



# THE PRICE CENTER

NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2010

## WORK\$MART MOVES TO RUMFORD AVE

The Price Center has moved its **Work\$mart** Employment Placement Program to Rumford Ave., to share space with the administrative offices. **Work\$mart** is The Price Center's component based employment placement service for teens and adults with developmental disabilities. It is designed to allow the job seeker with a developmental disability to choose components of service that will best help him/her to obtain the right job.

The new professional environment will help **Work\$mart** better provide its continuum of services which include: Vocational Assessment, Career Planning, Job Targeted Education and Training, Job Development and Placement, and Ongoing and Interim Support.

The staff will help job seekers move quickly through the different components and help them identify and examine competitive work opportunities that are best suited for them. Personal interests, individual skill sets, and geographic location are all factors that our professionals help the job seeker to consider, as they set the course for their career pursuit.

Individuals who have a goal of group employment or volunteer work will still operate out of the Border St. site. Lori Harrington, Director of Employment Services, will oversee both sites.



*Laurie Rebello works with two Work\$mart participants in the new computer lab at Rumford Ave.*



## LINDA EDER PERFORMS AT ANNUAL GALA

The Price Center's 19th Annual Gala was held Friday, October 23, 2009 at the Brookline Holiday Inn. Gala patrons enjoyed an evening of world class entertainment, delicious food, an exciting silent auction and a crowd pleasing performance by the headliner and musical powerhouse, **Linda Eder** and Man of the Year, **Kenneth Jaffe**, of Wainwright Bank.

"I am absolutely delighted that our event was such a success for The Price Center," said Michelle Fineberg, Co-Chair of the Gala. "We knew had some challenges, in particular the economic downturn the country is experiencing, but we had faith that The Price Center's dedicated supporters would see us through." Since the first benefit in 1990, Dan, Jerry, Michelle and their friends have raised millions in funding for the Center. The Brookline benefit has been one of The Price Center's largest fundraisers – and, therefore, continually touches the lives of the people the Center serves. (continued on page 3)

### 2010 Board of Directors

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# GALA PHOTO GALLERY



*Above: Ken Jaffe, Man of the year, and Michelle Fineberg, Co-Chair of the Gala.*

*Right: Ben Majewski and Alexis Oppenheim.*



*Left: Jerry Fineberg and Kurt Schemmel pose for the camera.*



*Above: Price Center Employee Lori Harrington asks Linda Sheehy how The Price Center has affected her life.*

*Left: Price Center Board member Scott Laughlin enjoys the evening with his wife, Kendra.*



## PRICE CENTER EMPLOYEE AWARDS

We would like to congratulate the following employees on receiving awards for their the dedication and commitment to the Price Center

**Patti O'Neil** received the **Achievement Award** for outstanding contribution to individuals supported by the Price Center. The overall management of 1751 has improved tremendously due to her hard work and dedication. She ensures that the needs of the individuals in her home are met and her interactions with them are appropriate and caring.



**Ruth Sullivan** received the **Service Award** for a significant contribution to a program, the Price Center, or the field of mental retardation. She spends extra hours making coloring papers and decorations for the individuals and the group areas. She also participates in extra workshops and classes to learn better ways to assist our individuals.



**Johanna Jennings** received the **Dedication Award** for devotion and loyalty through many years of service to the Price Center. She goes above and beyond her job functions, not only to assist employees, but clients as well. She is always pleasant and eager to help coworkers and others associated with The Price Center. Johanna is always willing to challenge herself and try to expand her abilities.



**Anila Imami** received the **President's Award** for overall contributions and genuine support to the Price Center. She has been working at the Dedham Day Hab program for 12 ½ years. She has always been a dedicated employee with a high level of attention to detail. She provides excellent training and direction for the direct care staff. Her commitment to the program is unparalleled.



# A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Price Center Supporters,

I am pleased to announce that our recent survey done by the Commission for Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) has resulted in a three year certification which is the highest level that can be awarded. The surveyors commended The Price Center in a variety of areas ranging from program quality to administrative efficiency. They especially singled out the efforts The Price Center makes to solicit input from stakeholders such as individuals served, families, and funding sources. Congratulations to all the staff who worked so hard to achieve this positive result.

