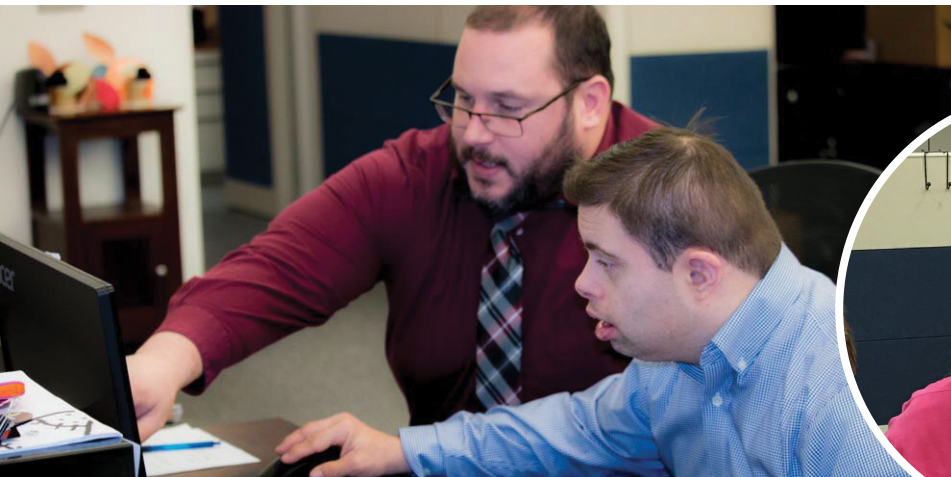


FUELED BY SUCCESS, Employment Services Will Grow



“Most parents dream that their children will be able to work in the community, gain independence and become confident, self-assured and happy individuals. That is what I hear the most from parents of children with intellectual disabilities.”

-Justin Sallaway,
President, The Price Center

**For many,
employment is
an important goal**

In a corner of The Price Center, tucked away on the second floor, is one of the busiest initiatives at an organization that continues to evolve and offer more. Since the center moved to Christina Street three years ago, the number of people requesting Employment Services has increased. That is not surprising, given that 98 percent of those who gain a job through The Price Center are still employed a year later. Some have earned promotions.

Fueled by its success and changes in the field, including the arrival of individuals with autism spectrum disorder who seek employment assistance, The Price Center will renovate new space on the second floor, where a larger, more professional Employment Services will take shape. The Community Based Day Program will also move and thus gain additional space. The move will open up space for other programs on the second floor.

The expanded Employment Services will stretch beyond the Community Based Day Program, its traditional source for job-seekers, notes Shannon Teles, Vice President of Programs. “Not only will we be able to assist a greater number of individuals, but we aim to attract individuals with intellectual disabilities from outside The Price Center who are not participating in the Community Based Day Program.” It is anticipated that Employment Services will double in size.

What The Price Center offers today is far different from a decade ago, when sheltered workshops were the norm. In those programs, people with disabilities worked away from the community and did not gain job skills. The Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services phased out sheltered workshops in 2011 and set a new standard for employment. Individuals with disabilities could get jobs in the community and be paid competitive wages.

The Price Center responded to the state’s new employment services requirements by initiating Work\$mart, which included

“Employment makes a huge difference in how someone feels about themselves,” notes Lori Harrington, Director of Employment Services and Community Based Day. “It opens up the world to individuals with intellectual disabilities, and employers gain loyal, dedicated workers. It’s a win-win situation for all.”

lesson plans, computer labs and guidance on how to interview for a job and behave in the workplace. The successful pilot project was recognized by the Association for Developmental Disabilities, and Price Center staff were asked to speak at local and regional conferences.



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVES

Continued from cover

One-on-one services lead to jobs that are a good fit

Employment Services has continued to evolve. Today, the center's job developer reaches out to area employers to identify jobs that might be a good fit for Price Center individuals, while its job coaches provide personalized instruction that prepares them to enter the workforce. The job coaches remain involved through the employee's first year on the job and beyond—an arrangement appreciated by employee and employer alike. The Price Center covers the cost of staff time to assure that employees are well-supported in performing their jobs for as long as it takes. Philanthropy makes this important work possible.

At The Price Center, we continue to make strides in meeting the important needs of all individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families. I am pleased to announce that The Price Center is developing a plan to expand the Community Based Day Program and Employment Services area in the Fineberg Building.

Thanks to our Community Based Day Program, hundreds of individuals enjoy a variety of activities and resources in the community. Through The Price Center's Employment Services, we help an increasing number of people gain a sense of pride and purpose. Over the past three years, due to our success, we have outgrown the small space used for Employment Services. In accordance with our strategic plan, we are now making plans for an expansion.

