

connection

NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRICE CENTER



The Price Center day programs – now all under one roof!

New Era Begins with Successful Move to New Christina Street Building.

Everyone expected big things when The Price Center announced it was moving into a new building on Christina Street. What few expected was that experience of being in the new space would actually exceed their expectations.

“It’s fabulous, it’s unbelievable,” said Peter Mahler, Chairman of The Price Center’s Board of Directors. “It’s just so great to have everybody in the same place.”

The Price Center’s administrative staff and the Day Habilitation, Intensive Day Habilitation, ASCENT, Community-Based Day, Family Support and Employment Services programs moved into the new building over the late spring and early summer from their former homes on Border Street and Rowe Street. They were recently joined by the Intensive Day Habilitation Program, which moved from Dedham.

The consensus from managers and observers was that the move went smoothly, including for the clients, who sometimes can have a difficult time managing transition and change.

Director of Employment Services Lori Harrington said staffers worked with clients over an extended period to explain and demystify the transition,

including a number of site visits to explore the new space as it was being developed.

“They were superstars in terms of the transition,” Harrington said. “We did so much training and talking, they were so ready to move that once we got here they were absolutely loving it.”

Mahler said he believes the administration and staff “did a fantastic job.”

“It’s fabulous, it’s unbelievable. It’s just so great to have everybody in the same place.”

All day programs and staff are now in the building. The conversion of the building into a fully functioning service center for people is complete.

Harrington said the new, consolidated location is already paying dividends for clients in the Community-Based Day and Employment programs. The proximity to nearby public wooded trails has allowed for the formation of

NEW BUILDING, continued on page 3

SAVE THE DATES! Price Center Homecoming Celebration Weekend

DEDICATION CEREMONY
Thursday, October 1, 5:30 PM-7:30 PM
FAMILY PICNIC & CELEBRATION
Saturday, October 3, 12:00 PM-3:00 PM

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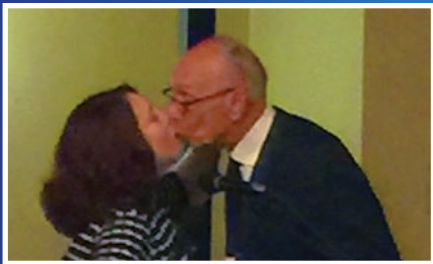
Homecoming Weekend to Spotlight TPC’s New Home

A heartfelt Homecoming Weekend in early October will kick off a new effort to weave The Price Center and its programs, clients and families into the fabric of life in Newton and the surrounding area in a more public way than ever before.

“The new building will allow more of a community relationship,” said Board Chairman Peter Mahler. “The Price Center has always been something of a secret in the City of Newton—people know the Boys & Girls Club, they know the YMCA—and that’s the name recognition we want.”

We will hold the Homecoming Weekend, including a Dedication Ceremony and Family Picnic, instead of the Annual Gala this year, so supporters can see the new facility. Publicizing the weekend will be a way to kick off a new effort to truly make the building a community gathering place as well as an asset to the area.

Dan Frank Honored with Music Fund in his Name



Michelle Fineberg thanks Dan for his years of service.

It was the perfect gift for a big-hearted man whose great loves have always included music and The Price Center.

Longtime board member Michelle Fineberg recently surprised legendary fellow board member and Annual Gala fundraiser Dan Frank at a party marking his retirement from The Fineberg Companies. Fineberg announced that The Price Center was establishing a music therapy fund in perpetuity in Dan's name to make sure that the agency's clients would always have rhythm and song as part of their care.

Fineberg said she went to The Price Center's President, Justin Sallaway, and Vice President Barry Schwartz and asked for ideas about a way to honor Dan for his contributions to the center, including playing a key role in raising more than \$8 million through the Annual Gala.

"I wanted to do something that would immortalize Dan," Michelle Fineberg said. "Justin and Barry said they thought this was something that would be great because the state does not reimburse for music therapy and it needs its own funding source."

Dan Frank himself said he was "so overwhelmed" in the moment that he almost couldn't speak.

"I was just so thrilled by the evening," he said. "It (The Price Center) is just an amazing operation that supports amazing people."

Frank returned Fineberg's compliments, calling her an "unbelievable person, who doesn't know the word defeat. If I had a daughter, I would want her to be Michelle."

The party honoring Frank was held in style at the The Holiday Inn in Brookline, a fitting venue given that it was the site of many spectacular Annual Galas and fundraising successes.

