

connection

NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRICE CENTER

New Building To Be Named in Honor of Fineberg Family



Jerry and Michelle Fineberg

At The Price Center there is no name more important than Fineberg. The family of Gerald, Gwen, Michelle, Gary and Adam Fineberg were one of the founding families who have always stepped forward to ensure the Center has been and always will be a vibrant, compassionate home for those who depend on it daily. In honor of their unwavering - and at times crucial - support over almost four decades, The Price Center will name its new Christina Street facility the "Fineberg Building."

"This is a way for us to show them how much they are truly appreciated," said Price Center President Justin Sallaway. *"When The Price Center was first starting out, it went through some times when things were very tight, and the Finebergs were always there to make sure it survived. Thank God we are healthy now and we have them to thank."*



Dan Frank and Gwen Fineberg

Back in the late 1970s, Jerry and Gwen Fineberg were part of a group of five families looking for a place for their young adult children, who all had intellectual disabilities and who were aging out of school-based services to spend their days. The families decided to start a work program, which grew into what The Price Center is today - a comprehensive, full-service resource that helps people with disabilities achieve their full potential as valued and productive members of the community.

"It's just so wonderful," Jerry Fineberg said of the new building that will bear his family's name. *"The Center finally got a place where they can do everything that they do so well. It just makes you proud."*

Over the years, there were times along the way when The Price Center was so dangerously low on funds, it was threatened with closure. The millions raised by the Finebergs and their friends made sure that never happened.

"My parents made sure they not only they helped, but they got their family and friends to help as well," said daughter Michelle Fineberg, who would become a Board member herself and chair of the Annual Gala. *"If they hadn't, the outcome might have been different. The Price Center is where it is today because of that."*

Jerry Fineberg credits Michelle, Gwen, longtime friend Dan Frank, and many other family friends and the employees of the family's commercial real estate firm, the Fineberg Companies, for making fundraising a group effort. His secret to getting people to give, he said, was to get them to visit The Price Center to see the amazing work being done. *"As soon as they saw the Center and talked to some of the clients, we knew they got it,"* he said.



Adam Fineberg

Looking back, Jerry said he has so many wonderful memories of The Price Center that it's hard to know where to start. He cites the spectacular, star-studded Annual Galas, lunchtime concerts at the center with the incomparable G-Clefs

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You are making dreams come true at The Price Center!

Thank you to our generous donors for helping to make The Price Center's new home at 25-27 Christina Street a reality!

To date, through the generosity of numerous family members, friends, foundations and business, you've raised \$2,356,565 together toward our goal of \$4,000,000.

Many donors have chosen to honor or memorialize a Price Center family member, friend, colleague, organization or business with a named space in the new building. There are several great opportunities still available for you to make your gift and honor someone of your choosing.

Donors who have made gifts of \$5,000 or more will be recognized on the Capital Campaign Giving Wall to be featured inside The Price Center's main entrance. In addition donors who make gifts of \$10,000 or more will have the opportunity to have a special plaque hung with a message of their choosing by their named space in the new building.

Gifts at any level are welcome with multi-year pledges available for gifts of \$2,500 or more. Contact Debra Bergman, Director of Development at dbergman@thepricecenter.org or 617-244-0065 x1008 to make your gift or learn more.

Drumming Group Spreads Infectious Joy at Day Hab



Everyone marches to their own personal beat. This may explain why the weekly Drumming Group at The Price Center is such a huge, joyful hit.



"It's very popular," said Day Habilitation Director Tony Concannon. "It's a great activity because it cuts across the whole program and doesn't depend on mobility or communication skills."

The group, which brings together clients from the Day Habilitation and Intensive Day Habilitation programs, is run by staffers Thirtza Dorval and Reuben Giwa.



President's Perspective

With April's arrival, The Price Center is celebrating its first year of occupancy in our Christina Street building. It has been a busy year of adjustments and tweaking, but we are finally at a point where things are running smoothly. As you've seen from the cover article, the board of directors has chosen to name the building for the Fineberg Family in honor of all the support the family has given The Price Center over the past forty years. It is great to see their consistent and true support recognized!

