

Formerly NWW Committee



## **Fall Newsletter**

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## **Resilience Shines Through Dark Times**

Written by: **Keavy Smith, MSW, LICSW**Chief Clinical Officer

On Friday, March 13th, the weekly day programs that our residents attend, closed. This was a day that will forever be engrained in my mind. I felt a strong amount of worry and anguish knowing how much our residents thrive on routine and consistency. I could not imagine how they would adapt



to being home all day. It was hard to fathom the emotional toll this news would have on them and I could only think of the long term implications on their mental health and overall well-being. It is now mid-August and our residents are still at home; and **they are thriving!** They are **busy**, **happy** and **healthy**. They get their nails done, they do yoga, they paint and they cook. It makes me think that we can all learn a thing or two about being resilient from the P2P residents!



During the **Weekend of Resilience**, from **October 23rd through October 25th**, we will highlight and celebrate the incredible resilience of our **clients**, **caregivers** and **community** during these challenging times.

Tune into **pathway2possible.org/weekend-of-resilience** for **multiple live-streamed events** throughout the weekend, including a meaningful video, live music, speakers, special gifts to our beloved supporters, and more.

#### STAY TUNED FOR A FUN-PACKED SCHEDULE!

Thank you to our Presenting Partner:



## **Ways to Give**



### **Become A Sponsor**

Go to www.pathway2possible.org/weekend-of-resilience to see our sponsorship levels.



#### **Donate Auction Ticket**

Choose to donate \$100 for the price that a ticket to our Autumn Auction would cost.

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## **Make Donation of Any Size**

Donate any amount you can to support your neighbors with cognitive and developmental disabilities. Every dollar counts!

OR





Mail a Check to

1301 Centre Street Newton, MA 02459

#### **P2P Welcomes Two New Board Members**

### **Shannon Armstrong**



Shannon Armstrong is a Newton resident and mother of two teenage sons (and one pandemic puppy). She learned about P2P through Exec. Director, Brenda Noel, during their years together at Mason Rice. After attending the Autumn Auction, she joined the Event Committee in 2019. She became a pen pal to Juniper House during the pandemic.

Shannon graduated from University of Pennsylvania, then achieved a Master's in Public Health from University of London. She volunteers with the University of London in research for the World Health Organization on policy actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Shannon has spent the last decade in the pharmaceutical industry, where she worked to establish practices for fair and transparent pricing. More recently, she worked with biotech companies to position them for acquisition.

"I am thrilled to join the Pathway to Possible Board of Directors. I will have the opportunity to give back to my local community and support P2P's wonderful clients!"

#### **Nicholas Foresti**

Nick learned about Pathway to Possible through Board President, Jeff Behrens. After researching P2P, he quickly came to appreciate the work and service Pathway to Possible provides to the community and to their residents. The values and direction of the organization align closely with his own.

Nick lives on the Brighton/Newton line and loves the area. In his free time, he enjoys reading, walking around the reservoir, golfing, or when permitted, traveling around the country. Nick is a consulting controller in residence at AAFCPAs in their Managed Accounting Solutions division. He specializes in working with early stage start-up companies. Previously, he worked for AAFCPAs in the non-profit audit division, working with various affordable housing and social services agencies in MA.



"Pathway to Possible's dedication to their residents during COVID-19 has been particularly inspiring, and I am excited to contribute what I can to the organization and local community."

#### **New Donor Alert!**



Marcia Johnson's roots run deep in Newton, having lived here for the last 37 years. From 2002 to 2015, she was a member of the Board of Aldermen, Newton's local legislature, with a focus on zoning and planning for the city. For the last two years, Marcia has been the President of the League of Women Voters of Newton, and has been a member of the league for more than 20 years. Besides keeping busy at home, Marcia enjoys long walks around town.

We are so excited to have Marcia as a new supporter of P2P!
We met Marcia at a virtual event through the Newton-Needham
Chamber of Commerce. Marcia learned about P2P's Pen Pal

program and immediately wanted to get involved. Marcia received her Bachelor's degree in early education and Master's degrees in special education. She has spent much of her life advocating for affordable housing. She says, "it is the base of who I am as a person." The mission of P2P is in line with Marcia's own beliefs. Marcia has developed a great relationship with her P2P pen pal, which has been very meaningful during these challenging times. Marcia is grateful to have connected with P2P and is looking forward to staying involved in the future.

#### **In Memoriam**

#### **Lin Damon**



Lin was a member of the P2P family for many years and most recently thrived as a resident at Coyne Road. Lin was inquisitive and thoughtful, never failing in her adult years to ask about your family, and what you had been up to. Lin had a genuine interest in everyone's well-being. Lin loved her housemates and staff at Coyne

Road. She always enjoyed joining in the lively dances and activities. Her ever present smile was something that couldn't help but spread joy. Her loss will be felt deeply throughout all of the communities she touched, and we will need to channel her compassion and kindness and comfort each other, as we remember all of her goodness.

### **Tony Spicer**



Tony was a beloved member of the P2P community for more than 22 years. He was a hard-working, dedicated individual with a love of all things sports. Whether it be baseball, football or even the WWE – Tony was a master of sports statistics that would put AM Sports Radio hosts to

shame. He was a caring friend who always went the extra mile for anyone who was near and dear to him. Tony was a fixture in his Auburndale community and will be sorely missed by all who lived and worked there. He has left a hole in our community that will not be easily filled.



www.pathway2possible.org

1301 Centre Street | Newton, MA | 02459

Brenda Noel Executive Director

Jeff Behrens Board President

Rachel Dill Director of Advancement

# **Upcoming Events**



# Best Buddies Pen Pals

Our pen pals love being connected to each other during these times of social isolation. We will begin one-to-one matching in November with firm guidelines for social distancing.

If you are interested in becoming a Pen Pal, please contact Claire at canderson@pathway2possible.org



# Weekend of Resilience

Join us in celebrating the resilience of our clients, caregivers and community through a series of livestreamed events on October 23-25.
Stay tuned for a schedule!

Check out pathway2possible. org/weekend-of-resilience to learn more!