Thank you to our dedicated Board of Directors:

Alice Taylor  
Chair

Richard Zimbone  
Vice Chair

Gilbert Cox, Jr.  
Treasurer

William Day  
Secretary

Joseph Breitfelder  
Cynthia Chaston

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Leslie Lockhart  
Gerald McTernan

Phil Robey  
John Timmerman

Walter Tobin

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

A leader in supporting people with developmental disabilities

www.charlesrivercenter.org
Dear Friends,

One of the joys we see first-hand is the generosity of our families, staff, volunteers, and community partners who believe in the Charles River Center and are passionate about our mission. We are strengthened by the numerous ways in which you demonstrate your commitment to work with us to provide high-quality, individualized supports and services.

As we enter into the third year of our strategic plan, we are pleased with the accomplishments we have achieved. We have…

- Expanded residential services with two additional group homes
- Expanded Adult Foster Care as a residential option for families living with their adult children. We currently support 30 families.
- Obtained a state contract to provide Shared Living services as an alternative residential option to traditional group living arrangements
- Provided social/recreational programs for newly-eligible men and women with autism without intellectual disabilities
- Welcomed four new community members to the Board of Directors
- Sponsored three staff members, who graduated with advanced degrees in nursing or applied behavioral analysis, with assistance from the Charles River scholarship fund
- Hired a Training Coordinator to manage advanced and specialized credentialing of our workforce in areas such as autism, Alzheimer’s disease, and person-centered planning

Our future goals are equally as ambitious despite the uncertainty of state and federal funding for our services. To name a few, we are looking forward to opening a day program specifically designed for adults with autism; we will create a clinical department within Charles River to expand our behavioral supports to families in their homes; and we will expand our transitional services for young adults.

The Charles River Center depends upon your generosity to help fund the gap between government support and the actual costs to maintain the excellence we have known and we expect. Thank you to everyone who made a gift to Charles River this past year. As you can see in the following pages, your gifts are helping those we serve lead fulfilling and productive lives. We are grateful for the trust you have in us and your belief in what can be accomplished.

With gratitude,

Anne-Marie Bajwa
President and CEO

Alice B. Taylor
Chair, Board of Directors

OUR MISSION:
To empower and support people with developmental disabilities by offering high-quality, individualized opportunities that foster independence and community inclusion.

Thanks to your help, we were able to support over 1,000 children and adults with developmental disabilities last year…

- 128 Residential Services served
  - Twenty-seven small group homes in eight MetroWest towns
- 132 Day Habilitation served
  - Activities and supports for those with significant needs
- 177 Employment & Day Services served
  - Job training, volunteering, and life skills development
- 654 Family Support served
  - Camps, after-school, and weekend programs, parent education, plus more

- 49 children attended vacation camps
- 132 enjoy music therapy weekly
- 28 people received gifts as a result of the holiday giving tree
- 85 adults are enjoying productive jobs in the community
- 218 kids practiced the airport boarding process at Wings for Autism events at Logan
- 30 families are being supported through Adult Foster Care
- 102 grow organic vegetables in the Horticulture Program
- 9 young adults with autism moved into new, CRC-supported homes
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

Thank you for partnering with us to make all of this possible!

- Opened a new residence in Sharon, housing four young adults with autism.
- Our first Special Olympics bowling team competed in the regionals.

SPOILT ON:

Vacation Camp
by Anna Friedman and Nina Yee, Recreation Aides at the Charles River Center

At the vacation program, each day is filled with activities that fit the needs of every camper. Activities include exercise, music therapy, reading circles, art projects, and cooking. Each day, campers participate within their assigned groups (3-5 kids), led by two staff members and volunteers, and generally stay together for the duration of the day. Each participant receives individualized support from multiple staff members in their groups, allowing them to form connections and maximize every camp opportunity.

Campers enjoy the diversity of the activities, time spent outside, and especially look forward to outdoor water games on hot days. Socializing with friends, whether verbally or not, is also a meaningful aspect of the vacation program experience. Many campers form lasting relations with other campers, staff, and volunteers. The most enjoyable parts of the day are when we spend time together as a group and simply enjoy each other's company, no matter the activity.

