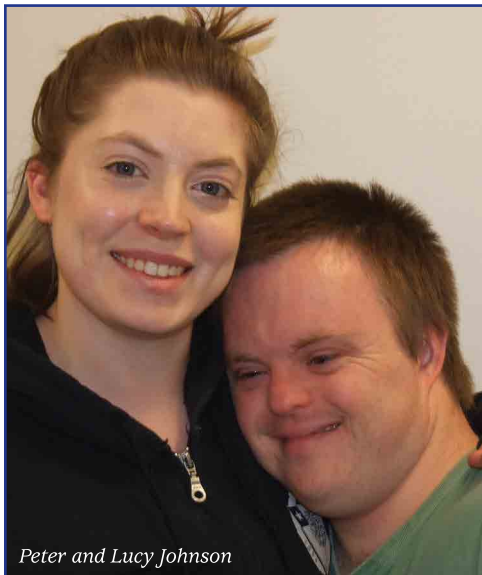


## News & Highlights from The Price Center



## ALL IN THE FAMILY



Peter and Lucy Johnson

The first time you meet Peter and Lucy Johnson, you see an immediate resemblance between them. Before they speak, their bright smiles and warm sparkling eyes greet you. Peter and his sister Lucy are great examples of people who care about members of our community. The Price Center has always prided itself on strong family connections and having Peter and Lucy here only reinforces that,” explains Tony Concannon, Director of the Day Habilitation program.

Peter, a participant in our Employment Services and Community Based Day programs is a loquacious young man who has Down Syndrome. Lori Harrington, the program director says: “Peter’s inspiring nature and positive energy is contagious. He brings the best out of everyone”.

Peter loves to speak publically about issues related to those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and often stresses the need for more employment opportunities for the disabled. No stranger to working with the public, Peter worked at the State House where he did clerical work and was a tour guide before he came to The Price Center “to start something new.” His role model is Eunice Kennedy Shriver because “she did so much for our community. She never gave up on us.”



## Donor Profile

### ALWAYS GRATEFUL for The Price Center Family

“When our son Michael, who was severely challenged, turned 21, he began attending The Price Center. We were so impressed by the way The Price Center brought Michael to his highest capacity. The outstanding staff helped Michael communicate by using specialized technology attached to his wheel chair. We were always impressed by the broad range of programs offered by The Price Center that accommodate a diverse group of people with all levels of disabilities. While I may be prejudiced, I do not think you will find a more dedicated and knowledgeable staff anywhere. I think my wife Connie was an even bigger champion of The Price Center which is why I made a leadership gift for the new facility even though our son is no longer here to enjoy it. And that is why we continue to make gifts to the Center so that other families can have the same kind of extraordinary care that Michael had. The Price Center was an integral part of our family and I have been so proud to serve as its past chairman, parent, donor and champion.”



Lew Bergins

Lew Bergins, *former Board Chair and Parent*

For information on how you can make a named gift contact Debra Bergman, Director of Development at 617-244-0065 x1008.

Peter grew up in Scituate where he attended a Life Skills Program at Scituate High School and a vocational program at The Friendship Home in Norwell, MA. During which time he worked as a teacher’s assistant helping students with Autism. If you ask Peter what he learned from his various work and volunteer experiences, he will tell you candidly that “Everyone wants to be loved, respected and treated fairly. We are special people and God made us all heroes so that we can educate others to believe that we can accomplish more and remember how important we are to the world.” He thinks it is important that individuals with IDD partner with each other because they can learn from each other how to overcome some of the challenges they all face. Now 29, Peter’s enthusiasm bubbles over when he speaks about how he is helping to mentor a 23 year old new participant, encouraging him to become more social.

Peter’s sister Lucy has always “looked up to her big brother.” Growing up with Peter,



## President's Perspectives

The Price Center is Fabulous at Forty! This year, we celebrate The Price Center for four decades of empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to thrive! Just as important, we are celebrating you, the hundreds of people who have made a difference through your affiliation with us.

The Price Center is not a facility, not a building (even though our new facility is great,) nor is it about the challenges faced here every day. The Price Center is about being a unique "Community". So many people have said to me, "There is so much love, kindness and respect shared at The Price Center. How do you do it?" My answer is that each member of our "Community" from staff to volunteers, individuals and their families, friends and friends - contributes to the exceptional progress and special culture at The Price Center that has evolved over the years.

