

# connection

NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRICE CENTER



Dr. William Holmes and Mary Holmes



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## Close to Their Hearts, Close to Their Homes

It may look like any other stately Georgian on a quiet, leafy street in Brookline, but The Price Center's Humanity House, located in Coolidge Corner, is not just a comfortable place to call home for the ten men and women who live there. It's a true sanctuary to the many families whose disabled loved ones have come to thrive there.

"Humanity House is a tremendous gift to the clients and families it serves," reports Dr. William Holmes, retired President of Simmons College and father of Mary Holmes, a longtime resident, "because living with and caring for an adult child with disabilities can be terribly isolating and demanding for families trying to manage it on their own."

The residential programs and support services provided by The Price Center offer community-based living and greater independence to 22 disabled adults in a total of four homes in the Boston area.

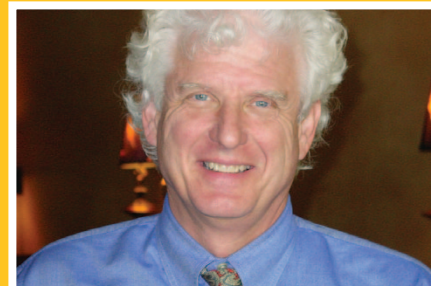
Cofounded nearly 30 years ago by Dr. Holmes' late wife, Joanne, as well as Ellen and Morris Gordon, among others, Humanity House has been operated by The Price Center for the last 14 years. "When The Price Center took over operation of the home, we were apprehensive at first," recalls Dr. Holmes. "But the quality of its management and the quality of

its staff were apparent right away. And that quality and care have remained consistently high ever since. That really makes all the difference."

In Mary Holmes' case, it has made the difference between illness and health, between isolation and social wellbeing, according to her father. "Mary talks more in the last five years than at anytime in her life," observes Dr. Holmes. "There were earlier periods when she was quite withdrawn. She didn't want to get out of bed in the morning. She went through a phase of talking only to herself. But I think The Price Center's staff taking excellent care of her and truly relating to her have helped Mary realize that talking to people can be rewarding, and that having friendships can bring happiness."

"Now, Mary seems to be very friendly with everyone. She knows all the residents and staff by name. She greets them. She spends time socializing with them. My wife and I used to joke that Mary had a better social life than we did."

"Those of us who've made a commitment to The Price Center can see the good that's being done and know the impact it has in the lives of individuals and families touched by disability."



## Quality Counts with Loyal Donor Tim Taylor

For Tim Taylor, Managing Trustee of the Clark Charitable Trust, the decision to support The Price Center's residential living programs has been a simple one: "It's the most deserving, most remarkable organization providing services to adults with disabilities that I've ever encountered," he observes. "Frankly, no social service agency has caused me to give more."

An attorney in private practice and manager of a family trust that awards more than \$200,000 most years to worthy organizations, Taylor fields scores of requests each year and prefers to make recurring grants to a carefully selected portfolio of non-profits. The Clarke Charitable Trust has been an annual benefactor of The Price Center since 2006.

"I am very, very picky," Taylor avers, "But The Price Center qualifies in every regard. The leadership, the staff, the quality of services are just far, far above average. That's why I continue to support the work of The Price Center year after year."



Auburndale Residence



Auburndale Residence



Humanity House, Brookline



Nonantum Residence

## President's Perspective



In this issue we are proud to highlight The Price Center's highly ranked residential programs and staff. I encourage you to learn more about our residential services in this newsletter and contact us to find out how you might help support these programs, which we are working diligently to sustain in the current budgetary climate.

*"... we have begun collaborating with younger families to develop creative ways of helping individuals live independently in the community."*

To that end, our development program has been quite active this year, recently holding two successful phonathons. We have redesigned our website to allow us to better communicate with prospective families seeking services. Looking to the future of our residential programs, we have begun collaborating with younger families to develop creative ways of helping individuals live independently in the community. A partnership with the Newton Housing Authority is also being explored.

In addition to our efforts to secure funding for our residential programs, we are working tirelessly for level funding for our Day Habilitation programs. We have advocated against proposed state budget cuts, which would reduce Day Habilitation rates to where they were 10 years ago, and erode the quality of care we can provide. In February, more than 400 people showed up at the hearing on Day Habilitation rates. That initiative resulted in the postponing of the scheduled 4% rate reduction. We are hoping, with continued advocacy, to prevent the cut altogether.

As spring turns to summer, we are planning our family picnic at the Auburndale Cove on June 22. This has been a great way for families to connect. We also have a date for the upcoming gala: Friday, September 23. I hope to see all of you there. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the work we do.

Sincerely,

**Justin Sallaway**  
President

## Staff Corner



"There isn't a day we don't walk out of here knowing we've made a difference in someone's life."

