Welcome to the Winter 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
- Donate!
- Visit our Website

Holiday Greetings!
In this season of thanksgiving and joy, I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to the Board of Director’s, the adults, families, youths and children we serve, the many community partners that we collaborate with everyday and most importantly, the Senior Managers and all the hard-working staff at AHS. It has been a pleasure and honor to spend these last several months getting to observe how every staff in the agency truly bring their dedication, knowledge, and compassion to everything they do.

In this winter edition of the Correspondent, you will read about the many wonderful ways that the programs have been working to make a difference in the adults, youths, children and families they serve. Early Head Start recreated a traditional thanksgiving dinner for their families. Early Intervention expanded their group model by offering a family group and a swim and gym group with the Old Colony YMCA. Taunton Area School to Career had their most successful Business Appreciation Dinner and has been working on building up their Mentor Program, and the Wise Adult Day Health program has been busy enhancing the participants’ experience by bringing children, animals and song into their day.

It has been an exciting almost ½ year and I have been honored to get to know every program even better. As we approach the end of 2018, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and New Year that is filled with happiness, good health, and continued team work and collaboration.

Zulmira Allcock
President & CEO

Upcoming Fundraising Events....
POT OF GOLD SCRATCH TICKET RAFFLE

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 this event or contact Debbie at dhowland@ahsinc.org or 508-880-0202, ext. 333

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Early Childhood Programs
(Early Head Start & Early Intervention)

Play is Not Just Fun!

With the holiday season upon us and children home from school on vacation, there are increasing opportunities for a parent to join their child in play. Children love that special time with mom, dad or caretaker to build skills during playtime. The development of hand skills, language skills, interactional skills and the development of self-control and problem solving are only some of the benefits of play. Play also allows for relaxation time and bonding for both the child and parent.

The staff at Early Intervention believe that the parent is the child’s most important teacher! That is one of the reasons that we offer opportunities for a child and parent/caretaker groups. Options include our Baby Group, Music group and recently our Family group!
In addition, we are very excited to announce a collaboration with the Taunton YMCA to offer a Y Ability Program beginning January 7, 2019. The program will offer a Swim and Gym Program for children between the ages of 1 year and 3 years. Groups will be offered on Monday from 10:00 to 12:00. Michelle Aucoin, Early Intervention Physical Therapist and Liz Forgue, YMCA Lead Swim Instructor will co-lead the group. Please contact your Service Coordinator if you are interested in this group.

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 consists 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 in an Early Intervention group.

EHS Hosts a Family Dinner

Early Head Start hosted a Family Dinner for our Families enrolled in the home-based program. Together we prepared a full course turkey dinner with all the fixings for 28 people. A great big Thank you to Venus DeMilo and Monty Ferris Jr. from Swansea, MA for donating two great big turkeys for us to enjoy. David, Program Aide from the Wise Adult Day Health Program and Georgie, Early Head Start Program Director had the honors of carving these beautiful turkeys. Families and their children, along with staff enjoyed activities with a theme of FAMILY and Fall Fun. Families created their own FAMILY-Themed frames along with photos from the FALL-themed photo booth prepared by EHS staff. Families designed matching t-shirts for themselves and their children with symbols of what their family means to them. Thank you to everyone for providing a wonderful, memorable experience for our families.
Holiday Stress and Anxiety in Children

The holidays are a fun and joyous time but also a very busy one, and holiday stress and anxiety in children can and does happen. During the holidays, there are lots of fun activities and events going on, both at home and at school. And while that can be a good thing, the reality is that all that hustle and bustle means schedules are often out of whack, bedtimes get pushed back, and routines are disrupted. As a result, it’s inevitable that kids may feel some degree of holiday stress.

1. Set a Calm Example
2. Set Up Conditions for Good Behavior
3. Remember the Importance of Routines
4. Watch What They Are Eating
5. Get Your Child Moving
6. Avoid Overscheduling
7. Have Your Grade-Schooler Help You
8. Schedule Some Quiet Time
9. Remind Your Child and Yourself What the Holidays Are Really All About

To learn more detailed information about these, visit Holiday Stress and Anxiety in Children
Taunton Area School to Career (TASC) held its 23rd Business Recognition Dinner & Auction event at the Holiday Inn Taunton in late October. It was the most successful TASC Dinner ever, thanks to the many wonderful sponsors, donors, supporters, attendees, and volunteers.