When I hear "What we would have done without The Price Center?" I am grateful to be a part of this incredible organization. I know that our personalized approach to every individual who walks through our doors makes a difference in their lives every day. Yes, The Price Center offers a wonderful variety of personalized services depending on the needs of each individual while providing a bond and partnership filled with mutual respect, a nurturing environment and yes, love - just like a family. As you read through this issue of our newsletter, know that there are hundreds more like the people featured who make up an integral part of our community. Each with a story to tell about persistence and achieving even the smallest goals adding up to achieving their greatest potential.

Celebrating this fortieth year filled with achievements and progress, we thank all of you who have helped The Price Center Family along the way. Please join us on Thursday, May 11 when we celebrate being Fabulous & Forty and look toward a vibrant future.

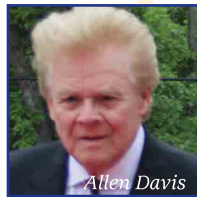
Justin Sallaway  
President

P.s. See page 4 for details on the May event...

# SPOTLIGHT ON NEW Price Center Board Members

*"Welcome to our new Price Center Board members. We look forward to their leadership as they join the other distinguished members of our Board. We are fortunate to have such talented group of people who are leading The Price Center into its next phase of development. Without their insight and various types of contributions, we would not be able to make the kind of progress we have gained over the past 40 years. On behalf of the entire Price Center community, thank you for taking the lead."*

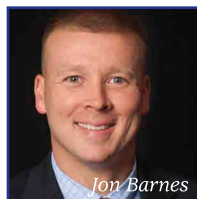
*Justin Sallaway, President*



**Allen Davis** was elected as Chair of The Center's Board of Directors in the fall 2016 after serving as a member of the Board since 2008. Al's

son Scott has been attending The Price Center for over 20 years and Al admires The Center for the way it teaches life and social skills. "Giving individuals with IDD the opportunity to develop a social network and learn life skills to the best of their ability so that they can reach their potential is at the core of our mission."

Now retired, Al had a wonderful career in finance and felt now is the time for him to "give back" to The Center for its many years of great care, nurturing and help from staff and entire Price Center community with his son. As Chair, Al plans to ensure that The Center will remain stable and self-sustaining and that both the day and residential programs will stand the test of time. "I would like to work on recruiting more corporate volunteers and Board members because I believe that is a way for us to increase various kinds of necessary resources from funding to jobs and to new leadership."



**Jon Barnes**, Vice President of Commercial Lending at Wellesley Bank, was elected to the Board this fall. "I have always been an active volunteer in the

local community. The mission, vision and values of The Price Center are ones that I deeply believe in." Jon is the father of a 13-year old daughter with special needs. "I understand firsthand the struggles, challenges, disappointments, accomplishments, and

joys that come with caring for a child with developmental and intellectual challenges. Her challenges have made me who I am today as I learned to advocate for someone who cannot do that for themselves."

He said that "you just feel good as soon as you walk in the door. Sometimes we lose sight of the little things in life, but being greeted by staff and individuals, some of whom are non-verbal, makes me feel so welcome. The place touches me." Jon is especially impressed with the sensitivity that The Price Center professionals have for the individuals with whom they work. "And who knows? Perhaps when my daughter ages out of the public school system, she will be able to become a Price Center participant. I know that she is happy and she keeps surprising us with each new accomplishment."



**Kimberley A. Train**, CPA, AVB, Partner, Commercial Business Group, DiCicco, Gulman & Company LLP (DGC) was elected Treasurer to the Board in the fall. As

Treasurer, "I believe in paying it forward. So using my accounting and finance skills in a non-profit setting is a way to give back."

Kim, as with many of the Board members, parents and volunteers commented that "The Price Center is very well-run by dedicated professionals who think creatively about solving complex problems - from policy issues to running fiscally responsible programs. The families are also highly involved, which contributes to a positive and collaborative environment. When you walk into the building you see individuals thriving. It is a wonderful thing to see such a positive impact on so many lives."

## All in the Family cont.

Lucy never thought of her big brother as having a disability and shared many of Peter's friends. After Lucy earned a degree in art, she knew that she wanted to work with individuals with disabilities. According to their mother, Jane Johnson, "Lucy has always been kind, sensitive and accepting of all kinds of people. She is extremely patient and has great respect for people who are disabled. She has learned quite a lot since joining The Price Center because it has such a diverse population".



