

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

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This issue of "Networks  
News" was made possible  
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# Networks News

## NEWS CREW HITS THE ROAD TO WMUR NEWS 9

Recently The News Crew hit the road to WMUR. There is one rule in Studio A, never under any circumstances wear green in front of the green screen because you will disappear alakazam and blend in with the green screen. The newsroom is where stories come to life. Those who work in the newsroom work on finding, filming and editing news stories 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Rule of thumb is that photo taking in the newsroom is not allowed to insure privacy. Town Meetings and Cook's Corner are held in Studio B. The lighting in the Studio A and in Studio B were so intense and you could feel the warmth, it was almost as if you were standing in front of the sun. In Cooks Corner the stove, and fridge both worked and the fridge was full of staff members personal lunches. However the sink wasn't attached to running water. On the way out the night team met Mister Tom Griffith. For your news, weather, sports, and traffic go to [www.wmur.com](http://www.wmur.com). Special Thanks to Ashleigh our tour guide, Keri-Ann, and Elyse.





Number 5!!!



One for the Record Books.

## PATS BEAT FALCONS IN SB 51 COMEBACK WIN — BY JOSH & JUSTIN

# PATRIOTS

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in front of 70,807 NFL fans, the New England Patriots and the Atlanta Falcons went head-to-head in an epic Super Bowl showdown to determine the champions. The game started on the rough side with a scoreless 1<sup>st</sup> quarter before the Falcons scored 21 unanswered points while the Patriots scored a field goal with 2 seconds left in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter to make it a 21-3 Falcons lead at halftime. Then in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, the Falcons increased their lead with a touchdown and then midway through the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Falcons QB Matt Ryan completed his second touchdown pass. In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, the Patriots made the biggest Super Bowl comeback in history by scoring 25 unanswered points to tie the game, 28-28 with 57 seconds left in regulation time. In overtime, the Patriots won the coin toss, they took the ball and drove 75 yards to win with a 2-yard touchdown run by Patriots RB James White. This victory gave New England their 5<sup>th</sup> Super Bowl ring and Tom Brady was crowned as the MVP of the game for the 4<sup>th</sup> time with 466 total yards, 2 touchdowns and 1 interception. The Super Bowl halftime show featured Lada Gaga and the National Anthem by country singer, Luke Bryan. The event took place at the NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas while the coin toss was presented by Former President George H.W. Bush and his wife, Barbara Bush. This Super Bowl win for the Patriots aided them into a 3-way tie with the Cowboys & 49ers for 2nd place on the all-time Super Bowl win list, just behind the Steelers. Once the game ended, more than 30 team or individual Super Bowl records had either been matched or broken.



## GATEWAYS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – BY JOSH

### The New Hampshire Challenge

Many families in the disability world are in serious need for the best information. The services are provided by several local area agencies in which it differs from region to region and school districts operate independently. In order for all families to be sufficient advocates for their sons and daughters, they would need the current information about best practices, policy issues, happenings in different places and opportunities other families have created or problems they have encountered. This challenge is committed to being a reliable source for such information in which it's run by NH families and it also focuses on NH in it's reporting but the issues are universal to the disability experience. The NH Challenge decided to distribute to families at no cost to them and that is still true to this day. However, they have decided to distribute the Challenge electronically due to a continuous price increase on paper and printing in order to reach a larger audience with their limited amount of money they have.

If you would like to receive the Challenge, call 603-652-8304.  
The Challenge Website is: [www.nhchallenge.net](http://www.nhchallenge.net).