As recreational aides, we adjust activities to the abilities of the campers to ensure that everyone's needs are met. Our goal is to make sure that every camper is participating to the best of their abilities and having fun at the program. We enjoy joking around with campers and seeing happy faces. Some of our favorite memories are impromptu requested activities such as dance parties, sing-alongs, and outdoor games.

Both of us are volunteers-turned-staff members, and over the years we have learned about adapting to the needs of campers and what it takes to make a fun and safe environment. At the end of the day, campers leave CRC with artwork, allergy-safe baked goods, and excitement for the next day.

Charles River offers camps in Needham for children and young adults aged 7 to 21 during December, February, April, and for four weeks during the summer.

- The fund-a-need auction at the Building a Dream Gala was the most successful ever—raising $38,000 for exercise equipment and nutrition counseling.
- Charles River was approved to become a Shared Living provider. The program enables individuals with disabilities to live with caring community members.
- The “mobile market” officially launched—bringing organic produce grown by CRC participants to low-income housing neighborhoods in Needham.
- We started a collaboration with the Framingham Public School system. A CRC staff person holds office hours once a week to meet new families and collaborate with the special education department.
- Anne-Marie Bajwa named new President and CEO of the Charles River Center as John Grugan retires after 35 years.
- Louise Condon and her team hosted the 32nd annual Valentine’s Day Dance for Charles River Center participants and their families.
- 218 children attended Wings for Autism at Logan Airport, a test run through the airport boarding process. The program was founded by the Charles River Center in 2011 and has quickly grown nationally.
- The Needham Golf Club hosted its 30th annual golf tournament, with proceeds providing scholarships for camps and the respite home.
- 23
- 3
- 2

The most enjoyable parts of the day are when we spend time together as a group and simply enjoy each other’s company, no matter the activity. “
Art therapy allows me to express how I feel through the different colors that I paint with.

— Beth

The groups have been working primarily on collaborative pieces... for example a large collage entitled “Beneath the Sea,” which the artists brainstormed, painted, and then decorated with paper-marbled fish and sea creatures. Leah finds that collaborative projects encourage the groups to take turns and work together. Volunteers from the Wellesley Service League (the club has been volunteering at the Charles River Center for a remarkable 48 years!) make sure that everyone contributes.

Art teacher Leah (left) helps Shoshana (right) punch out stars for a collage—a good exercise to improve fine motor skills.

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Art teacher Leah (left) helps Shoshana (right) punch out stars for a collage—a good exercise to improve fine motor skills.

The art room is a happy place, with abundant natural light, colorful projects hanging from the walls, and music playing softly in the background. Once a week, each of the twelve groups in Day Habilitation visits Leah Foster, the new art teacher in the studio, where participants have room to create, express themselves, and work on skills. Leah, who joined Charles River last spring, is a recreational therapist and has worked with seniors, children in juvenile detention centers, and people with special needs. Leah’s sister, Amy, has Down syndrome and is a valued helper in the art room.

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Building a Dream Gala
FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2018
BOSTON MARRIOTT NEWTON (new location)
Each year, over 350 people attend this special event, which raises critical funds to help us continue to provide the highest quality services and programs for those we support. The elegant evening includes cocktails and a silent auction, seated dinner, an inspiring program with community and individual honorees, and a live auction. Thanks to the support of many generous sponsors and donors, this is Charles River's major fundraising event of the year.

The Needham Exchange Club 31st Annual Golf Tournament
JUNE 5, 2018
We have been honored to be the recipient of this golf tournament’s proceeds for many years. Over 100 golfers from the Club and community enjoy a delicious lunch, 18 holes of golf, dinner, and live and silent auctions. Thanks to sponsors, participants and dedicated Club volunteers, proceeds have allowed Charles River to purchase new vans, as well as camp scholarships, and critical adaptive equipment.

Ellie Bloom Special Olympics
SEPTEMBER 2018
 Held at DeFazio Park in Needham, over 150 athletes of all ages and abilities from Charles River and neighboring communities participate in such events as running and wheelchair dashes, tennis ball throws, ring tosses, and relay races. Sponsors have included the Needham Golf Club Charities, Roche Bros., and the Needham Women’s Club. Everyone goes home with a gold medal and a big smile.