That's how Joanmarie Franco, Director of Residential Services, describes the rewards of working with the residents served by The Price Center's group homes.

"A lot of people think all we provide is housing," says Joanmarie. "But we really give the disabled adults we work with more than a safe place to call

home. We give them a community. And we help them gain the skills they need for independent living. We teach them to handle their finances, help them socialize, encourage them to stay connected and active, to participate in things like the Special Olympics."

Adults as young as 25 and as old as 70 live in the four residences The Price Center operates in Newton and Brookline. Humanity House, The Price Center's Brookline residence, creates a "haven" for people with special needs, according to House Manager Curtis Perry. "Having a home here helps people realize their full potential and to live a full life. But not alone. In a community."

To find out more about The Price Center's residential living services, please contact Joanmarie Franco at [jfranco@barrypricecenter.org](mailto:jfranco@barrypricecenter.org).

# A MOTHER'S INSIGHT: INTERVIEW WITH RITA SHEEHY



Linda Sheehy and Rita Sheehy

## Why did you choose a Price Center home for your family member?

**Rita Sheehy:** To be honest, we never really considered a residential program for Linda. The plan was always that she would live at home with me and, when the time came, her older sister would care for her. But this opportunity came up at the Wiltshire Road residence about five years ago. I wasn't keen, at first, on her going. Even though I sat on the board of The Price Center and knew the great work they do. It was a matter of letting go, I guess. Linda had been attending the Newton Day Habilitation program for years though, and after being asked a few times, she just decided she would go ahead and give it a try.

## How has living in a Price Center residence changed your daughter's life?

**Rita Sheehy:** As far as daily living, Linda has really learned to take care of all of her personal needs. She may be developmentally delayed, but she's really very capable. She

makes her own bed and has responsibilities around the house. She helps clean up after dinner, puts away the dishes. And one thing that she never did at home—her laundry—she does do for herself at her residence on Wiltshire Road!

In addition to the life skills she's gained, Linda has formed some wonderful relationships with the staff and the other residents. Linda has bonded very well with all of them. The staff takes her out to have her nails done. They go out to eat. They've gotten Linda involved in track and basketball through Newton's recreation programs. The staff is just very caring, very responsive, very involved with the residents. That's more important than anything else. The clients know when someone really cares for them.

## How has your family benefited from The Price Center's residential programs?

**Rita Sheehy:** Living in a Price Center residence, Linda enjoys the advantages of being more independent and having a fuller social life, but because she's only a mile from my home, she doesn't miss any of our family celebrations and we can remain close. At The Price Center, Linda can live in a caring community with four other adults Monday to Friday. And then she can come home to a close family just down the road on Saturday and Sunday. We get the best of both worlds.

## Program-at-a-Glance: Residential Living Services



**Ranked #1** by the Massachusetts  
Department of Developmental Services survey



Community-based Residential Living for Adults  
with Developmental Disabilities.

Director: Joanmarie Franco  
130 Rumford Avenue, Suite 106  
Auburndale, MA 02466  
617-244-0065

**Number of Residences: 4**

**Number of Clients Served: 22**

**Staff: 30**

**Average Length of Service: 2.5 years**

### SERVICES

- Safe and healthy living environment
- Professionally staffed 24 hours/day
- Assistance with personal care
- Training in daily living and social skills
- Transportation to appointments and social activities

### PROGRAM GOALS

- Foster independence and self-sufficiency
- Community inclusion
- Staff retention

## SAVE THE DATES

### Please Join Us!

#### Family Picnic

Wednesday, June 22, 2011  
Auburndale Cove, Newton

#### The Price Center 21st Annual Gala

Friday, September 23, 2011  
Holiday Inn, Brookline

#### Border Street Picnic

Friday, September 30, 2011  
38 Border Street, Newton

# GIVING 2011

## Plan Your Legacy with The Price Center

Most of us, if given the chance, would like to leave a lasting legacy to show that our lives have made a difference. One of the easiest ways to provide an abiding gift of support to The Price Center is through your will or estate plan. You can name The Price Center as a beneficiary of a portion of your estate or of particular assets in your estate. Many of the most powerful gifts with an enduring impact have been bequests. To learn more, please contact Lois Cohen, Director of Development, at 617-244-0065 or email [lcohen@barrypricecenter.org](mailto:lcohen@barrypricecenter.org).



## Words of Wisdom

Submitted by Joshua Nichols

“It takes courage not only to make decisions, but to live with those decisions afterward.”

**Mike Krzyzewski**  
Duke University  
Men's Basketball Coach

## THE PRICE CENTER PROGRAMS

- ASCENT
- Day Habilitation
- Intensive Day Habilitation
- Employment
- Residential
- Family Support

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*The Individual is Our Focus*

