

connection

NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRICE CENTER



Bernadette Peters

Superstar Bernadette Peters to Headline Annual Gala

This year's annual Price Center Gala won't be the same old "Song and Dance."

Broadway legend Bernadette Peters will headline the fall extravaganza, to be held Oct. 5 at the Boston Marriott Copley Place.

Accompanied by a 10-piece orchestra, the Tony Award-winning stage and screen superstar will perform familiar classics and pieces from the Great American Songbook. Peters, who has earned several Grammy Awards and a Golden Globe during her illustrious career, and has been featured on the new NBC TV series *Smash*, wowed this season's opening-night crowd at Boston Pops.

The redheaded beauty has long championed humanitarian and social service causes, and will receive the American Theatre Wings Isabelle Stevenson Award for her charitable efforts on June 10.

The night will also honor James T. Brett, CEO of The New England Council. Brett, a longtime activist for people with intellectual disabilities, is chair of the state's Commission on Intellectual Disability.

“Accompanied by a 10-piece orchestra, the Tony Award-winning stage and screen superstar will perform familiar classics and pieces from the Great American Songbook.”

Last year, President Barack Obama appointed him chair of The President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities. The night will also feature the Boston-based Soul Group, The G-Clefs.

800 guests are expected to attend The Price Center Gala, the primary fundraiser for the agency's extensive range of programs for people with disabilities. Since its beginning, the Gala has raised more than \$5.5 million.

The 22nd Annual Price Center Gala will be held at the Boston Marriott Copley Place, 110 Huntington Ave., Boston. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m., and the show begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are available by calling (781)239-1480 or online at www.thepricecenter.org.



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The Price Center's new location at 77 Rowe Street.

MOVING UP! On The Move!

The Price Center recently relocated to 77 Rowe St., a move prompted, in large part, by the expanding Employment Services program.

"There's a lot of excitement. We want to give everybody the good news," said Price Center president Justin Sallaway. "They were getting packed like sardines at both of the other sites, and we needed to do something."

The January move, which happened with the generosity of an anonymous donor, was not only a matter of logistics. It was also about location, location, location!

Sallaway said the new building is only a short walk to Auburndale Village, a neighborhood with great potential for participants in Employment Services.

ON THE MOVE, continued on page 3



Gail Gordon



Debbie Bernabei and Subba Vernaker



Michelle Fineberg



Sandhya Sharma

Dial D for Donors

Volunteers rang up past donors during a March phone-a-thon devoted to helping The Price Center achieve its annual campaign goal.

Twenty three family and board members, friends and staff came together on three separate nights to personally ask donors to renew their support. Thank you calls were also made to current donors for gifts made this year.

"Callers worked hard," said Lois Cohen, director of development, " but the evenings were fun and uplifting." A strong sense of camaraderie and doing something important for our clients kept everyone's energy high. And the group was well fed thanks to dinner donations from Michelle Fineberg. Thank you to everyone who participated. Your efforts generated 95 pledges and raised \$7,140.

President's Perspective



In this issue we are highlighting Employment Services. We are proud of our highly ranked program, especially the high quality of our staff members. One addition to our Employment offerings

is a new community-based day program, which focuses on independent living skills as well as employment. This option will help individuals who are not able to work full-time. Our hiring of Rebecca Lynch as Business Development Specialist is another major change which will help individuals find jobs in the community.

This year we have seen a restructuring of available employment funding possibilities through the Department of Developmental Services, the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, and Newton's Community Development Block Grant Program. Although we expect reductions (due to federal budget cuts) from both the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission and the Community Development Block Grant Program, we continue to work creatively with participants to support independent work in the community. On May 4, The Price Center was part of an event at the Newton Free Library advocating against the federal cuts in the Block Grant Program.

Our development department has been extremely active during the past few months. We held three phone-a-thons this spring where volunteers called recent donors to update them about Center programs. We also just completed a new video about The Price Center, which we will use to inform supporters and donors about the great work going on here.

Going into the summer, we are already planning our family picnic, to be held at the Auburndale Cove on June 20 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. This has been a great way for families to meet and reconnect with each other.

I am happy to announce that Bernadette Peters, star of Broadway and film, will be our featured performer at this year's Gala. Mark your calendars for October 5. This year, we are moving the event to the Copley Marriott in Boston to accommodate a larger audience. We could use your help in spreading the word on what will be a memorable night.

Thank you for your great support of the work we do.