"Between the two of them, they have been the fundraising lifeblood of The Price Center for the past 20 years," said Board Chairman Peter Mahler. "Without those two we would have never gotten our new facility."

President's Perspective



I am happy to say that by the time you receive this newsletter, phase one of the renovations at our new Christina Street Building will be complete. Since the last

newsletter, The Price Center has moved all three of its day programs into our new building. No move is ever seamless, but at this point it looks like we have accomplished the move with a minimum of disruption. This is primarily due to the time staff spent anticipating potential problems and planning for the move.

As I have mentioned in previous newsletters, we are running a Capital Campaign to help us pay for the building. We are informing all the families of individuals we serve and other major supporters about the key naming opportunities available. There are a large variety of funding opportunities at many gift levels, and they are payable over a 3-5 year period. There are also opportunities to combine gifts from families and friends.

Our ability to bring in significant funding through this campaign will allow us over the long term to spend less on our facility costs and more on improving the services we can offer to individuals

attending our programs. It will also make the Center more fiscally healthy over the long term. We already have about \$1.5 million given and pledged to the campaign. We hope to raise \$4 million total.

This is a transformative time at The Price Center, and the new facility will allow us to do much more to support the community. As a way to show the new building and make the community aware of the services The Price Center offers, we have scheduled an open house and Dedication Ceremony for Thursday, October 1st from 5:30 to 7:30 at 25-27 Christina St. In addition to the dedication there will be hors d'oeuvres and tours of the new facility.

We also will be having a family picnic on Saturday, October 3rd from 12 noon to 3 pm. Tours of the new building will also be given at this time. Please let everyone you think might be interested know about both events. Everyone is welcome.

Thanks for all your help,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Sallaway". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Justin Sallaway
President

ASCENT Clients Reach New Heights with Service Partners

By partnering with a number of outside groups, The Price Center's ASCENT (Advocacy, Social Skills, Career Exploration, Networking and Transitions) Program is helping teens and young adults push their boundaries and expand their view of the world and what's possible.

The Museum of Fine Arts

ASCENT Director Karen Manning said the MFA is working with The Price Center on monthly explorations to different parts of the museum, helping clients appreciate various forms of art. Contrary to fears that the clients might find the museum boring, Manning said they find it "fascinating" and the museum staff has done a great job preparing specialized materials to help the ASCENT group appreciate the exhibits they see. This included preparing special materials—like a scaled-down version of a giant styrofoam sculpture—for client Andrew Snyder, who is sight-impaired. ASCENT has also worked recently with

another arts program, **Ask for Art**, that brings hands-on art activities to The Price Center.

Waypoint Adventure

Waypoint is a non-profit educational organization founded in 2010 that uses experiential and adventure-based programs to enhance the lives of people with disabilities. Manning said Waypoint is helping ASCENT clients do "things like kayaking, climbing, rope courses. It's really been inspirational for everyone here. The clients really end up seeing themselves in a different light."

Lasell College

Manning said the college and The Price Center have developed a strong partnership over the years, with student volunteers participating in a mentorship program and other activities, including regular dances and the recent Fashion Show. "They see us as a partner, which is great," Manning said.

New Salah Foundation Matching Grant to Aid Residential and ASCENT

The Salah Foundation, which supports nonprofit organizations in the United States that strengthen families and communities, has awarded a second matching grant to The Price Center that will support the ASCENT and Residential programs.

The Price Center's President, Justin Sallaway, said that the Massachusetts-based foundation, whose

mission is also to help individuals to become productive and responsible citizens, has pledged \$75,000 in the new grant.

Roughly one half of the grant will pay for a new passenger van for the residential home at 1765 Washington Street, while the other half will be used for the ASCENT Program. The grant will match

funds donated to The Price Center for any reason, as long as they are received before June 30, 2016.

The Salah Foundation previously awarded a \$50,000 matching grant to The Price Center, which was directed to the Intensive Day Habilitation and ASCENT Programs.

NEW BUILDING, *continued from page 1*

two new morning walking groups, and a new morning yoga group has been founded thanks to the additional indoor space.

"The added space is really amazing," Harrington said. "It allows us to have different programming and different groups going on at the same time without people being on top of one another."

The new building and the consolidation of programs, has also provided opportunities for employment and training. Harrington's group is responsible for supply stock-up for virtually all the other programs in the building, making twice-weekly runs to Costco and BJs Wholesale Club. "We pick up, deliver it, and stock it. They're responsible for the whole process," she said.