## Information is Power!

### DEERFIELD FAIR – BY JANE

On September 29<sup>th</sup> 2016 a large group of individuals went to the Deerfield Fair in Deerfield, NH. There was a lot to see there. One individual named Justin went on his own with his parents. We saw lots of different animals there. We also got to feed some of the animals. We all had fun and we spent the whole day there. The weather was alright that day it was not too hot or too cold. While I was there I got to sing karaoke. I sang a couple of songs. They were Michael Jackson songs and I also got to take a CD of me singing home. Here's what other people liked at the Deerfield fair. Andrew C. liked the rides and the food. His favorite food was hot dogs and French fries. Ashley H. liked seeing the baby cows. Dee liked the food like chicken fingers and French fries. There were also lots of games and rides there. There was also wooden cut outs that allowed you to place your face in the hole and become an animal or a farmer.



Your voice makes a difference.  
Stay Involved!



Getting ready for the "Round-up"

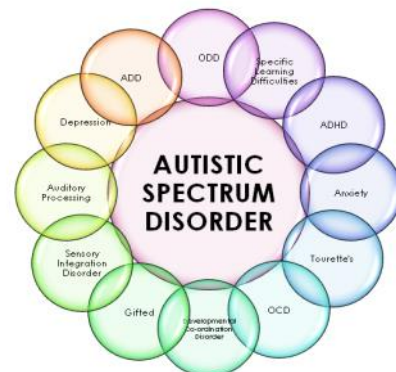






## PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER – BY RICHARD

What is Autism? Autism is a disability that makes speech and social skills harder. Some people with autism can't talk, some have a hard time picking up on social cues and some can do things better than people without autism. Some people with autism grow up to be math geniuses and some are master painters at a young age. People are born with autism, it is not a disease, you can't catch it. You can tell when people have autism when they are very young. Some things to notice are that they will be upset by minor changes, they can have a hard time telling what other people's feelings are or showing their own feelings and kids autism will avoid looking people in the eye. A doctor can diagnose for autism when you are young by looking for things like this. Autism is a spectrum, meaning a lot of different disabilities are also related to it. Some of these disabilities include ADHD, anxiety, learning disability and OCD. Some parents think their children grow out of autism, but most people have it for life. Research says that 73% of parents who said their children grew out of autism say that they were given another diagnosis on the spectrum. There's a phrase that people say: "If you've met one person with autism, you've met one person with autism." meaning everyone with autism is different. Autism is just another way the brain works and people with autism can live life like anyone else. Some things bother them more or are harder for them than they are for other people, some things may be easier and not bother them that most people have difficulty with. For the things that people with autism do have difficulty with, there are programs that help them. There is the Autism Self Advocacy Network which helps people with Autism speak for themselves in their community all over the country. It is run by people with Autism. Autism Speaks works to find causes and a cure for Autism. Some local organizations are Easter Seals and our own Opportunity Networks that help people find jobs and get out into the community. They also help people with autism advocate for themselves. With these tools the community can work to put the pieces together to make the world a better place for people with autism in the future.



## WELCOME, BILLY!!!! - BY JOSH & DARREN

Billy has been coming to Opportunity Networks for at least 1 year and enjoys it. He has a job at Chiangmai Thai Restaurant in Amherst, N.H. The owners and customers are very nice, he fills the glasses with water, washes dishes, buses tables and fills the ice machine. Our friend, Billy, likes to socialize with his friends/family and assisting with the newsletter at Opportunity Networks. He enjoys spending time with his girlfriend and likes to watch the Patriots on the big screen. Football is his favorite sport and likes to watch TV and play video games at home. Billy currently lives in New Ipswich, N.H. near the MRHS Turnpike and just recently won the Opportunity Networks Health & Wellness Person of the month. He also misses some of the activities that he enjoys such as, the NSA on Fridays but knows that his job is extremely more important to him. Billy will continue to participate in the activities at Opportunity Networks and help his friends and the staff with any issues or tasks that they might have. Billy is a hard-working, kind and generous person to have at Opportunity Networks and at his job site.



Opportunity Networks is awesome!  
Thanks for helping me find a job  
that I love.