Tony explains, "Having Lucy working here has given all of us a greater understanding of our families."

Peter began attending The Price Center at 27. He raves about the programs, staff and

special family feeling he encounters each time he walks through the doors. As a result, Lucy applied and was hired to work as a case manager in the Day

Habilitation program where she is able to incorporate some of her personal interests into her job. Currently she supports the individuals by helping them with self-care activities, motor control and assists them to become more independent. Some of the individuals that Lucy assists are beginning to deal with aging which she notes can begin earlier in people with disabilities. Each day, Lucy tracks their progress and logs it into their records so that any changes can be addressed. Lucy's work keeps her quite busy, so she rarely has time to see Peter during the day but finds comfort in knowing that he is nearby. Peter has always been an inspiration to Lucy along with his peers. Lucy sees her brother as someone with great capabilities and beams with pride when she talks about his various



Lucy and Sarah Peirce

accomplishments.

Peter began working part-time last year at O'Hara's Irish Pub in Newton. He works hard and loves interacting with the customers there.

Jane explained that Peter always wanted to live independently. She and her husband were thrilled

when Peter found a residence in Newton Highlands nearby to his work and close to Lucy's apartment. A friend of Peter's who enjoyed living in Newton Highlands and was participating at The Price Center encouraged Peter to check it out. Jane noted that "We were very impressed by the caring and respectful manner of The Price Center staff. Everyone was very professional. We are so proud of the transition that Peter made and give credit to The Price Center. We knew immediately when Peter became engaged there that he was happy and were so proud of him for getting his job (on his own) at O'Hara's."

This year, Peter will be travelling to Washington, D.C. for the first time with a group from the Massachusetts Downs Syndrome Congress and will be participating in the 2017 Buddy Walk. Peter is excited about this new opportunity because he enjoys meeting people and hopes one day to become a spokesperson that will enable him to promote a better mind set about people with Down Syndrome and others types of IDD.

## THANKS FOR 17 GREAT YEARS!

Dan Schwartz will be missed now that he has retired. "The Price Center is truly a special place. I learned a lot from the individuals I worked with and hope that they learned a lot from me." Dan knew when he came to The Price Center that he made the right choice. He impacted the lives of over 80 individuals during his 17 years working in the Community-Based Day and Employment Services programs. According to Lori Harrington, Director of the Employment Services and Community-Based Day programs, "Dan's ability to develop relationships with the participants was over the top. He just knew how to connect with them which really helped him learn how best to support them!"

Dan had many roles here over his 17 years which included job coaching, working with and supporting paid and volunteer work crews to being the Human Rights Officer and leading the program's self-advocacy and men's groups. He takes pride in knowing that some of the individuals he's helped are still working in jobs that they enjoy which have given them self-respect. According to Dan, the most rewarding aspect of his work was "to see people grow and become more confident in doing their jobs." As a job coach, Dan was responsible for ensuring that each individual could do their job.

Over the years, Dan saw people evolve and become more flexible. They adjusted to change more easily and their work taught them to be adaptable enabling them to work with a variety of people. "This is such an important skill to have in the workplace." While Dan is no longer here on a daily basis he promised to come back and visit often.



Dan Schwartz, Sarah Markowitz and David Van Goozen



Although Peter and Lucy have different roles at The Price Center, both agree that they hope that someday soon individuals will be defined and measured by their ability and not by their disability.



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Justin Sallaway  
Rick Sheehy  
Tim Taylor  
Denise Yurkofsky

THE PRICE CENTER IS  
**FABULOUS**  
& 40 

**THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2017**

Higginson Hall  
Boston Symphony Hall  
301 Massachusetts Avenue  
Boston

**5:30**  
Cocktail Reception  
with pasta stations

**6:45**  
Program

**7:45**  
Pops Concert

The Price Center invites you to celebrate 40 years  
of empowering individuals with intellectual and  
developmental disabilities to thrive!  
At the Boston POPS featuring guest artist  
*Queen Latifah*



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For tickets and sponsorships visit: [www.thepricecenter.org/fabulousand40.html](http://www.thepricecenter.org/fabulousand40.html)