



October 2025

Catching up with Community Connections

A Word from Katie Driscoll, President and CEO



Hello everyone,

Today, I'm visiting Gina's Restaurant in Fall River, a local favorite known for its welcoming and accepting environment for all, in addition to some great breakfast and lunch. Gina's is one of 70 community employment partners working with Community Connections. It's a great example of how local businesses can create mutually beneficial job opportunities for people with disabilities.

[Read the Full Transcript of Katie's Letter](#)

Let Your Voice Be Heard



[Take the Survey](#)

Take a Survey for The Arc of Mass.

As an affiliate of The Arc, Community Connections benefits from their strong advocacy at the local, state, and national levels. Each year, The Arc gathers feedback through their Fall Survey to help shape their legislative priorities and strengthen their voice on behalf of people with disabilities. Your input as a family member, staff, or friend is an important part of that effort. We encourage you to take a few minutes to complete the survey and share it with others who want to make their voices heard.

"I am very happy that I am able to help the community by [hiring people with disabilities] because they need the opportunity to contribute and be happy. I hope other people can do the same and try it out because there is no negative to it."

– Catarina Arruda, Owner, Gina's Restaurant



Community Connections Employment Specialist Todd with Michael at Gina's Restaurant. [Click here](#) to watch his success story.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

When the owner of Gina's Restaurant in Fall River hired Michael, a Community Connections participant, just before the COVID-19 pandemic, she not only gained a dedicated employee but also helped create a more inclusive workplace. [Click here](#) to hear the owner share her full experience in her own words.

At Community Connections, we believe employment opens doors to greater independence and inclusion. This October, during National Disability Employment Awareness Month, we are proud to celebrate the achievements of people like Michael and the many local employers who make inclusion part of their everyday work.

[Learn more about NDEAM](#)

Program and Event News

Family Fun Day & Walk — Beautiful Weather and a Huge Success!

Thank you to everyone who joined us in Fairhaven for our Family Fun Day & Walk



this past Sunday! From the trunk or treat and raffles to games, costumes, and the one- and two-mile walks, it was an amazing day filled with community spirit and beautiful weather.

We're so grateful to our volunteers, sponsors, walkers, and everyone who came out to support our programs and celebrate with us.

Didn't get a chance to donate? There's still time! You can contribute through October 31st to help make a difference for the people we serve.



Donate to our walkers!

Thank you to our Family Fun Day and Walk sponsors!



Thank you to our Sponsors



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Accessible Yoga for All

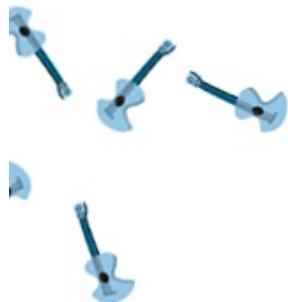


We're proud to have provided seven weeks of Accessible Yoga For All to the Community. We were so overwhelmed with the community participation that we decided to add on a bonus week earlier this month! A huge thank you to [The Heron Center](#) for their thoughtful instruction. Our participants expressed gratitude by bringing gifts for their instructors, including colorful art, heartfelt letters, homemade treats, and more, showing the real impact of building community. Special thanks to the [The Anthony F. Cordeiro Charitable Foundation](#) for their generous grant which made the series possible.

Musical Mashpee

On October 3, our Mashpee participants were treated to a fantastic concert by husband and wife duo, collectively known as the Keltones, who have two family members attending the program. The group visits the Mashpee Day Center typically once a month. Participants and staff danced and sang along to classic renditions of music from the Beatles, the Monkees, and more.

Thank you for your talent and generosity!



Staff and participants alike enjoyed the music in Mashpee.

Recognizing DEI in our Programs

Each month, participants create a DEI display, highlighting a topic of their choice. Fall River Life Skills and Plymouth Day Center chose Breast Cancer Awareness Month to show support for people fighting

this disease.



Grand Re-Opening in Fairhaven!

Join us for the unveiling of the new and improved Fairhaven Day Center! All are welcome to enjoy the beautiful new space along with refreshments and door prizes.



*Grand Re-Opening
and Ribbon Cutting*

Community Connections Fairhaven Day Center

Friday, November 7, 2025
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Community Connections invites you to celebrate the grand re-opening of our newly remodeled Fairhaven Day Center!

Community Connections
10 David Drown Blvd
Fairhaven, MA 02719

Meet & Greet, Light Refreshments, Door Prizes
Ribbon-cutting with the One SouthCoast Chamber

Community Connections provides life-enriching services that promote optimal independence for people with disabilities.
www.communityconnectionsinc.org



Get Connected Over Coffee!

Community Connections is thrilled to announce a new community engagement event at The Center on Main in Taunton. **All are welcome** to enjoy a morning of friendship and conversation with delicious coffee in a beautiful setting. No registration required, reach out to Abby Law for more information--
alaw@ccimass.org

"We are beyond excited to partner with The Center on Main, an organization that shares our strong commitment to fostering community and a creating a sense of belonging. We look forward to seeing our clients and fellow Coffee Hour

YOU ARE INVITED TO...

COFFEE HOUR @

The Center

ON MAIN

49 Main St, Taunton, MA

TAKE A BREAK. GRAB A CUP.
MAKE A CONNECTION!

Join Community Connections for an hour of
games, coffee, and great conversation!

Weekly on Mondays, 10 AM - 11 AM



Identity Coffee Co. located inside
The Center will be open to
purchase refreshments.

Community Connections is a non-profit
organization that serves adults with
disabilities with a goal of promoting
independence, inclusion, and growth.



Learn more at
communityconnectionsinc.org



*participants engage in meaningful
conversation and build lasting
friendships."*

-- Abby Law, Director of Community
Engagement and Inclusion

Thank you to our community partners for supporting our
mission!

THE BARNSTABLE
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you for your generosity this year!

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