



## Fall AHS Correspondent

Welcome to the Fall edition of the AHS Correspondent. You will find news, updates, resources, and information about all four of our programs as well as updates on upcoming events and fundraisers. If you would like more information on one of our programs, simply click on the button below:

[Early Head Start](#)

[Early Intervention](#)

[Taunton Area School to Career](#)

[Wise Adult Day Health](#)

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**New Fiscal Year, New Beginnings!**

Welcome to a new fiscal year!  
As you may know, our former CEO, Kit Tunney, retired this past July embarking on a new chapter in her life after more than three decades of devoted service to AHS and our community. Kit's leadership and accomplishments are admired and appreciated by the AHS staff, families, and the community she served. I am honored and humbled to carry on Kit's legacy. I am grateful for our hardworking, dedicated, staff that make up the AHS team. Under the guidance of our esteemed Board of Directors, we will continue to offer the finest programs and services AHS can provide.



Thank you to the Legislators who supported our programs by advocating and/or signing onto amendments and overrides throughout the budget process. Because of their commitment, all four AHS programs were fortunate enough to receive support. I am proud to be part of a community that works together for the betterment of their citizens.

This issue will highlight news and pictures that illuminate the activities and opportunities our AHS programs provide on a daily basis.

Soccer star Pele was quoted as saying "Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do." It is truly an honor to be surrounded by the AHS team who love what they do to enhance the lives of others every day.

I look forward to a wonderful year ahead and hope to see you at our upcoming Fall events!

*Zulmira Allcock*

President & CEO

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**Upcoming Fundraising Events....**

The next few months are going to be very busy at AHS as we plan three fundraisers. The 24th Annual Spaghetti Supper & Raffle will be held on Friday, September 28, 5:00-7:30 at St. Nicholas at Myra in North Dighton. On October 24th, 5:30-8:30, TASC will hold its 23rd Annual Business Recognition Dinner at the Taunton Holiday Inn. Lastly, the Annual Wine Tasting & Silent Auction will be held Thursday, November 8, 5:30-8:00, at the Raynham Park.

Proceeds from the fundraising events will support our Lifelong Learning Fund. This fund is used to provide vital support for children, youth, adults and seniors in our programs who are developmentally disabled or delayed, and families experiencing economical and/or educational challenges in Norton, Attleboro and the Greater Taunton Area. For instance, it allows us to provide therapeutic equipment for Early Intervention, Welcome Bags for Early Head Start, and community, social and education opportunities in our Wise Adult Day Health Programs. In addition, Taunton Area School to Career will continue to bridge business and education thus improving tomorrow's workforce.

As with all non-profit organizations, fundraising is essential to our success. Please come in and get your tickets for these events! Also if you have a raffle or auction item please contact Debbie at [dhowland@ahsinc.org](mailto:dhowland@ahsinc.org) or 508-880-0202, ext. 333



**AHS 4th** **24th Annual Spaghetti Supper & Raffle**  
Friday, September 28, 2018  
5:00 - 6:30 (Supper) *Bottles*  
6:30 - 7:30 (Raffle)  
*Face Painting*  
St. Nicholas of Myra Church Hall  
499 Spring Street, North Dighton  
\$12.00/adults  
\$8.00/seniors  
\$5.00/children *Great Food*  
*Special Raffle: Take your chance at winning an iPad, 32 GB*  
*Raffle tickets: \$5 for 1 or \$10 for 3*  
Presented by Associates for Human Services, Inc.  
Call Debbie at 508-880-0202 for tickets



### **Representatives Geoff Diehl and Shaunna O'Connell visit Wise**

Thank you Representatives Shaunna O'Connell & Geoff Diehl for coming to Associates for Human Services, Inc. to learn about our four programs. We appreciate the support received from you in the past and hope it continues in the future.