The longstanding support of the Finebergs and other founding families has kept the organization vibrant over the years. With the increasing numbers of individuals being served in the new building, it has been gratifying to see the new families getting involved and keeping the tradition of this support going strong.

We are grateful to everyone who has contributed to the Capital Campaign as we move closer toward the completion of the campaign we still need your support. In June, we will be hanging plaques to recognize the generosity of the donors to the Capital Campaign. There are still a significant number of naming opportunities available. Please contact Debra Bergman or myself for additional information on how you can support the campaign with a gift that can also honor or memorialize a loved one.

The move to Christina Street has been the catalyst for a myriad of growth. Employment Services has seen a dramatic increase in the number of new individuals seeking services with over fifteen new individuals having been placed in jobs over the past year. Community-Based Day Services has expanded its array of options for individuals including those on the

Autism Spectrum who need more structured programming. The new fitness and art rooms are filled on a daily basis with individuals from all the programs enjoying activities like drumming, music therapy, pet therapy and a Zen group to name a few.

In a highly competitive healthcare and human services market, it is critical that we ensure our individuals are receiving the best care possible. Every three years The Price Center engages in a CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) survey. We are proud to report that once again The Price Center passed with flying colors. The surveyors recently completed their evaluation giving high commendations for the services provided by the Center along with a three year certification, stating that *"The culture of The Price Center is based on personalized services and customer service to all stakeholders."*

With many of the goals of the last strategic plan completed, we are preparing a new strategic planning cycle beginning with a Board and staff retreat. In order to ensure that all our stakeholders have input to the planning process, we encourage you to attend the upcoming program family meetings to share your suggestions and recommendations. Of course I am always available to meet individually, if you cannot attend the meetings.

As we celebrate the one year anniversary of our moving into our new home I want to personally thank everyone for all the work they put into the exceptionally smooth the transition for our individuals, especially the staff and volunteers. The accomplishments of the past year make me very proud of The Price Center community. We couldn't have achieved so much without your commitment to the individuals we serve! Thank you.

Justin Sallawa

Co-workers Call Kurt Schemmel Mr. Indispensable



Kurt Schemmel has been a valued employee at General Dynamics for 19 years. *"Kurt has a very strong work ethic, work is very important to him. Even when he's sick he has to be convinced to stay home,"* shared Lori Harrington, Director of Employment Services. When word came that General Dynamics was moving their local operations from Needham to Westwood the big question was what would happen to Kurt? He had been happily working in the cafeteria greeting customers, wiping trays and keeping

Andrew Pounds Finds His Way with ASCENT



Andrew Pounds and Sarah Markowitz

Twenty year old Andrew Pounds has always had an active creative imagination, a love of maps and an interest in history, especially Roman history. He even created a whole world with maps featuring Albemaria, Horace Mainia and Fessendenia where Fessendenia is at war with Albemaria which he shared at last year's Talent Show. While his creativity and imagination impresses many it used to be the place where Andrew went to deal with stress. That has all changed since attending The Price Center's ASCENT (Advocacy, Social Skills, Career Exploration, Networking and Transitions) program which has helped him recognize when he starts going into that imaginary place and has given him tools to work through his stresses. "He is now able to acknowledge and deal with his feelings" explained his mother, Karen Pounds.

Engaging socially had always been a challenge for Andrew so when he came for his first visit in 2013 and the group was doing yoga he found it difficult to connect and only stayed for about 20 minutes. The next time he came for a visit, the group was having a Valentine's Day party and he stayed longer. Now he's up to 2.5 days a week.

Skill building is very important aspect of ASCENT with self-advocacy being one of its central themes. When Andrew attended one his first ASCENT meetings he encountered a young man in the group. Wondering if he might be blind, he asked Karen Manning, the Director of ASCENT. She in turn said the young man could answer for himself which he did. Empowering Andrew to ask helped the two to get to know each other and now they are the best of friends.