Our focus is to create an Employment Services and Community Based Day area that will continue to:

- Provide well-trained employees to local employers;
- Guide and support individuals to achieve success in their employment goals in a new, state-of-the-art facility;
- Develop creative training approaches for all levels of disabilities, including those on the autism spectrum; and
- Provide increased recreational opportunities.

Assisting an individual to reach his or her best potential in the community—notably, through employment—helps that individual and the community. Our planned renovation will also allow us to expand our Day Habilitation Services and increase the space available for our Specialized Supports Program, which serves many individuals with autism spectrum disorder.

Your generous support and dedication has helped create success at The Price Center during the past four decades. To date, the campaign has raised \$2.5 million. Our goal now is to raise an additional \$1.5 million to cover the renovation and address other essential infrastructure needs. We look forward to sharing more details about our plans.

Thank you for allowing The Price Center to provide quality services and support that make a difference in the lives of the hundreds of individuals and families we serve.

Cordially,

Justin Sallaway
President

Parents see the impact when their child is gainfully employed.

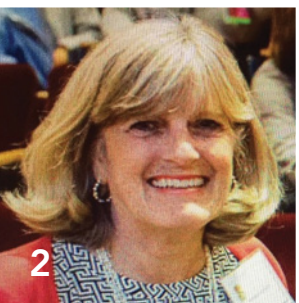
"My wife and I want our children to achieve their highest level of independence," says Michael Markowitz, a member of The Price Center Board of Directors and Chair of the Development Committee. His daughter, Sarah, is doing well at the job she got with help from Employment Services.



The expansion into larger space will accommodate additional training areas where participants will learn administrative functions such as data entry, filing and document shredding. There will be more computers to train on and more offices where mock interviews can be conducted. With more to offer, Employment Services staff anticipate an increased number of participants, including individuals with autism.

In addition to the renovation, The Price Center must address long-standing infrastructure needs. The current goal is to raise \$1.5 million to cover these expenses. Funding also is needed to hire additional job coaches.

"I hope that all of our stakeholders will participate in the fundraising efforts and encourage others to make a gift," says Mr. Markowitz. "In doing so, we can develop more job opportunities and placements—now and for the future."



We are pleased to welcome **Suzanne Cook Kinsellagh** as Director of Development for The Price Center. Suzanne is an accomplished fundraising professional with over twenty-five years of experience in development, including stewardship, annual fund, major gifts, communications, events and operations. She spent most of her career at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and New England Baptist Hospital. She also worked for Habitat For Humanity Greater Boston and most recently at BostonSight. You can reach Suzanne at **(617) 244-0065 x1008** or **skinsellagh@thepricecenter.org**.



PETER'S CORNER

ADDING VALUE to Our Lives

Written by Peter Johnson

As a representative for The Price Center, I was a participant at The Ruderman Inclusion Summit Conference focus group discussion about strategies for the future for special needs adults. Our vision and discussion was focused on the importance of acceptance and inclusion.

Twenty percent of people in the world have disabilities. There were approximately 2,000 attendants at the conference, including many with special needs. I was so humbled listening to adults with IDD and their own stories that I got to a point where I thought:

What does the future hold for us?

What can I do better?

How can I make the needs of adults with disabilities clearer?

It is ok to have a disability. We can create a community of being special by living with a disability. But it is hard and people with special needs are champions because they live with a constant fear. Now, there is a chance for us to reach out and give those

with special needs hope and a second chance for a good future.

I learned from our discussion that being different is ok. Each person adds to our community. We are complicated, but not damaged or broken. We never stop growing.

People with disabilities can succeed! We need careers and to be empowered. This means that adults with all kinds of disabilities should be included in activities that allow them to flourish-- such as outdoor adventures. It is very rewarding to help other adults with disabilities be more involved and that will enrich their lives.

Peter Johnson is an active participant at The Price Center in the ASCENT and Employment programs. He is an advocate for employment opportunities for people with special needs. He has spoken at various events throughout the State about this issue. He knows that Down Syndrome will not stop him from being successful. Last year, Peter travelled to Washington, D.C. as a member of the Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress and participated in the 2017 Buddy Walk. He works at O'Hara's Restaurant in Newton.

THANK YOU 

Through the generosity of Belmont Savings Bank Foundation, twenty-four individuals from The Price Center will participate in a pilot therapeutic adaptive music program, called Amplifi. The \$7,400 grant will fund two twelve-week music and performance sessions, specifically designed for people with Intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are grateful to Heather Rielly, a member of our Development Committee, for facilitating this grant on our behalf.