## Early Childhood Programs (Early Head Start & Early Intervention)

### New Early Intervention Team Leader

Taunton Early Intervention is pleased to announce that Keri Anderson accepted a position as Team Leader. Keri has worked at Taunton Early Intervention for 11 years as a Developmental Specialist. She graduated from Fitchburg State College and received a Bachelors Degree in Early Childhood Education. For years, Keri worked with families as a Service Coordinator. She became the Teacher Coordinator in January 2015 and the Initial Home Visit Coordinator in January 2016. Keri holds a Certification in Infant Massage and Music Together. Congratulations Keri!



### Early Intervention Group Opportunities



[Early Intervention](#) runs a variety of groups that both children in the program and outside of the program can participate in. Groups consist of a Child-Parent Group, Music Group, Community Play Group and our new addition, a Family Group which allows siblings to participate if families do not have babysitting.

One of the wonderful features of our Community Play Group is that we offer FREE community slots for children that are not eligible for Early Intervention services. A Developmental Evaluation is offered to each child prior to attending the group. It is a wonderful opportunity for each child to socialize, have fun and acquire new developmental skills. If your child is currently in Early Intervention,

please discuss group with your Service Coordinator, otherwise contact [Pat Bushika](#) at 508-880-0202, ext. 335 and explore how your child can learn and thrive at in an Early Intervention group.



## Raising a Reader

Reading to your child is a gift that is priceless. Taking the time to read to your child from birth will assist your child to develop language skills, have a longer attention span and create a natural bond between you and your child. It doesn't have to be a long period of time, 10-15 minutes a day is sufficient. The important thing is to make it a special time with your child sitting snuggled up on

your lap or next to you. Make it fun and exciting! Encourage them to participate by turning the pages, lifting the flaps or pretending along with the characters (ie. tickle a belly, pretend to eat some food, knock on a door, or push a truck out of a mud puddle). At this age you do not need to read the story, just engage in talking about the pictures and try to relate it to your own experiences. Remember it is consistency that is key, so it should be part of your everyday schedule so your child looks forward to it and knows what to expect.

Early Intervention offers a 10 week literacy program for participating families to help them to learn how to read to their children and gives participants 5 books and 5 toys during their home visits. If you are a family in the program and are interested in the literacy program, please speak with your service coordinator.

## Early Head Start Enhances Playground

Early Head Start has completed enhancing and upgrading the Infant and Toddler playground at our newest partner Early Learning Center in New Bedford. Children up to 3 years of age are now able to have a playground built just for them with high quality synthetic turf. This special non-toxic turf helps lesson scrapes, bruises and cuts when their little feet are beginning to crawl, walk, run, jump and fall. A new design to the fencing was also installed by EHS to eliminate any safety concerns for infants and toddlers to walk directly into their playground without crossing through the preschool playground. An age appropriate slide was built directly into the small hill with no stairs to fall on while learning to climb.



ELC is located at 322 Maxfield St, New Bedford, MA 02740 and can be reached at (508) 996-3774 or <http://www.earlylearningnewbedford.com/>

## TASC Updates

**Thank you Columbia Gas (\$15,000) and Mass Mentoring Partnership (\$14,000) for your very generous grants to help support the TASC Program.**

### **Summer '18 YouthWorks – An Overview, with Thanks to Employers!**

*by Kendreia Perry and Cheyenne Amaral – TASC Career Specialists*

AHS' Taunton Area School To Career (TASC) program successfully implemented another summer of Taunton YouthWorks for students ages 14-21. Some 41 participants were engaged in a five-week, subsidized job experience which began on July 12<sup>th</sup> and concluded in mid-August. YouthWorks is a state-funded youth employment program that helps

### **Jams & Jellies: A Pathway to Culinary Skills**

*by Cheyenne Amaral – TASC Career Specialist for Taunton High.*

As has been true for the past ten summers or more, a TASC workgroup – with the business name of **Fruitylicious** Jams & Jellies – was part of the 2018 Taunton Youthworks program. This year, students in this workgroup spent several weeks not only learning how to make Jams & Jellies, and then selling their products at the Taunton Green Farmer's Market, but also

teens and young adults get the skills and experience needed to find and keep jobs. The local summer version of *YouthWorks* has youth taking part in paid work placements at public, private and nonprofit worksites, all in Taunton.