ASCENT Director Karen Manning said the new building is allowing her program to build a stronger identity.

"We have a dedicated space for our own class, so we can finally design it to the liking our our young people," Manning said. "The previous space was oriented much more to Day Habilitation than it was to teenagers. Now they can put up photos from their activities and really make the space their own, which is important to teens. It's also great having their own refrigerator."

Christina Street's newest, the Intensive Day Habilitation clients, have also responded well to the new space and the staff appreciates working with updated equipment, including new lifts, Director Eileen Nee said.

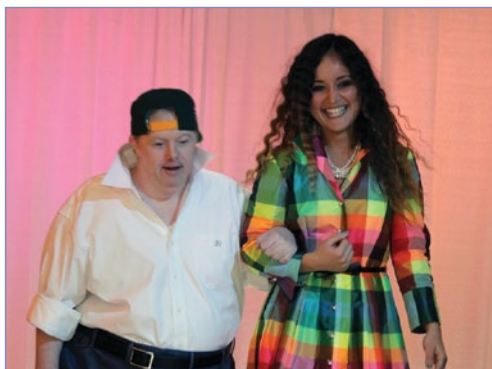
"The new building is bigger, it's brighter, and there are more windows. We have some people

for whom having that light and a window view is really important," Nee said. "And having more space in general is just wonderful."

Nee also said her program has already benefitted greatly from being neighbors with Day Habilitation. Intensive Day Habilitation receives daily visits from Day Hab clients, which Nee said clients seem to appreciate greatly. Staff from the two programs have also already been able to observe and learn from one another. Finally, she said having the two programs in the same building is helping convince new client families that The Price Center is the right place for them.

"When referrals come in show them multiple different environments and it really helps them get a sense of what might be exactly the right place for their loved one," Nee said.

What's Going on at The Price Center



Top left to right: Andrew Pounds enjoying the ropes course while out with Waypoint Adventures.

Chuck Flynn escorts Nicole Mello, dressed by fashion designer Sara Campbell, at our fashion show in April.

Kunal Sharma escorts Lucy, our youngest fashion show model.

Bottom left to right: Longtime favorites the G-Clefs recently entertained clients in the Day Habilitation Program at The Price Center's new Christina Street headquarters.

Lori Harrington, Director of Employment Services/CBDS, and Lauren Shaughnessy of Synageva Biopharma don matching floral outfits for their walk down the runway.



Price Center Fashion Show with Sarah Campbell a Runway Success

The first public event at The Price Center's new Christina Street home, a fashion show with clients, staff and friends of the agency modeling designs by fashion designer Sara Campbell, was a huge hit thanks to help from Lasell College Professor Hector Iweka's marketing students, who helped plan and run the event.



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Fresh starts in Residential Program

Carpenters' hammers and the summer sun have helped transform a once-cramped room in The Price Center's residence at 13-15 Wiltshire Road into a lovely, airy living space with loads of natural light.

Carpenters' hammers and the summer sun have helped transform a once-cramped room...into a lovely, airy living space with loads of natural light.

House Manager Rebecca Starr said that resident Suzy Timmins is excited about the renovation, which doubled her living space to 11 feet by 14 feet, with polished hardwood floors and a lovely lilac paint that Suzy picked herself. Staff have also helped her choose a new bedroom set.

"She's over the moon," Starr said. "It's incredibly exciting for her."

The Wiltshire Road renovation was supported with

a \$23,190 grant from the City of Newton and included new windows and a new heating system. The Price Center invested \$13,500, mostly for the bedroom expansion and a small, tastefully-finished workout room that will house a treadmill so the residents can exercise.

Meanwhile, there's a new resident at 1765 Washington Street, one that house manager John McDonald says has made a real difference in the lives of the men who live there.

"It's a vegetable steamer," McDonald said. "About six months ago we really started trying to bring in more vegetables and fresh food to replace junk food."

McDonald said the change has been gradual, with staff first substituting fresh fruit and yogurt for the chocolate cookies or chips the residents used to have for their afternoon snack after they returned from work. Now fresh vegetables are also increasingly integrated into as many daily means as possible.



Suzy's new room is ready for her to move in

The effort has paid dividends at the doctor's office, McDonald said, with most of the residents showing a weight loss of 5 pounds or more. "It's one thing we can do for them, so we're happy to do it," he said.