This annual dinner and auction event gives TASC an important opportunity to honor those companies and individuals whose generous, willing commitment of time and resources have provided essential support for our youth-serving programs over the year. Award recipients included: State Representative Shaunna O’Connell, Waters Corporation, and Taunton Public Schools. In addition, five local business individuals were given a dedication award for serving as a volunteer Career Mentor for 5 or 10 years, with one – Cullen Silva with Avon Independent Sales - providing this valuable service for a remarkable 20 years.

A handful of representatives from Morton Hospital enjoyed themselves and walked away with some “Wall of Cheer” items from the recent TASC Business Recognition Dinner & Auction.

Thank you to Ryan Nadeau, our auctioneer, for a professional & spirited auction experience.
In addition to giving out awards, the evening event included: a social hour with both live music and silent auction bidding; City Greetings by Taunton Mayor Tom Hoye; remarks by a YouthWorks 2018 participant who was hired after her summer teen job placement; a live auction; and lively game of Heads Or Tails.

City Councilor Donald Cleary shows Harry Rose and Colleen & Charles Jolin information about his donated week at an Irish Cottage, which was part of the Live Auction at the TASC Dinner.

John Cabral, Superintendent of Taunton Public Schools (2nd from left), receives a TASC appreciation award for Taunton Public Schools, from Kelly Ann Bento, TASC Council Chair (at left); Zulmira Allcock, AHS President and CEO (2nd from right), and Dan LeBrun, TASC Program Director (at right).

Christopher Benevides (2nd from left), Senior Director of Taunton Operations at Waters Corporation in the Myles Standish Industrial Park, receives a company appreciation award from Kelly Ann Bento, TASC Council Chair (at left); Zulmira Allcock, AHS President and CEO (2nd from right), and Dan LeBrun, TASC Program Director (at right).

TASC Seeks...
Internship positions! Career Mentors!

by Dan LeBrun – TASC Program Director
Empowering Youth To Succeed is the mission of Taunton Area School to Career (TASC.) As such, we are always looking to prepare today’s high school students for further education/training and careers.

We need your help to offer local youth two of the very best “career development education” opportunities: Internships and/or Career Mentoring

**Do you know a business willing to create just one internship opportunity for a local high school senior?**
If a paid or an unpaid internship experience is something your own business or employer can consider, please pass this along and ask that someone contact me to discuss the possibility and how we might make it work. I can be reached at either 508-880-0202, ext. 408, or dlebrun@ahsinc.org. Note: we have a small amount of funding that might be used to pay for half the internship, for a business open to paying for the other half.

**Would you, or someone you know, consider Career Mentoring?**
Please read – and share - the short article further below! (click here for a *.pdf version) Contact information is given at end of article.

I hope you’ll consider helping TASC to make a positive impact on our local youth! All the best to you and yours for the Holidays and the coming year!

**Become a Career Mentor!**

Who helped you become the person you are today? Who was there to model, guide, inform and support you along the way? Chances are there were several people: maybe a parent or guardian, spouse, sibling, teacher, boss, or friend. Maybe several were your mentors. Why not pay it forward and **Become a Career Mentor**?

Some youth aren’t quite as fortunate, and their ‘mentor circle’ is not strong or complete. That’s where you come in. Maybe you’ve already mentored a few young people yourself. It feels good; doesn’t it?

**TASC (www.ahsinc.org/tasc) offers Career Mentoring to youth at three local high schools.**
(Bristol County Agricultural, Taunton High, and Taunton Alternative High.)

**We need more Career Mentors to serve an increasing number of deserving teens in our 2019 program.**

Most of the students just need a little support and guidance. Basically, they don’t know what they want to be when they grow up. Most of us can identify with that! Career mentors help them discover opportunities available to them, explore options and understand the connection between their education and their goals. Often, it’s just a matter of having someone listen. If that could be you, why not **Become a Career Mentor**?

Last year, the TASC Career Mentoring Program served over 60 students. We added new, flexible program models that resulted in tremendous demand for 2018. We expect another
big increase in interested students this school year, and so need more mentors to meet the need. Become a Career Mentor!

Students aren’t the only ones who reap rewards. Adults get special satisfaction upon seeing the impact he or she has had on a mentee. It’s a feeling that can’t be measured. Become a Career Mentor and see how it can be a fantastic way to make a positive, possibly life-changing difference in the life of a high school student.