*YouthWorks* programs across the state use the Signal Success curriculum to help young people learn and practice skills that matter at work, at school, and in life. Youth receive training in “employability skills,” (sometimes called “soft skills,”) so they can learn about expected employment behaviors and learn how to relate to supervisors and co-workers at their worksite. Participants also consider what their next steps might be, to further their education and career pathway. TASC would like to recognize and thank the 15 employers who generously agreed to provide a meaningful work experience for our local youth, and who committed staff time to provide valuable supervision and guidance. For summer 2018 *YouthWorks*, they were: Citizens for Citizens, Correira Insurance, E. Pole Elementary School, First Parish Church, Freidman Middle School, Galligan Elementary School, Girl's Inc, Our Daily Bread, Parker Middle School, Pro Home Inc, TASC Jams & Jellies workgroup, Taunton High School Custodial Dept., THS Special Education Dept., Whittenton Hardware, and Old Colony YMCA's Taunton Branch.

We look forward to next year, and the continued success and positive impact of the Taunton *YouthWorks* program!

taking weekly trips that showed them the different pathways a culinary career can take them.



Students went blueberry picking to CN Smith Farm, a family-run “pick your own” farm in Bridgewater, and learned which blueberries were the best to use for their own blueberry jam. Students also toured Bristol Community College’s Culinary Program and learned what steps they can take to apply at BCC and graduate with a two-year degree. A visit to the Dunkin Donuts Headquarters in Canton allowed to meet with Senior Research and Development Technologist & Certified Master Baker, Joshua Gomes – who was a Taunton High graduate. Joshua taught the group how products are brainstormed, developed, and marketed to the public. Lastly, students gave back to the community when they visited and helped out at Our Daily Bread - a local soup kitchen – assisting in preparation of meals that would be given out later in the day.

All five students in this social enterprise workgroup, led by Taunton High Culinary Instructor Sarah Gibson, exceeded their required 125 hours of work over the summer, and gained valuable work-readiness skills that will help them in their future.

## **Career Mentoring: Are YOU Part of What's Coming?**

*by Trish O'Brien – TASC Career Mentoring Coordinator*

It was a year of change, growth and success! TASC's 2017-18 Career Mentoring Program expanded from 2 to 5 program models, mentor/mentee matches grew 37% to a total of 63 matches, TASC-planned tours and seminars grew by 27% to offer 41 opportunities for mentors and mentees to pursue. The best news is that throughout the changes and growth, both our quality and our success rate were maintained!

Now it's time to look ahead. One of our new program models is the Expanded Mentoring Model, which allows mentor/mentee matches to continue through December to support mentees through the critical decision making and post-secondary planning and preparation phase of their senior year in high school. At least 30 of our matches from the 2017-18 program plan to participate! Most of the Bridge to Stem Employment (BTSE) matches plan to continue through December, along with Traditional Program model matches from Taunton High School and Bristol County Agricultural High School.

What does this mean for the TASC's Career Mentoring service? New tours, seminars and presentations need to be planned; diverse needs, interests and expectations must be met and most especially, career mentors, career mentors and more career mentors will need to be found! Efforts to recruit new mentors and maintain existing mentors is critically important. If you think you would enjoy helping a high school student explore his or her postsecondary options, discover a career path, and learn the connection between education and his or her future goals; this is a great opportunity for you!

For more information on becoming a mentor, contact Trish O'Brien TASC's Career Mentoring Coordinator at [Tobrien@ahsinc.org](mailto:Tobrien@ahsinc.org) or 508-880-0202 x409.

