

Enriching Our Communities
by Connecting Local Employers
& Individuals With
Opportunities to Succeed



Networks News

A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS BY NATHAN ST. JEAN, ROCKY MORELLI, & GEORGE BARRETT

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As Opportunity Networks begins a new chapter in a long history of supporting individuals with developmental disabilities I think there is some important information the people should know about the process and thoughts behind the renovation of our center located in Amherst.

In 2013, Opportunity Networks, Inc.'s dream came true when we were selected by Building On Hope as their signature project for 2014. You hear all the time about dreams coming true, but you never really believe it could happen to you or your agency. Being a small non-profit agency that works with individuals with disabilities there is not a lot of flexibility or latitude with funding and funding sources. For years our agency could only imagined what it would be like to have the resources to improve our facility at Caldwell Drive in Amherst and make it worthy of the individuals with disabilities we support daily. Building On Hope made our dream a reality and the individuals we support are benefiting thanks to their efforts of Building On Hope.

The initial renovations began on January 2, 2014 with the final "extreme make over phase taking place from May 9, 2014 - May 18, 2014. To say the transformation is incredible doesn't do justice to the work that was involved and the dedication, commitment and passion shown by the Building On Hope team.



The Opportunity Networks project involved the organization's 6,000 square feet of space at 11 Caldwell Drive in Amherst, which has been occupied by Opportunity Networks for more than 30 years. In that time, little more than basic updating and maintenance was performed. The building was in many regards falling down around the staff and individuals whom utilized the facility/center daily.

Funding this project was also a daunting task in its own right. Through a committed Board of Directors, Steering Committee and strong community support the task of raising money to help fund the project

kicked off during the summer of 2013. In addition, with generous support from Foundations such as the Norwin S. & Elizabeth N. Bean Foundation, Cogswell Benevolent Trust, the Kaley Foundation, Arthur L. Keyes Trust, Agnes Lindsay Trust, Fidelity Foundation, Walmart Foundation, Samuel P. Hunt Foundation, NH Charitable Foundation, Ann De Nicole Trust, The Barker Foundation, Gateways Community Services, and the Milford Rotary Club, Opportunity Networks was able to raise over \$400,000. The support didn't end there though. Building On Hope, through its extensive network of connections also provided over \$300,000 worth of in-kind support and materials.

For an all-volunteer group with no funding, Building on Hope relied solely on the goodwill and generosity of Granite State businesses helped make a dream become a reality. With that said, the renovation of Opportunity Networks was Building On Hopes largest endeavor to-date. Despite the daunting task, each week for approximately 8 months the Building On Hope team met to discuss the building process, and reminded everyone of how good our/the community truly is. Building On Hopes motto was 'Many Hands Make Light Work.' We only need a few more hands to complete this project and forever change the lives of some very special people." Those words say it all!!!

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This issue of "Networks News" was made possible by the News Crew:

- Nathan St. Jean
- Nicholas Needler
- Joshua Nadeau
- Hilary Wells
- Richard Brown



There were a total of 12 rooms that were renovated. The Rooms vary by purpose, from promoting healthy and independent living skills, employment and learning, to pursuit of interests, and general needs. Volunteers had the chance to aid the creation of a movement room, a tech theater, creative center, administrative offices, function and conference rooms, kitchen, cafeteria, and more. Through the support of Building On Hope our new Amherst center has ADA bathrooms for the individuals to use, wheelchair accessible kitchen for individuals to utilize while learning how to cook, a computer room for education and training purposes, a movement room

for recreational activities, dance, basketball and range of motion activities, a multisensory theatre, arts and crafts room with a baking oven & pottery wheel, a sneolezen room designed for multi-sensory use for individuals with autism and outside raised gardens for the individuals to utilize for gardening, tactile stimulation and incorporate into cooking classes.

With the support of Building on Hope, local businesses, donors, and volunteers handled the finishing touches, transforming it into a state-of-the-art facility that will improve the lives of people with all disabilities for years to come.

The renovation will now allow us to provide expanded hours to further support families, provide after hour programming/high school transition services, multisensory learning, and communication technologies. Now with a new center, Opportunity Networks is better positioned to meet the emerging challenges and needs of individuals with developmental disabilities for many years to come. Again, this would never have happened without the support and partnership with Building On Hope.

For those of you who/whom have not had the opportunity to come and see our new center, I encourage you to come and visit.