5K Run/1-Mile Walk
SEPTEMBER 23, 2018
This upbeat event brings together over 600 people from the community and the Charles River Center. For serious runners and non-athletes alike, the USA Track and Field-certified course loops through the scenic roads of Needham and Wellesley, and ends with a festive after-party including pizza, drinks, ice cream, and socializing.

BENEFECTORS ($5,000+)
360 Corporate Benefit Advisors
AFA Protective Systems
Alexander, Aronson, Finning & Co.
James and Cynthia Chasten
William and Patricia Day
Dedham Institution for Savings
Petter Dedon and Tessa Schmalbach
Martha Haskett
Cayton and Ruth Hawkridge
James Jakebchek and Sara Donahue
Louise Condon Realty
Marion Gaynor & Manning LLP
Robert and Donna Matte
MetroWest Health Foundation, Inc.
Middlesex Savings Charitable Foundation
Ann Raworth Estate
Eileen Roche
Jay and Laurie Roche
Rodman Ride For Kids
Carol and James Taiclet
The Exchange Club of Needham
Jessica Tsang
U.S. Trust and Bank of America Private Wealth Management
PATRONS ($1,000+)
Accufund
Airmall Boston, Inc.
AvonIfold Communities, Inc.
William Ast
Anne Marie Bajwa
Michelle Balady
Bank of America United Way Campaign
Bay State Federal Savings Charitable Foundation
Benevity Community Project Fund
Kay Beron
Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital
Susan and Galen Boyer
Robert Broughton
John and Moy Burns
Richard Buttermore
CMA Association
Capital Group Co
Charitable Foundation
Elizabeth and Richard Carrullo
Century 21 Commonwealth
Judith Chaffee and John Widrich
Steven and Kara Chmielowski
Jeanne and Eric Clapper
Coldwell Banker Residential Broker Cares
Louise and Frank Condon
Pamela Condon
Copeland Toyota
James and Joan Cote
Countrywide Estates
Gilbert and Helen Cox
William and Linda Crowe
Lawrence and Dorothy Damon
Wilfred and Amanda Dickerson
Deborah Donovan
Mark and Beth Doran
ePay Business Solutions, Inc.
Jill and Jim Fadule
Richard Fournier
Jeffrey and Wiston Fox
Richard and Kathy Freedberg
Irene and Gary Glazdine
Mark and Linda Goldman
Benjamin Gomez and Susan Cable
Governo Law Firm LLC
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Chris Gruigan and Nancy Born
Kathy and John Gruigan
Jeffrey and Louise Harris
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
Brendan Hester
Jayne and Phil Hubbell
Foundation at the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
Robert and Julie Joyce
John Lafferty
Leiser Corporation
Leslie and Harold Lockhart
Scott MacFarlane
Harty and Jame Manion
McCoy Associates/McDonald’s
Mary Ann McDonald
Gail Narvins
Needham Bank
Needham Golf Club
Charities, Inc.
Needham Women’s Club
Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP
Alexandra Paul-Simon
Philadelphia Insurance Companies
Alison Premo
Prologis
Robert Bros./ Sudbury Farms
Harry and Karen Rosenbluth
Steve and Miriam Ruggiero
Kathleen and Tony Schoener
Kathrine Schortmann
Susan Senator and Ned
M. Batchelder
Sentinel Benefits Group
Silver Fox Tours
State Street Matching Gift Program – EasyMatch
Carole Sullivan
Philip Sullivan and Martha J. McElan
The E. Lafayatte and Etienne A. Quirin Foundation, Inc.
The Norfolk & Dedham Group
John Timmerman
Walter E. Tobin
Richard Torre and Nat Damon
United Way of Massachusetts Bay & Merrimack Valley
USI Insurance Services, LLC
Carolan and Neil Vaughan
Thomas and Andrea Ward
William Mason C, Inc.
Weaver & Associates Architects
Wellesley Bank Charitable Foundation
Wellesley Hills Junior Women’s Club
YourCause, LLC
Gianfranco and Carmencita Zaccai
SPONSORS ($250+)
Richard and Barbara Avery
Carol Allen and Robert
Weinberg
Amazon Smile
Susan Anderson and Joseph McCabe
William Anderson
William Armstrong
Thomas and Sheila Ashe

