoinette Hutcheon. Antoinette brings a wealth of experience "to the table", from events catering and concessions in large hospitality venues to the day to day individual meal service of smaller program models similar to Wise. It all "adds up" to another fine "addition" to our team!



## Adult Day Health Services

Wise Adult Day Health is a day support service for adults experiencing health care related issues or whose ability to function independently is limited. Wise is designed to provide quality services, including daily leisure, recreational and preventive health activities to aging or disabled individuals. An R.N. oversees all health-related activities, including restorative and maintenance therapies, nutritional consulting, and participant/caregiver training in preventive health. A nutritious breakfast and lunch is served daily along with two snacks. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, AHS will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. For more information or referrals, please call the Wise Program Director, Nancy Pereira, at 508-880-0202, ext. 327.

# Early Childhood Programs

Early Intervention

Early Head Start

## Staff Spotlight

The May Early Intervention Employee that is being highlighted is Tara Schaffer. Tara received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Westfield State College in 1996.

Tara started with Early Intervention as a volunteer in the classroom in 2005 and she was offered the position of Developmental Specialist in January of 2010. Tara has grown from service coordinator into the Resource Coordinator in 2013 and became a Team Leader in January of 2016. Tara brings, not only her knowledge of development and love of working with children, but also her passion for growing professionally, and helping families find the opportunities that are available to them. She is responsible for supervising 9 staff, as well as conducting assessments, intakes and offering staff her expertise. We appreciate Tara's hard work ethic and the enthusiasm she brings to the team!



## Forty Reasons for EI!

- 28: When families tell the EI provider that they have made such a difference in their lives and providers get to share the milestones with the whole family.
- 27: When staff suggests activities to help determine and reach milestones.
- 26: Parent Group is excellent! I always look forward to the group each week. Our leader is knowledgeable and helpful.
- 25: When a parent says they love everything about the program especially parent group. They get ideas to solve problems with their children.
- 24: When a parent says I'm happy to have all eyes on my child as he develops. You would never know today that my child was a pre-mature baby.
- 23: When a parent says that EI is helpful with all the smiles and nice people welcoming my child each week.
- 22: When a parent says that although their child has multiple food allergies, they are very grateful the group staff go above and beyond to keep him safe.
- 21: When a parent says that the staff are enthusiastic, positive and patient!
- 20: When a parent says: as first time parents, it is especially helpful to be given areas to focus on. The methods that are suggested have really helped their child to gain more words and learn structure.
- 19: The resources that are given to families no matter what the need is, and the way staff try to be accommodating and flexible with their schedule.
- 18: Staff are kind, considerate and respectful. They do what they do for the love of the work!
- 17: When a child speaks their first word during a music group.
- 16: When parents are rubbing the oil on their palms to begin a massage, and the babies are all quiet with expectation because they know what's coming.
- 15: Watching a child take their first step alongside the parent and realizing what an important privilege that is.
- 14: Getting awarded Literacy Grants through the UWGAT and CDBG and being able to offer families with minimal means the opportunity to engage their child with books and toys.
- 13: The constant learning that staff and families do, not just the children. There is always a new way of accomplishing the same goal.
- 12: The support that staff and families give to each other. They truly care about making a difference in the lives of the families.
- 11: The staff who do the work, because it is not a job, it is their calling.
- 10: EI does not just support the child, but the whole family, siblings, extended families, and childcare providers.
- 9: I am reminded every day, how each child is special in their own way.
- 8: The different techniques and strategies that are used are always varying, goals can be worked on by using a variety of everyday routines but new strategies are always looked at such as hippo therapy, infant massage, music and movement, yoga, mindfulness, etc.
- 7: Every child has such resiliency; it doesn't matter the amount of gains they make, but their willingness to always try.
- 6: Even though it sometimes can be stressful to drive all day, walking through a door and seeing a child's eyes full of expectation and joy, makes any stress go away.
- 5: Knowing that sometimes real heroes live in the hearts of small children dealing with everyday battles.
- 4: Sometimes it may look challenging and stressful to raise a child who has special needs, but in the heart of a parent, it is a wonderful experience of evolution and personal growth. EI staff get to see that every day!
- 3 The Staff: Realizing that Early Intervention providers can affect an eternity, their influence on each family does not stop.
- 2: The Parents: watching a family come from a state of not knowing where to begin, to a place of strength to become their child's best teacher, support and advocate.
- 1: The children: They are priceless and always possess the potential within them. That is why Early Intervention Works!