Sincerely,

Justin Sallaway
President



Welcome New Staff

The Price Center recognizes the outstanding work of its employment services staff and welcomes several new staffers* this year.

Front Row (left to right): Lori Harrington, Director of Employment Services; Deborah Reynolds, Job Coach; Laurie Rebello, Program Manager/Vocational Assessor. Back Row: Jaclyn O'Brien, Employment Coordinator*; Adam Magrini, Job Coach*; Dan Schwartz, Job Coach/Contract Administrator; Sarah Smith, Vocational Skills Instructor*; Melinda Teplow, Job Coach*; Rebecca Lynch, Business Development Specialist*



Lori Harrington

DIRECTOR'S CUT

> Interview with Lori Harrington *Director of Employment Services*

The Price Center recently moved its offices to 77 Rowe St., Newton — a relocation prompted, in large part, by an expansion of the Employment Services program. How is ES growing?

We were bursting at the seams, but we also needed the ability to get all aspects of the program together under one roof. We needed to utilize the staff, and give more opportunities for our people in the community. I want opportunities for our group enclave work, our subcontractors, and for our individuals. I want everyone making money."

What is "Work Smart?"

We say, 'Work smart, make money.' It's about being smart about your environment, how you handle yourself, about everything that involves working. It's teaching people to work, and learning to take care of yourself to do what's right for you.

You have more than 25 years experience in this field. What is your greatest struggle today?

There has been this constant challenge of getting information about the people we serve to businesses, and getting the world and the community to understand who they are and what they are capable of doing.

For whom do your participants work?

We have relationships with many businesses including the Franklin Park Zoo, Trader Joe's, General Dynamics, West Suburban YMCA, Target, Sloan Valve and Carroll Center for the Blind. Our focus is getting our people out in the community.

Can you share a success story?

We have a young man with autism who started working at Walgreens a year ago. It took a lot of training to prepare him for the job, and, for a couple of months, we were there for every eight hour shift. He has to run the register, answer the phones, process checks and credit cards, coupons, gift cards, and answer questions about the store. He's working very successfully. He's had two manager changes since he's been there, and he really is amazing.

ON THE MOVE, *continued from page 1*

Director Lori Harrington hopes area businesses will take advantage of having potential employees nearby at The Price Center (www.thepricecenter.org).

"There are lots of businesses there for people to find jobs at," said Sallaway.

Visitors to the Rowe St. space will find bustling offices inside a brick building that Sallaway said evokes "more of a business environment" — one that will have a positive influence on participants.

"It's good for people to be exposed to, and to set expectations for people about what it's like to work in the business world," he said.

Sallaway hopes the new address will bring supporters and donors in for a look at the great strides Employment Services participants are making.

"We want them to know where we are. We want them to come visit us," he said.



The Price Center's new location at 77 Rowe Street.

Program-at-a-Glance

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Developing employment opportunities that take clients into the community.

77 Rowe Street, Suite 200
Newton, MA 02466
Phone: 617-244-0065

Number of Clients served: 25

Number of Clients employed: 25

Staff: 9

Staff-to-client ratio: 1:2.8

SERVICES

- Career exploration
- Job skills assessment
- Job training and on-the-job coaching
- Individual Employment
- Group Employment
- Business Support

PROGRAM GOALS

- Meaningful work in the community
- Independence
- Building relationships

3 Easy Ways to Give

CHECK: made payable to The Barry L. Price Rehabilitation Center

ONLINE: www.thepricecenter.org

CREDIT CARD: please call the office and ask for Jo

Giving appreciated securities is less expensive than writing a check!

Questions? Please contact Lois Cohen, Director of Development
lcohen@barrypricecenter.org
617-244-0065

MATCHING GIFTS

are a good way to double or even triple the value of your gift. Ask your employer if they have a matching gifts program and make your gift really count!



Chris DiSabato working at his job at Paddy's Pub in West Newton

We recognized several exceptional staff members for outstanding work at the Center's holiday party. Congratulations to the honorees:

President's Award for overall contributions and genuine support to The Price Center — **Joanmarie Franco**, Director, Residential Services

Achievement Award for outstanding contribution to individuals supported by The Price Center — **Carolyn Lembo**, Case Manager, Newton Day Habilitation

Service Award for a significant contribution to a program, The Price Center, or the field of mental retardation — **Laurie Rebello**, Program Manager, Employment Services

Dedication Award for devotion and loyalty through many years of service to The Price Center — **Raymond Matthews**, Case Manager, Dedham Day Habilitation

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