Contact TASC’s Career Mentoring Coordinator, Trish O’Brien, at Tobrien@ahsinc.org or 508/880/0202 x 409, to learn more about Becoming a Career Mentor.

TASC

Wednesday, April 10, 2019 - 5:30PM
Taunton High School Auditorium

Wise Adult Day Health

Fond Farewell from Nancy Pereira,
Wise Program Director
It is with bittersweet feelings that I am announcing my resignation as Program Director of Wise Adult Day Health. It was a very difficult decision to leave the Wise program, but I have an opportunity to take some time off to travel the country which is something I’ve always wanted to do. Wise has truly been a second home with people I cherish and with whom I look forward to working with daily. I am very proud of my accomplishments these past 5 years working at Wise and am confident my successor will be able to build on that momentum for continued success. I will be staying on board to assist in the transition of the New Director to the program and the participants. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with my participants, caregivers and staff. AHS is an amazing agency that I will continue to be invested in with continued support. The work we do in our community is so meaningful and important and I am grateful to have been associated with such dedicated, caring professionals who go above and beyond daily to provide quality care and services. I look forward to a smooth transition for the incoming Director. Thank you all for making my time here at Wise a fulfilling and rewarding experience. I wish you all the best for a happy holiday season.

Watch for the January edition of The Correspondent where Maria Gateman will be highlighted as the new Wise Adult Day Health Director. She will begin her new role on December 5, 2018.

**FUN-Tastic Fall**

Wise participants have had a very busy Fall. Adult Day Health Week in September was jam packed with daily entertainment. The velvet crooner, Jordan Paiva delighted our group with another jubilant performance. “Jordan brings the joy of a wedding reception into our living room! He is sweet and charming beyond belief and the participants and staff simply adore him.” Says Program Director, Nancy Pereira. “Our Portuguese participants visibly beam with happiness when he performs their Portuguese favorites.”

Another program favorite is Pamela Tietze, “The Singing Nurse”. “Pammy used to perform at my previous program so when I came here to Wise, I just knew I had to invite her here to sing for the folks!” notes Program Director Nancy Pereira. “She is completely lovely, warm and genuine with the participants. Her smile lights up the room and she mesmerizes us all with her angelic vocals and non-stop energy.” Pamela entertained our group for our
Halloween costume party complete with quick costume and prop changes much to the participant’s delight!

One of our newer entertainment offerings here at Wise is something called Mighty Music Bingo. It’s a fun twist on the old time favorite game except instead of a caller with letters and numbers, this BINGO requires a DJ and a playlist! The DJ plays a song for which the participants try to find on their card. It is a wonderful activity to stimulate reminisce, singalongs and laughter! It has certainly been a FUN-tastic Fall here at Wise!

Generations

Wise Adult Day Health is fortunate to be housed in the same building as our agency’s Early Intervention (EI) program. This gives our participants frequent opportunities for intergenerational activities to enhance their daily care experience. In a recent visit from Barn Babies, some of the EI children came over to join in the barnyard fun! From pot-bellied pigs to cuddly kittens and bunnies, children, parents, participants and staff alike were thrilled to have this opportunity for hands-on interaction with so many adorable critters. Even AHS CEO & President Zulmira Allcock, snuck in for a cuddle or two.
Career Opportunities

Employment Postings

Job descriptions, click here.

Wise Adult Day Health
Certified Nursing Assistant – Per Diem
Van Drivers - relief/Per Diem
RN – Per Diem

Early Intervention
Physical Therapist
Speech Language Pathologist
Occupational Therapist

Click for an application

Events

Successful Wine Tasting & Silent Auction

The Wine Tasting & Silent Auction held at Raynham Park and co-hosted by Debucas Wine & Liquors, was a huge success! Over $12,000 was raised and will help support the AHS Lifelong Learning Fund. Over 25 wine, beer and cordial distributors served and there was an abundance of great food! Our food donors were Blount Fine Foods, TGIFridays, Chili’s, Jersey Mike's Subs, and Papa Gino's. David Marvill provided music for the event.

Thank you to all who helped make this such a successful event!
Pot of Gold Scratch Ticket Raffle

Click above for full size flyers.

Debbie Howland | Associates for Human Services, Inc. | 508-880-0202 | dhowland@ahsinc.org

STAY CONNECTED