## Forty Reasons for EI!

In celebration of Early Interventions' 40th Anniversary, here are 40 reasons why Early Intervention makes a difference.

- 40: Experts tell us that 90 % of all brain development occurs by the age of five. The sooner we enrich those brain pathways the stronger the next generation becomes.
- 39: Teaching good habits and routines gives children a sense of security and love.
- 38: 60% of children that enter Early Intervention in the state of Massachusetts do not go on to receive special needs services, saving the state over 12 million dollars per year in Special Education costs.
- 37: Beginning nutrition education early is an important part of helping ensure that children will achieve healthful lifestyles.
- 36: Reading and talking about pictures in books is the most important way to build the knowledge and skills children will eventually require for learning to read.
- 35: When children are noticed, engaged and made to feel they matter, they learn to live at peace with themselves.
- 34: Children do not interrupt my work, children are my work.
- 33: Watching a child and parent's reaction with a child's first step.
- 32: When a parent realizes they helped their child, "not just the professional".
- 31: When you work with providers who hold Early Intervention team collaboration in their hearts.
- 30: When a parent thanks you for listening, answering questions and concerns, and supporting the family if further evaluations are needed.
- 29: When a child is diagnosed with autism and a wonderful team is brought in to have a family thank you for the journey you have helped them through

## Early Childhood Programs ...

**Early Head Start Program** is a federally funded program that provides comprehensive services to families who are pregnant or have children between the ages of birth to 3 and meet income guidelines. Call Georgianna Ouellette at 508-880-0202, ext. 355 for more information or to make a referral.

**Early Intervention Program** is an integrated developmental service available to families of children, between birth and three years of age, for whom there are developmental concerns due to identified disabilities, certain birth circumstances, or environmental circumstances (e.g. cerebral palsy, prematurity, homelessness) or show a delay in one or more areas of development. Please call Zulmira Allcock at 508-880-0202, ext. 302 for more information or to make a referral.



# Early Childhood Programs

Early Intervention

Early Head Start

## EHS Update by Georgie Ouellette

**Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships:** We are currently enrolled at 86% with 20 children at Brockton Day Nursery, 21 children at Westfield Child Center and 19 children at Days of Discovery. Westfield classrooms' plumbing for new sinks and child sized toilets continue. Brockton Day Nursery will have their first classroom ready for licensing and transferring of children within a few weeks. Days of Discovery's first classroom enhancements will be ready to order within a week and renovations of new building and existing classrooms continue.

**Professional Development:** The professional development workshop series highlighting the social & emotional development needs of infants and toddlers are almost completed with nearly 40 teachers participating. Teachers have reported changes in the way they plan, and that they understand infant toddler development differently now. Practical applications and new techniques in the classrooms have begun. Home based staff have participated in a school readiness training offered by the EHS training and technical assistance staff, highlighting the new goals created. Home based staff are also participating in a series of meetings devoted to updating the Parent, Family & Community Engagement, PFCE, outcomes. EHS managers, Child Care Partners and Program Director attended a 3-day conference focused on just Child Care Partnerships in EHS. All partners were represented and great team building and program strengths were highlighted.

**Home-based Field Trips/Socializations:** EHS families from our home-based program have been planning to offer a family activity this summer including a special outing, food and activities for their children. Topics during parent break out groups included resources for diapers at Abundant Hope, nutritious snacks presented by Janet Rose, registered dietician, and additional toilet training techniques and tips.

**Policy Council Membership:** Congratulations to our newest parent member elected from our child care partnership program at Brockton Day Nursery: Michelle Chapman. EHS is pleased to have our first parent from Child Care Partnership participating on Policy Council. We look forward to having our other partner sites represented very soon, as we continue to recruit new child care partnership parent members and welcome anyone to our next meetings. The Policy Council is made up of a group of currently enrolled parents and community representatives. The purpose

## EHS Update by Georgie Ouellette (cont)

is to plan and have a voice in program decisions and activities and to gain knowledge of how Early Head Start works. All parents are encouraged to attend the next Policy Council meeting, please ask your PCA or PCC for more details.