With the coming of spring it is nice to talk about a new initiative at The Price Center. In March we moved the placement component of our Employment Services Program over to the Administrative Offices on Rumford Ave. in Auburndale. The new site will offer a professional environment for individuals to prepare for placement in individual community employment. The placement component will be called Work\$mart. Our assessment service and job developer will also move over with the program. We are excited by the chance to enhance our community employment service.

Another positive development has been the completion of the kitchen renovations at Humanity House. The kitchen has been totally renovated with new cabinets, appliances, and flooring. In addition, the widening of the door has made it possible for wheelchair access. We hope that the new kitchen will make it easier for staff to provide services to the residents at the house.

Although last year's budget resulted in significant cuts to our Day Habilitation and Residential programs, those cuts would have been much worse if not for the intense advocacy done by individuals, families, and organizations in the developmental disabilities community. This success demonstrates how important the advocacy we do is to keeping our services available. With the budget cuts proposed for the coming year in residential and employment services, we again have our work cut out for us, but the experience we gained last year should help us to be more effective going forward. Each of our programs will be scheduling their quarterly family meetings in the near future. At those meetings we will be trying to keep everyone informed of what the current budget situation is, although if it is like last year there will be an element of fluctuation. We also will be communicating by e-mail to make sure people are up to date. Thanks for your constant efforts in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Justin Sallaway



## BROOKLINE KITCHEN MADE ACCESSIBLE

The Price Center received a grant of \$7,500 from the Brookline Community Foundation to help supplement the \$60,000 grant given by the Town of Brookline CDBG program for the kitchen renovation project at Humanity House.

The two grants help to ensure that the kitchen is safe, accessible to those with physical disabilities, and promotes productivity, independence, and productive living.

The Price Center's President, Justin Sallaway, remarked: "At a time when charitable organizations have experienced cut backs on grant-giving, this generous contribution speaks to the importance of Brookline Community Foundation's commitment to accessibility. We sincerely thank the Brookline Community Foundation for its support and look forward to its continued partnership to serving disable individuals live more independently." (continued on page 4)

## LINDA EDER PERFORMS AT ANNUAL GALA (CONTINUED)

Through the ongoing generosity and commitment of the Fineberg and Frank families and friends, the Center can continue to serve our community in good economic times and in challenging times.

Michelle Fineberg says "You know, people think that it has to be large sums of money, but every little bit helps and smaller donations can add up to very significant amounts. We encourage anyone who may have hesitated this year to become a personal sponsor for next—it will feel good to give back."





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## BROOKLINE KITCHEN MADE ACCESSIBLE(CONTINUED)

Joanmarie Franco, Director of Residential Services, says "Over the past year the kitchen at Humanity House has been under renovation and is now in its final phase of completion. The individual's who live at Humanity are benefiting from the increased accessibility of space and the brand new appliances they are learning how to use. Many thanks go out to the Town of Brookline and The Brookline Community Foundation for their generous donation to Humanity House that allows us to continue making beneficial and life changing improvements to this home."



*Justin Sallaway and Tom Mendelsohn, Board Chair of BCF*



The Brookline Community Foundation exists to promote a strong, engaged and inclusive community. They identify and raise awareness of community needs, create forums for public dialogue and problem solving, inspire philanthropy and volunteerism, advance equal access to community resources and opportunities, and strengthen and sustain local nonprofits and organizations.

## LASELL COLLEGE HOSTS ASCENT DANCE

The ASCENT program went to a dance hosted by Lasell College. The theme was a Hawaiian Luau and the participants of the program had so much fun! Lasell provided the participants with free t-shirts to decorate, a piñata to destroy, key chains with which to make sand art, and a rousing game of UNO along with all of the great music and dancing. Participants learned the "Cha Cha Slide" and danced the night away. They ate tons of pizza and also had some healthy snacks as well. Overall it was a great night and we already have our next event with Lasell planned for April 2010!



*From left to right: Nate Orlov, Daniel Vivacqua and Danit Surizon*