

# BEAVERBROOK STEP NEWS

May 2016



Beaverbrook STEP, Inc.  
Enriched Lives.....  
Enlightened Communities  
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A private, non-profit  
corporation dedicated to  
enhancing the quality of life of



individuals with developmental  
disabilities in Belmont, Waltham,  
Watertown, Brighton, Brookline  
& surrounding communities.

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## Welcome Spring!

Dear Beaverbrook STEP Friends and Families,

Thanks to the incredible efforts and hard work of our staff, volunteers and community partners, Beaverbrook STEP continues to achieve major growth and outstanding accomplishments. At the same time, we have maintained very high satisfaction rates from individuals served, family members and internal / external stakeholders, evidenced by the results of our Quality Assurance interviews and feedback tools.

STEP is proud to have been able to structure our growth and expand our services so that we can not only meet the current and future needs of the individuals we serve, but also expand our services to new special populations. As you will read in this newsletter, our long term "Everyone Counts" strategic goals continue to focus on the future growth and viability of the organization, including:

- Expansion of STEP's residential and day program services;
- Provision of quality educational, health care and clinical services; and
- Development of positive, specialized ABA behavioral supports.

Also, read about STEP's new Corporate Guardianship program, a comprehensive service designed to meet a growing need for trained and skilled legal advocates to work on behalf of individuals with disabilities, as well as elders in our service area.

Thanks to all of you for helping STEP continue to provide outstanding services, furthering our tradition of community inclusion, self-actualization and meaningful participation.

Yours truly,  
Virginia A. Connolly

### **SATISFACTION RESULTS CONSISTENTLY POSITIVE**

Over the last year, Beaverbrook STEP's Satisfaction Survey results continued to demonstrate a high level of satisfaction with all services. Combined satisfaction results averaged 91.3% among all individuals served, family members/guardians and internal/external stakeholders, demonstrating the organization's broad and ongoing commitment to:

1. Promoting individual growth and encouraging choice;
2. Increasing the learning of skills that enhance personal self-reliance and independence; and
3. Designing supports which maintain a high level of respect for and of individuals served.



Survey results also indicated that individuals served are active participants in their respective communities and all constituents report very high satisfaction with the quality of STEP's programs, staff and services. Beaverbrook Step family members and external stakeholders also reported a high level of satisfaction with respect to their involvement and communication with the organization.

Additionally, over the past 3 years, Beaverbrook STEP's satisfaction levels were consistently high, averaging 94% for all individuals, families, guardians and external stakeholders. STEP will strive to continue providing exceptional services. STEP has copies of the full plan available at the main office.

**OPEN FOR BUSINESS:**

**BEAVERBROOK STEP'S NEW GUARDIANSHIP AND CONSERVATOR PROGRAM**



Beaverbrook STEP is proud to announce the opening of a new, critically important program, the Guardianship and Conservator Project. Developed specifically to address the growing need for legal guardians and conservators for adults with disabilities, as well as elders, STEP was certified by MA Dept. of Developmental Disabilities as an approved Corporate Guardian Program in 2015.

Over the past year, STEP has collaborated with a distinguished group of legal advisors and advocates who helped us establish a comprehensive program that matches our well trained legal Guardians and Conservators with individuals and elders who need a qualified advocate to oversee their services, safeguard their welfare and health, and provide guidance and support with critical life decisions.

**For more information visit STEP's website home page— [www.beaverbrookstep.org](http://www.beaverbrookstep.org) — and click on [GUARDIANSHIP BROCHURE](#).**

**ABA/Clinical & Educational Supports**

Beaverbrook STEP continues to enhance and develop our clinical, behavior management and health care services to meet the changing needs of individuals served with I/DD, including adults who are aging in place and individuals diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders, neurological and brain injuries. We have expanded our Clinical Team adding 2 new licensed social workers, a new certified ABA clinician and 2 new licensed practical nurses who work under the supervision of our Registered Nurse.



**STEP Partners with UMass Boston**

STEP is very proud to announce our new affiliation with UMass Boston's Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) certification and educational training center at the university's Center for Social Development and Education.

Three clinicians with BCBA certification have worked with UMass Boston's program; their experiences and relationships with UMass influenced and inspired STEP to become an official continuing education provider for UMass. In the summer/fall of 2016, in partnership with Melmark NE, STEP will hold its first multi-day course for UMass at our main Watertown office. We will be certifying a group of area staff as Registered Behavior Technicians (RBT).

**BEAVERBROOK STEP RECEIVES GRANTS**

*Over the past 2 years, STEP is grateful for the generous support received from these local sources:*

- **A \$5,000 grant from Marshall Home Fund to develop STEP's Guardianship project for elders in Watertown;**
- **A \$4,000 Institutional grant from the Watertown Community Foundation for our new Guardian and Conservator program; and**
- **A \$400,000 in-house grant from the Waltham Housing Authority for major renovations to our home at 37 Banks Street, Waltham.**
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**Memory Café Funds Awarded**

Beaverbrook STEP and United Cerebral Palsy of Metro Boston were recently awarded a \$13,000, 2 month start up grant from Dept. of Developmental Services to jointly develop a Memory Café that will be located in Watertown. More funding will be awarded next fiscal year.

The café is designed to support individuals in the community with memory issues and their caretakers/family members. More details will be forthcoming as the project moves forward in the months ahead.

**DAY AND RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM GROWTH**

Over the past 2 years, Beaverbrook STEP continued to meet the need for additional residential services for adults with intellectual, developmental and related disabilities by purchasing, renting, constructing and renovating community homes, condos and apartments. We carefully designed new home environments to improve accessibility, update kitchens and baths and expand living areas for individuals we support and for new referrals.

Our Options Employment and Day Services also expanded to meet the need for additional day program services in our area. Our 2 Options programs grew to 3 locations when Options Unlimited opened last year in Cushing Square in Belmont. Our 4th location opens this summer.

Overall, in the last 24 months:

- STEP's 24 hour residential programs experienced a 10% growth;
- STEP's Individual Supports program grew by 24%; and
- Options day services increased from 48 to 80 individuals, an increase of nearly 70%.

**NEW STEP PROGRAM SITE PLANNED**



**In February 2016, Beaverbrook STEP purchased a 2 story, 5000 sq. ft. home (formerly a church rectory) located at 345 Waverley St. in Belmont.**

**STEP is developing architectural designs and construction specifications for a comprehensive renovation project that will culminate in the opening of a new Educational—Residential program later in 2016.**

**The first level will house a fourth Options day program opportunity in addition to educational and meeting space. The 2nd floor of the home will provide residential opportunities to 4 people who need less than 24 hour supports.**

**STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS!**