**"Refer a Friend" Incentive Program:** We will be continuing this program for the entire month of May. AHS EHS is offering an incentive of a \$25 gift card to TOYS-R-US or a local grocery store to enrolled parents who referred another income-eligible family to EHS. We want to spread the word to families about our programming for infants and toddlers and what better way to refer than from our current families enrolled. Thank you to all who participated and helped increase our eligible families' waitlist. Please continue.

**FACEBOOK:** EHS staff are working towards offering Facebook posts more often to our families. Please like us and check us out at [www.facebook.com/AHSInc](http://www.facebook.com/AHSInc). We are also looking for input and topic ideas that you would like.

**PINTEREST:** We are at [www.pinterest.com/ahs\\_taunton](http://www.pinterest.com/ahs_taunton) with boards on parenting tips, eating healthy, safety and much more.

## EI Parent Group Topics

**Wed, May 11 (9:00 - 10:30)** - Information on IEPs and 504 Plans

**Wed, May 11 (12:30 - 2:30)** - Information on IEPs and 504 Plans

**Fri, May 13 (9:00 - 10:30)** - Fine Motor Skills

**Wed, May 18 (9:00 - 10:30)** - Mindfulness with Beth

**Fri, May 20 (9:00 - 10:30)** - Mindfulness with Beth

**Wed, May 25 (9:00 - 10:30)** - Mindfulness with Beth

**Fri, May 27 (9:00 - 10:30)** - Mindfulness with Beth



# Taunton Area School to Career

by Nancy Antonucci

## TASC Interviewing Skills

On Wednesday, April 13th, ten students from Taunton Area School to Career's (TASC) WIOA and Achieve programs attended the Southeast Massachusetts Regional Job and Career Fair at the Holiday Inn Taunton. Their presence recapped a 15-week Job Readiness Training program where they learned the "science" of job search and how best to represent themselves to local employers in seeking employment. For most of the group, this was the first time they were in front of real employers to talk about their skills and interests. They discovered the importance of looking their best and being able to speak confidently about themselves to workforce professionals.

WIOA, which stands for Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act, is a state grant administered by the Bristol County Workforce Investment Board and managed by Taunton Area School to Career. It is designed to work with low-income juniors and seniors in the Taunton High School system. It is a work and learning program that will assist these young people in mapping out their career interests and aspirations.

The Achieve program is funded through an Academic Support Work and Learning Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education and Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation. It, too, is designed to assist juniors and seniors at Taunton High School succeed in their schooling and career pursuits.

Jake Jacobs, TASC Career Specialist for Taunton High School, who oversees these two programs stated, "This was a critical exercise for our participants in that they were able to practice what they learned from the Job Readiness Training Program. They were able to learn how to work the job fair and how to properly network with employers. Many have self-confidence issues and this helped break down some of their preconceived ideas as to how the process worked." "I was very proud of the group's performance," said Linda Cooperstein, the Program Assistant. "They were dressed for success, had their resumes in hand, went to every employers' table and in many cases, engaged in thoughtful and productive discussions with the employers. A couple of them were able to schedule future interviews for work."

## Future Educators Day

Students from Taunton Area School to Career's (TASC) partnership schools, Taunton Alternative, Taunton and Bristol County Agricultural High Schools, attended Future Educator's Day at Bridgewater State University (BSU) on April 8. TASC collaborates with Bridgewater State University on many levels and was instrumental in organizing a contingent of students to attend the one-day conference.

Future Educator's Day provided students, who are interested in pursuing Education as a major, with basic information about what it may take to become an educator. Forty-five students listened to five presentations from highly qualified university educators and professors. Topics included "Classroom Management Tips", "Including Students with Disabilities in the General Classroom", and "Imagine your First Classroom after you Graduate; what will it Look Like".

The students also gained useful knowledge through hands on classroom activities. Several of the students have been accepted to BSU and will start in the fall. In addition, some of the students that participated in Future Educator's Day may be interested in pursuing an Education major at BSU as well.



Professor Warren Phillips at Future Educator's Day. A presentation on how Brain Studies will Change how we Teach.

