

FAMILY SUPPORT NEWS



May 2011

Beaverbrook STEP, Inc.

Enriched Lives.....

Enlightened Communities

125 Walnut Street

Watertown, MA 02472

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www.beaverbrookstep.org

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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5 Lexington St.
Waverley Square

May 2011

Dear Beaverbrook STEP friends and family members,

As we welcome Springtime, we want to tell you about some of our recent projects. One of our efforts has been the development and April 1st opening of a beautiful new home in Brookline for 5 wonderful, young adult women from the Greater Boston Office of the MA Department of Developmental Services.

This lovely home has 3,000 sq. ft. of usable living space. STEP has already made many necessary renovations to the home and will continue modifications to make the first floor wheelchair friendly, adding a fully accessible bath and bedrooms (2.) There is a great backyard and patio, and already the women are planning a number of summertime parties.

Thanks to a \$2,500 grant from the Watertown Community Fund, the Options Alternative Day Services program on Main Street in Watertown, recently completed a major project, establishing its new Career Exploration and Job Development Center. The grant paid for a new computer workstation, a computer with many assistive devices, a touch screen monitor, speech recognition software and curriculum materials.

Program participants have already begun to work on career exploration activities and career plans. They are also eager to learn how to write their own job resumes and cover letters and how to use the computer to perform on-line job searches, including making their own on-line job applications. They are very enthusiastic!

In March, I, along with 3 other executive directors, helped coordinate and participated in an exciting educational forum for our local legislators (see photo below.) Held in Waltham, this event attracted over 150 people. Lisa Turowitz and Valerie Youngren presented an inspiring overview of our Individual Support services, receiving accolades from the both the legislators and audience.

Mark your calendars! STEP's Annual Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at the Hellenic Hall in Watertown from 6 to 9:30 P.M. Come enjoy dinner and dancing. We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Virginia A. Connolly
Executive Director



SIBLING STORIES: A BLOG JUST FOR SIBLINGS



Read the personal stories of siblings, written straight from the heart. Perhaps you'll feel inspired and add your own story (<http://siblingstories.blogspot.com/>). Thought provoking and honest, read about Fred and Allen, Joe David and Thomas, Nina & Ben, Margaret and Eileen and others. These compelling essays about the sibling relationship are written by those who know it best. "Sibling Stories" is sponsored by the Sibling Project (www.siblingsupport.org).

THE 2011 BERMUDA CRUISE

Sponsored by Beaverbrook STEP's self-advocacy board, the CAB



Join the fun! The Community Advocates Board of Beaverbrook STEP is sponsoring a group of 45 STEP individuals and staff who will participate in the Belmont SPORTS bi-annual trip to Bermuda. We'll set sail out of Boston harbor on the Norwegian Dawn Cruise Ship on Friday, August 19, 2011 returning on Friday, August 26th.

On Sunday, August 21, the ship docks at Kings Wharf Port in Bermuda for 3 days of exploration and activities. On Wednesday the ship sets sail again for Boston, arriving on Friday morning, the 26th of August. It will be lots of fun with pools, beaches, shows, activities, restaurants and casinos.

The trip will cost about \$1200 per person. Contact Jessica Kirwan at 617-926-1113 for further information.



FUN AND FRIENDS CONNECTION—

A forum for people with disabilities, their families and caregivers to access positive recreational and personal enrichment opportunities via the World Wide Web.

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