EMPLOYMENT SUCCESS: RICHARD'S COFFEE NEWS

"The more stops that I have, the more money that I earn." - Richard Brown, Coffee News Employee

One of Opportunity Networks' finest folks now has the honor of delivering the Coffee News flyers to 28 locations with Denise. His name is Richard Brown and he has been doing this job for about 3-4 months now. He has 2 new sites that were added and they are The Shoebox Store and the Subaru of Milford. His favorite location is the Dentist's Office near the Shoebox Store and his goal is to save money by next year for a special trip. He is planning on going to California, but he really likes Florida. He enjoys finding new locations and meeting new people while he is on the job. He wears a Coffee News t-shirt that was made for him and works 1 day a week, which is Thursday afternoons. He likes to make lots of money and wants to continue doing the job. The quote that he created by himself is: "The more stops that I have, the more money that I earn." Denise says that he does a very nice job while he is with her during his Coffee News and is very proud of him and his work.



NICK'S COLLEGE LIFE BY NICHOLAS NEEDLER

I learned about computer networking in high school, but now I'm thinking at a harder level than before after learning so many new skills at college. — Nick Needler

When I first started at Nashua Community College I was just trying it out to see if I like college or not, going for my Certificate in Computer Networking. I passed my first college class with a C, which I thought was very good start to it.

It turns out that I liked it a lot. I even met new people when I was in college. Every day I went to class it was very different. I learned about computer networking in high school, but now I'm thinking at a harder level than before after learning so many new skills at college. Even the professors at my school were very nice to me. Every time I went to college I learned a new way of doing things.

After my experience at NCC, I feel like I have learned the necessary skills to get a job in my desired field as an Information Technology Professional. I plan on applying for a job at Total Computer in Milford and I really hope I get the job. It was very tough at times, but it was worth it in the end. Just be sure to have your homework and other assignments up to date to make it easier on yourself. I recommend college to anybody who wants to keep learning and to advance their professional career.

GARDENING AT CALDWELL DRIVE BY NATHAN ST. JEAN

People at Opportunity Networks have been producing a garden that a group of folks have been working on. From the very start I volunteered to help them to dig up new soil and planted new baby plants and cover them up with new fertilized soil on top of it.

Every week they check and water the Peppers, Zucchini Squash, Summer Squash, Eggplant, Tomatoes, and Cucumbers.

The seeds were planted during the beginning of June after the Grand Opening of The Caldwell building. The Opportunity Networks gardeners hope that their garden produces a bountiful harvest that can then be worked into delicious, healthy meals to be prepared in Network's cooking classes. Everybody is excited to see how our garden grows!



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CALLING ALL SUPER-FANS!!! BY NATHAN ST. JEAN & JOSH NADEAU

Hey WWE fanatics!!! Here's your opportunity to join a group called, "The WWE Fan Club" which will be hosted by Josh Nadeau. There will be 2 groups that will meet on certain days of the week for your entertainment. During these pow-wows, we will talk about the wrestlers, the history of the WWE, the famous wrestling moves and play some WWE video games that will teach you the basics of all of the action. The WWE was founded by Jess McMahon and Toots Mondt in 1952. The superstars that will be discussed will include Batista, Big Show, Undertaker, Brock Lesnar, and many more as well as legends like Jimmy Snuka, Roddy Piper, Bret Hart, Hulk Hogan and others. There will be plenty of excitement and a lot of information being given. You will also learn how these superstars train for the competition and how they have recovered from injuries. This fan club is free so there is no money required at all. You may bring any WWE merchandise and be as creative as you can be. So, don't waste another minute and join up. I hope to see you there!

Written by: Josh Nadeau

Are you a fan of anime? If you are, then come on over to the upcoming Anime Club Group.

My name is Nathan St. Jean, and I am looking to start a new group for everyone to share their fandom of anime TV series, movies, and more. The club will have many fun activities like watching DVD collectables of you favorite anime shows or movies in the Tech Theatre, draw your own anime characters or existing characters you enjoy in the Creative Room, read manga series, and play anime RPG video games.

We will also have a tribute anime guessing game where we get to let you or anyone of the group to take turn on writing questions of anything on one of the anime TV series, and anime bingo. Written by: Nathan St. Jean

So come on down to Opportunity Networks located at 11 Caldwell Dr in Amherst, NH. and join in the fun!