In order to help Andrew stay focused and on track the ASCENT staff came up with the idea of integrating Andrew's passion for history into his behavioral program and began using replica Roman coins as a reward for things like keeping his phone in his pocket, staying with the group, and being respectful of others. He has since transitioned to using a point system where he can earn gift cards to Starbucks or Uno's for his positive behavior. "It just helps me to keep cooperating. At some points I have to be reminded about the points but then I'm back on track".



Andrew Pounds and Andrew Schneider

Karen Pounds credits The Price Center for working with her son as an individual and helping him make significant strides. Andrew said he feels ready for the future. "The biggest difference I see is that I have a lot of pride." He even joined ASCENT's Self Advocacy Program and last fall was one of the presenters at The Mass Advocates Standing Strong Conference in Marlborough. "Self-advocacy to me is something that is very important because people really need to stand up for their ideals. There are two things that we really need to remember are important: truth and ideals."

"Independence is a big challenge for Andrew. He's definitely more independent. The Price Center is wonderful; Andrew has come so far in the program. Karen and the staff have been so willing to meet him where he is and help him make strides." Both Andrew and his mother highly recommend ASCENT.

SCHEMMELE, *continued*

the area tidy. With the move to Westwood there would no longer be a cafeteria so Lars Knakkegaard, his employment coach at The Price Center, started helping him look for other new jobs outside of General Dynamics.

But Kurt's co-workers had other ideas. Several of them contacted The Price Center and said Kurt had become such an important part of their work community, he simply had to go with them! "His co-workers stuck up for him," Lori Harrington explained. "We aren't going unless Kurt is going."

The first order of business was to find Kurt a new job at General Dynamics. Instead of one cafeteria, there were now multiple break rooms on each floor that needed stocking and cleaning so a new job was created for Kurt.

But there were new hurdles to conquer. The new building was further away from the residential

program in Belmont where Kurt lives, meaning he would have to take two trips on "The Ride" to get to work instead of one; doubling his daily travel time and expenses" just to get back and forth to work. Understanding how important Kurt's job is to him and how valued he is at General Dynamics The Price Center team worked their magic and once again came up with a solution. They arranged for Kurt to ride part way on the transportation van to The Price Center and then take "The Ride" to Westwood. Now Kurt not only saves money, but spends extra time at The Price Center, allowing staff to work with him more closely ensuring his continued success at work.

The transition wasn't easy for 43-year-old Kurt, but his parents, Judy and Franz Schemmel, credit his Price Center job coaches with helping him through the transition to the new job. "He's adjusting pretty well. He's excited and he's proud."

Development Call to Action

Our Community Thrives Because You Care!

Your support and generosity truly make a difference!

You are the reason that Andrew, Kurt and the individuals who depend on The Price Center for their daily activities, life skills support and personal growth are able to thrive.

Your generosity helps transform the lives of individuals with intellectual and development disabilities enabling them to achieve their greatest potential.

To make a gift or learn more about how you can help empower more individuals to reach beyond their limits and achieve their full abilities visit www.thepricecenter.org/donate.

Thank you!



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among those memories. But perhaps most important, he said, was just having peace of mind knowing that his son Adam has a place where he is loved and valued. *"It's such a wonderful place and people really have a home there. Once when Adam didn't feel that well, we gave him the choice to stay home, to go to temple or to go to work at The Price Center. He chose to go to work at The Price Center. I remember one time after he came out of the hospital he was so excited to be there he ran through the parking lot yelling "Adam back! Adam back!"*

"There are no words I could put to it," he said. "Going there is his thing. He feels he has a place."

Justin Sallaway said that while the building will bear the Fineberg name, there are still other naming opportunities and further fundraising needs. The Capital Campaign, for example, is still \$1.5 million short of its \$4 million overall goal.

Jerry Fineberg said he hopes people will continue to generously support The Price Center well into the future.

"It's always got to go one step further," he said. "They are always coming up with new ideas on how to better care for people with disabilities and we need to support that."



Above left - Marian Irwin and Leah Pappalardo making egg baskets with candy to celebrate spring



Above right - Benjamin Majewski making an Eagle for Patriots Day



Right - Ned Reichenbach performing at the ASCENT Talent Show