Amplifi participants benefit from a custom designed curriculum, leading up to a performance featuring original music written in the voices of the individuals. To accommodate the variability of learners, instructors use assistive technology, provide visuals, and adapt physical mobility and motions, enabling meaningful participation for all.

Studies of the program have found that the multi-sensory approach improves stress, relieves anxiety, helps alleviate pain, improves cognitive skills and physical rehabilitation, and increases focus and speech development.

EXCITING NEWS!

The Price Center is Building a New Medical Group Home

The Price Center has partnered with CAN-DO (Citizens for Affordable Housing in Newton Development Corporation) to build a beautiful new medical group home for developmentally disabled adults. This is a wonderful collaboration with the City of Newton and we are grateful for their support and financial commitment. The new home will accommodate five developmentally disabled adults and will be owned and operated by The Price Center. The home will include five bedrooms, two large bathrooms, a common living and dining area, a kitchen and a staff office. The complex, located at 236 Auburn Street in the Auburndale section of Newton will also include three affordable housing units. Construction will begin in the spring. We will be sure to update you on our progress.



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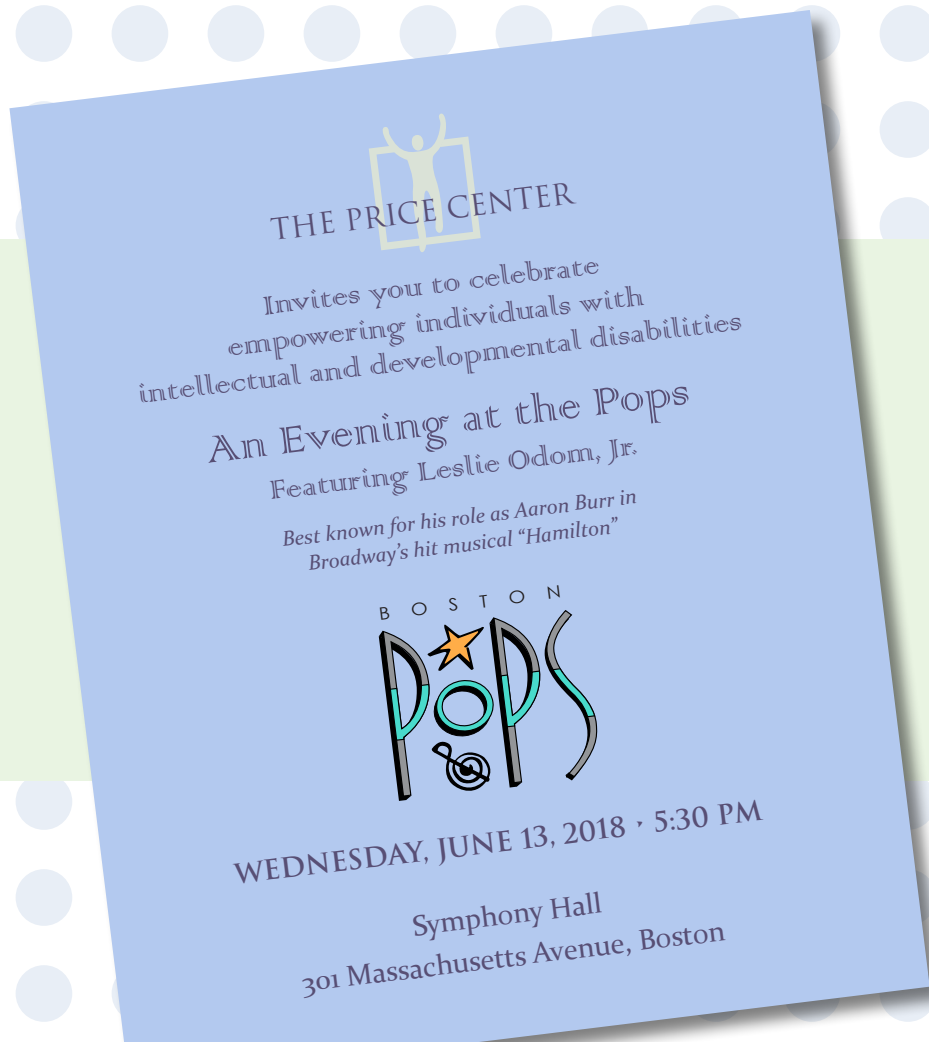
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**The Price Center supports a family member*

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SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

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