Please contact Hilary Wells at hwells@opportunitynetworks.org for more information or to suggest an idea for a new group.



BINGO AT NETWORKS BY JOSH NADEAU

If you like playing a "game of chance" game then BINGO is a perfect match for you. The game cards are 5x5 with pictures in the assigned boxes. BINGO is being played at Opportunity Networks on Monday & Friday afternoons. Join for free and you might get lucky and win a prize or two. It is a fun activity to do. In order to win a game, you must have 5 horizontal, vertical or diagonal and then yell "BINGO!!!" and you get to choose your own prize(s). This is a good opportunity for anybody to be a part of the BINGO group as you will enjoy it a lot. Make sure to have your card ready to play, win and have fun at the same time! So, join now and you will never be bored again. We hope to see you there!

13	6	21	36	55	61	13	6	21	36	55	61	13	6	21	36	55	61
12	19	43	56	69	12	19	43	56	69	12	19	43	56	69			
9	24	46	71	9	24	46	71	9	24	46	71						
3	20	44	52	67	3	20	44	52	67	3	20	44	52	67			
1	30	34	57	65	1	30	34	57	65	1	30	34	57	65			
4	16	40	46	72	4	16	40	46	72	4	16	40	46	72			
10	17	41	58	62	10	17	41	58	62	10	17	41	58	62			
2	26	48	66	2	26	48	66	2	26	48	66						
7	18	37	60	63	7	18	37	60	63	7	18	37	60	63			
14	29	35	59	73	14	29	35	59	73	14	29	35	59	73			
11	23	31	51	65	11	23	31	51	65	11	23	31	51	65			
13	22	32	60	73	13	22	32	60	73	13	22	32	60	73			
6	30	50	61	6	30	50	61	6	30	50	61						
2	25	39	48	70	2	25	39	48	70	2	25	39	48	70			
15	27	33	56	75	15	27	33	56	75	15	27	33	56	75			

Make sure to have your card ready to play, win and have fun at the same time!

THANK YOU FOR THE GENEROUS DONATIONS FROM:

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THANK YOU

OUR PROJECT PARTNER

20TH ANNUAL CATCH & RELEASE BASS-A-THON FISHING TOURNAMENT



Opportunity Networks is pleased to announce that we will be holding our 20th Annual Catch & Release Bassathon Fishing Tournament. Taking in the top honors of the day was Fred Mackey, whose largemouth bass weighed in at 4 pounds, 15 ounces! The 19th Annual Catch and Release Bassathon Fishing Tournament fundraiser was held at the Lone Pine Hunter's Club in Hollis on Saturday, September 21st, and raised much-needed funds for the 501 (c)3 non profit.

Opportunity Networks greatly appreciated all the fishermen and volunteers that made the day so successful, and would especially like to thank their event sponsors and donors: The Lone Pine Hunter's Club, Sucker Punch Baits, O'Doul's and Bellavance Beverage, Hannafords, Dick's Sporting Goods, AW Emboss, Pete's Gun and Tackle, Granite State Rod and Reel Repair, Sports Authority, Canobie Lake Park, Big Game and Custom Taxidermy and Restoration, The Meat House, Beaver Brook Association, Leda Lanes, and Lisa and Brian Lambert.

2013 \$1,000 Grand Prize Winner Fred Mackey (L), as Rocky Morelli, Executive Director of Opportunity Networks, presents him with the Grand Prize for his winning 4 lb 15 oz Largemouth Bass



Upcoming Events

Our Fundraising Events:

Bassathon Fishing Tournament – Coming in September 20, 2014

Annual \$10k Raffle & Night out – Coming in December 5, 2014

Please check out our website at www.opportunitynetworks.org, for more information on our fundraising events and how you can participate!!

Join Us in Playing!

Due to funding arrangements for Nonprofit Programming providing services to individuals with disabilities, Opportunity Networks continues to rely on the generous support of individuals and businesses in our local community.

Program Locations

Administrative Office:

11 Caldwell Drive
 Amherst, NH 03031
 603-883-4402

Day Habilitation & Supported Employment Program

116A Perimeter Rd.
 Nashua, NH 03060
 603-889-0796

Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Services

116C Perimeter Rd.
 Nashua, NH 03060
 (603) 402-1444

www.opportunitynetworks.org

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 Facebook!!!