**Taunton Area School to Career** is a partnership of employers and school systems in the Greater Taunton area that have made a long-term commitment to exposing students to high quality learning experiences that will prepare them for the careers of tomorrow. The mission of TASC is to ultimately contribute to the economic and social well-being of the community by offering school age youth opportunities to seek and understand the skills and training necessary for living and working in the 21st century. For more information or referrals, please call the TASC Program Director, Nancy Antonucci, at 508-821-2846.

# Taunton Area School to Career

by Nancy Antonucci

## Job Readiness Training

Taunton Area School to Career (TASC) recently recognized 14 students from their WIOA and Achieve programs for the successful completion of a 15-week Job Readiness Training session. Program Manager of Community Affairs, Eric Poulin, represented District Attorney Tom Quinn's office in the presentation of Official Citations to the students congratulating them on their efforts. At the luncheon, the students were presented with the finer points of dining. As part of their work readiness training, the students learned that often times, business dealings are performed over lunch. Lasting impressions can be made at the table. Stoneforge Publick House's headwaiter, Eni, gave a great presentation to the group and much was learned about proper etiquette at a business luncheon. The WIOA and Achieve programs are designed to teach students the value of work and how best to position themselves for future employment. They learn how to dress to impress, resume building, interviewing skills, on-line application skills and financial literacy, all very important work skills. Soon, all of them will be involved in various work experiences at worksites throughout Taunton.

WIOA, which stands for Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act, is a state grant administered by the Bristol County Workforce Investment Board and managed by Taunton Area School to Career. It is designed to work with low-income juniors and seniors in the Taunton High School system. It is a work and learning program that will assist these young people in mapping out their career interests and aspirations.

The ACHIEVE program is an Academic Support, Work and Learning grant from the Massachusetts (continued on next column)



Students attending a Job Readiness Training at Taunton High School

## Job Readiness Training (cont.)

Department of Elementary & Secondary Education. It, too, is designed to assist juniors and seniors at Taunton High School succeed in their schooling and career pursuits.

Jake Jacobs, TASC's Taunton High School Career Specialist, who oversees these two programs stated, "Soft skills in the work place are so critical to the eventual success of our young people at work. Our young people are excellent at the actual work, but they need the skills to insure they are punctual, respectful and focused in the workplace. Often times our young people do not succeed due to behavior that they bring to work that is inappropriate and puts them in a bad light. Job Readiness Training keys in on specific areas that most of our students are unaware of before they start a job."

## YouthWorks Summer Job Opportunity

Are you a youth living in Taunton between the ages of 14 – 21?

Summer Work and Learning Program!  
Earn up to \$1,200 this summer!

Summer Job Applications will be available at the Taunton Career Center

### Opportunity for:

- ✓ Paid Work Experience
- ✓ Work-Readiness Training
- ✓ MCAS Tutoring if Needed

### Guidelines:

- ✓ Must be between the ages of 14-21
- ✓ Must meet INCOME ELIGIBILITY guidelines
- ✓ Must be a Taunton resident

Applications will be released to Youth & Parents

Note: The YouthWorks summer jobs are based on a lottery.

### TO APPLY GO TO:

Taunton Career Center  
72 School St.  
Taunton, MA 02780

Attention: Ms. Darleen Camara (508) 977-1423  
Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 4:00pm

For more information, contact:  
Taunton Area School to Career (TASC)

Kristen Dunderdale (774) 218-7914  
Jake Jacobs (508) 723-2682





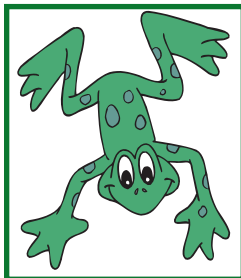
# Resource/Information Page

## It IS Easy Being Green

by Chrissy Collins

It's that time of year when we can start our container planting at home. Planting fresh herbs, tomatoes, and a mix of flowers is a great way to add greenery to your yard or porch.

Container planting can be for everyone. It is affordable and more manageable if you are fast developing your green thumb. What also comes along with container plantings are extra pots, plastic trays and what to do with them.



The plastic flowerpots are the only type of container that is acceptable for your recycling bin. They should be emptied and rinsed before being placed in your bin. The ceramic, terracotta and black plug trays are not recyclable and can be reused or thrown in the trash. Most nurseries will welcome back the black flower trays.