**Wise Adult Day Health**



# For Sale

**\$10,000**

~~\$15,000~~

**White 2012 Ford E250 wheelchair-accessible turtle-top 9-passenger van**

- 105,000 miles
- V8 4.6 liter engine
- Automatic transmission
- Anti-lock brakes
- AM/FM radio
- Front and rear heat and AC
- Power door locks
- Above-cab storage
- Braun Century 2, 500 pound wheelchair lift
- Three wheelchair positions including Q-Strait tie-downs and seatbelt system
- Three 2-passenger seats that fold up to make space for wheelchairs
- Total of six to nine passenger capacity depending on the number of passengers in wheelchairs
- Good condition, but driver and passenger key locks don't work; must be unlocked with electronic fob or through rear doors

**Call Tom - (508) 880-0202, ext. 316**

Associates for Human Services, 68 Allison Avenue, Taunton, MA 02780



Click on image above for full size flyer.

## Dementia-Friendly Taunton Initiative

On August 20, 2018, Wise Program Director, Nancy Pereira hosted a Dementia Friends Champion Training here at the Associates for Human Services, Inc. This training is provided by Dementia Friends Massachusetts and is part of a global movement



originating in Japan and further develop by the Alzheimer's society in the United Kingdom and has been well underway here in the United States as well. Master Trainer, Beth Soltzberg, Director of Alzheimer's/Related Disorders Family Support Program for the Jewish Family & Children's Service in Waltham conducted the training to the Age & Dementia Friendly Taunton group of which Nancy is a co-chair.

The goal is to help members of the community understand the five key messages about dementia, how it effects people and how we can make a difference in their lives through understanding and support. Dementia Friends Champions are not experts on Alzheimer's and Dementia. They are simply individuals in the community who care about raising awareness and empathy around dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

Nancy is now one of 14 individuals to have received this training, becoming a Dementia Friend Champion. These Champions will make themselves available to conduct information sessions to local groups and businesses throughout the city of Taunton to raise awareness.

Individuals who want more information on how to schedule a training can contact Nancy at (508) 880-0202 ext. 327. Those interested in becoming Dementia Friends Champions can contact Beth at [bsoltzberg@jfcsboston.org](mailto:bsoltzberg@jfcsboston.org) for more information.

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## Playing with Matches



[Wise Adult Day Health](#) participants enjoy a wide array of fun activities throughout the day from the more traditional and beloved Bingo to various creative arts and crafts projects. The program also offers a variety of cognitively stimulating activities such as matching and sorting games to help exercise the memory centers of the brain. These games can be enjoyed at all memory levels as groups can be conducted utilizing the games in the

conventional way or simply as a picture reminisce using the vibrant and colorful images to invoke memories and imagination. Group leaders present open ended prompts such as “tell me a story about this picture” or “what do you like about this picture?” that encourage relaxed participation without the stress and fear of wrong answers.

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## It's Worth the Trip!

Besides all the fun activities scheduled in the program, Wise participants have monthly opportunities to go out on trips in the community. Our participants can't just hop in their car to run to the market or grab a cup of coffee with a friend. When you are dependent on caregivers, these opportunities are few and far between. That's why Wise Adult Day Health feels it's so important to offer monthly outings to our participants. "Going on outings is a great way to keep our participants active and connected to their community. This is their special time to do the things they used to do that most of us just take for granted," notes Program Director, Nancy Pereira. One of the participant's favorite haunts is the local Dunkin Donuts where they can relax and enjoy coffee and donuts with friends.



## Upcoming Events

[24th Annual Spaghetti Supper](#)

[23rd TASC Business Recognition Dinner](#)

[Annual Wine Tasting & Silent Auction](#)

Click above for full size flyers.

Debbie Howland | Associates for Human Services, Inc. | 508-880-0202 | [dhowland@ahsinc.org](mailto:dhowland@ahsinc.org)

STAY CONNECTED