THANK YOU to all of the individuals, corporations, and foundations who made a gift to various Charles River Center funds. We would also like to thank all who made in-kind donations of equipment, services, and gifts; to all who made gifts in memory or in honor of a special person; and to all who volunteered their time to make our programs outstanding. All of these gifts are deeply appreciated.

This list represents gifts received during our last fiscal year, from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!
These signature events are wonderful community-building occasions, allowing us to spread the word about our work, as well as raise funds to continue our mission. Save the dates!
Growing up in Needham, I knew about the Charles River Center but didn’t really know what they do. When you see the look on their faces and their smiles, it makes you forget your troubles and know that your dollars are going towards a good thing.
Having worked in Residential Services at the Charles River Center for almost eight years — a current Charles River Center employee — I am convinced that the staff and management truly support the individuals at CRC receive the care and support necessary. Having worked in Residential Services at the Charles River Center for almost eight years — a current Charles River Center employee — I am convinced that the staff and management truly support the individuals at CRC receive the care and support necessary.
WHY I GIVE
Jessica Tsung, Parent

We are happy to have the Charles River Center staff as Jason’s family. They are kind, helpful, understanding and loving to Jason—and for everything they have done, we thank them from the bottom of our hearts. We give and support the Charles River Center so that they can continue spreading their love.

GIFTS IN KIND
110 Grill
AACA Northeast
Acuplus
Arlene Ackerman
American Repertory Theater
Amtrak Downeaster
Anderson’s Jewelers
Anna’s Taqueria
Aquitaine
Atent for Rent
Bagels Best
Devra Bailin and Steven Balk
Bank of America
Barrel Neenham
Basil Restaurant & Catering
Belkin Lookout Farm
Bertucci’s
Bistro Mexican
Bose Corporation
Boston Duck Tours
Boston Harbor Cruises
David Bramante and Lisa Moshnik
John and Molly Burns
California Pizza Kitchen
Captain Marden’s Seafoods, Inc.
Elizabeth and Richard Cannuto
Center Automotive, Inc.
Charles River Canoe and Kayak
Charles River YACCA
Jeanne and Eric Clapper
Comina
Debra and Michael Coran
Crosby Jewelers Inc.

Juanita Murphy
Jonathon Sycamore
Jillian’s
JPG Licks
Juripex
Siraje Kabunga
La Mierra Restaurant
Lambert’s Rainbow Fruit
La Morra Restaurant
Levi’s Awards and Promotional Products
Mandarin Oriental Boston
Mighty Subs
Stephanie and Stephen Meyler

State Agencies $19,736,881 75%
Medicaid $3,277,295 12%
Private Pay $1,833,708 7%
Development $757,026 3%
HUD $330,847 1%
Investments* $319,800 1%

We are proud that our overhead is only 11%, so 89c of every dollar you give goes directly to those we serve.

FINANCIALS
Charles River Center Statement of Operating Activities for the year ended June 30, 2017

REVENUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Agencies</td>
<td>$19,736,881</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medicaid</td>
<td>$3,277,295</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Pay</td>
<td>$1,833,708</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>$757,026</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUD</td>
<td>$330,847</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments*</td>
<td>$319,800</td>
<td>1%</td>
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EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>$13,446,238</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day Habilitation</td>
<td>$3,017,848</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment &amp; Day Services</td>
<td>$3,070,233</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Support</td>
<td>$2,504,984</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and Administrative</td>
<td>$2,399,100</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$205,721</td>
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</table>

EXPENSES BY CATEGORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and Taxes</td>
<td>$15,965,594</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupancy</td>
<td>$2,716,994</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Support</td>
<td>$2,804,582</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Benefits</td>
<td>$1,982,245</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Fees</td>
<td>$1,174,708</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*includes unrealized gains