Remember to read the instructions on the plant to check for sun or part sun and watch your porch or yard to choose what works for your space. Share your herbs with a neighbor and let me know how it goes at [Chrissyc1@cox.net](mailto:Chrissyc1@cox.net).

## Congratulations Bill Cuthbertson, AHS Director

AHS Director Bill Cuthbertson was recently inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame at the North Attleboro Elks!

Mr. Cuthbertson has served on the AHS Board of Directors for 22 years. Congratulations!



## Missing Children's Day

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed May 25 as National Missing Children's Day. Each year, the Department of Justice (DOJ) commemorates Missing Children's Day with a ceremony honoring the heroic and exemplary efforts of agencies, organizations, and individuals who protect children.

Missing Children's Day is dedicated to encouraging parents, guardians, caregivers, and others concerned with the well-being of children to make child safety a priority.

It's hard to know how to balance concerns over keeping children safe and still allowing them to grow up. No matter the age of your child, these helpful tips for parents may keep your child safer:

- \* Work hard to establish trust and communication with your children from day one!
- \* Don't ever leave children unattended in a vehicle, whether it is running or not.
- \* Make sure you know how to find or contact your children at all times.
- \* Take an active role in your children's activities.
- \* As tired as you may be, take the time to listen intently to your children when they tell you they had a bad dream. There could be a reason. Trust your instincts.
- \* Talk to your older children about inappropriate incidences you hear on the news and get their perspective.
- \* Question and monitor anyone who takes an unusual interest in your children.
- \* Teach your children that they can be rude to an adult if they feel threatened in any way. They need to hear it from you directly because this message often contradicts everything they have heard before.
- \* Teach children the difference between an "OK" secret and a "NOT OK" secret. Assure your child that you would never want him/her to feel like they had to keep a "NOT OK" secret from you.
- \* Have your children practice their most annoying scream. They may need to use it someday.
- \* Check websites for registered offenders in your neighborhood. Talk to your children about why these people should be avoided.
- \* Keep your family computer in a central location that is easily monitored and avoid letting your children have internet access in unsupervised areas (i.e. computers in their bedrooms, etc.)

Sources: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jim-higley/child-safety\\_b\\_1703608.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jim-higley/child-safety_b_1703608.html) AND <http://www.ojjdp.gov/missingchildrensday/index.html>

ASSOCIATES FOR HUMAN SERVICES, INC.

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Check out our  
web site!

[www.ahsinc.org](http://www.ahsinc.org)



"Like" us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/AHSInc](http://www.facebook.com/AHSInc)

## Wish List

If you have an item you'd like to donate, please let program staff know, or call 508-880-0202, ext 333.

- \* De-humidifier
- \* Adult Wheelchairs
- \* Double Stroller
- \* Magazines
- \* Soft Tissues

## Useless Trivia

- \* While many believe Hydrox cookies are an Oreo knock-off, Hydrox actually came first—in 1908, four years before the Oreo.
- \* Kool-Aid was originally marketed as "Fruit Smack."
- \* "Jay" used to be slang for "foolish person." So when a pedestrian ignored street signs, he was referred to as a "jaywalker."
- \* The string on boxes of animal crackers was originally placed there so the container could be hung from a Christmas tree.

## Special Days to Celebrate in May

- Foster Care Month
- National Blood Pressure Month
- Older Americans Month
- 1st - May Day
- 2nd - Brothers and Sisters Day
- 3rd - National Teachers Day
- 4th - Star Wars Day
- 5th - Cinco de Mayo
- 6th - Military Spouses Day
- 6th - National Nurses Day
- 7th - Birth Mothers Day
- 8th - Mothers Day
- 8th - World Red Cross Day
- 11th - National Receptionist Day
- 11th - School Nurses Day
- 12th - International Nurses Day
- 13th - Friday the 13th (only one in 2016)
- 15th - Police Officer's Memorial Day
- 16th - Love a Tree Day
- 16th - Wear Purple for Peace Day
- 18th - Visit Your Relatives Day
- 21st - Armed Forces Day
- 24th - Victoria Day (Canada)
- 25th - Missing Children's Day
- 28th - Amnesty International Day
- 30th - Memorial Day
- 31st - World No Tobacco Day



The renovations of one of the early childhood classrooms in Brockton Day Nursery is almost complete.