## OPNET SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES – BY MATT R & JOSH

Opportunity Networks were the hosts of a very special event that happened this past summer. It was the 2016 Summer Games that were held in July and August (Monday–Friday) during the Health & Wellness activities. The places where these activities occurred were: Nashua Sports Academy and both YMCA locations in Nashua & Merrimack. All of the individuals that participated had a lot of fun and enjoyed it with gratitude and kindness if one of the other team or other teams didn't win. There were 10 teams in the Olympics during the whole event.



- The Winning Team in 1st Place was Team France that took home **gold**



- 2nd Place went to Team Jamaica that took home **silver**



- 3rd Place went to Team Italy that took home **bronze**





## A PRAYER IN SPRING – BY ROBERT FROST

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers to-day;  
And give us not to think so far away  
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here  
All simply in the springing of the year.

Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,  
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;  
And make us happy in the happy bees,  
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.

And make us happy in the darting bird  
That suddenly above the bees is heard,  
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,  
And off a blossom in mid air stands still.

For this is love and nothing else is love,  
The which it is reserved for God above  
To sanctify to what far ends He will,  
But which it only needs that we fulfill.



## EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT: POLY-JECT – BY JUSTIN

Poly-Ject was founded in 1982 and occupies a 26,000 square foot facility in the heart of New England (NH, MA, CT, RI, ME, VT). We have served New England and the United States with high quality plastic injection molded parts for over 25 years. Poly-Ject is located at 8 Manhattan Drive in Amherst, N.H. and makes yoga toes. “Yoga toes” are tools that one uses to stretch and separate their toes to help with foot-pain. Our production department runs 24 hours a day and 5 days a week to ensure that we deliver products to our customers on time. Our design team uses the latest CAD/CAM software and does some labeling. Poly-Ject also offers in-house rapid prototyping. Using our Dimension BST 1200, we can supply our customers with ABS models from a 3D file in just 1-2 days. Our mold-making department uses the latest CAD/CAM software, including Mastercam, to deliver the highest quality molds. Our advanced software and CNC equipment allow us to produce even the most complex parts right from a 3D model.



## NEWS CREW COLLAGE



## LIVING WITH AUTISM AND THE SYSTEMATIC STRUGGLES FACING ME – BY STEVEN

I am “the new guy” to Opportunity Networks. I am thirty, living with my family, albeit small; no siblings. By the time you read this it will be Father's Day, and I never had a dad in my life. One thing I can safely say is I intend to gain more social networks here as time goes on. Resources are always at a strain because of my small network. I do not immediately go into friendships and often I struggle retaining long term relationships (more on this later.) I also am an autistic, where to be honest autistic traits require a specific skill, tolerance, patience that other “developmental disabilities” could gain. No other program has offered this or tries to. As I began in March; I had just turned thirty and came from what I describe is a “toxic environment”. This column explains the feelings entering into Opportunity Networks.

I do not know what it's like to live my life to the fullest. I've been given a lot of praise, that it's now just humming noises in my head. I've been given so many mixed messages in my adolescent life. I had been in school, in out of district special education programs; “traditional” thirty hour day programs; and had been in two area agencies; and several other day programs in the Greater Nashua area. Many years of experience taught me how much progress will be needed for everyone with disabilities to have a successful and equitable life. Also all programs I couldn't fit in, and customized services were non existent and sadly it still exists. At the same time within the last year some of these programs where staff and management treats the clients all the same; to be hopeless and helpless individuals. In short this is the case example of the “cookie cuttered” effect. Staffing and revolving doors was another issue; one could argue that they were young and “figuring” themselves out; but it wasn't in the best interest for my group. Sadly this also disrupted my ability for wanting *stability* and long term relationships. *Why trust someone if they are going to leave (or come back then leave once again?)*

These experiences, unfortunately painted me with a negative image; as well as *experiencing* these same negative programs. One of my programs; they had called me “an intelligent young man”; but on the other hand, they were treating me like a teenager. At times, via observations; I felt bad for the other clients who were functioning people; but were basically suppressed for speaking for themselves. I've experienced first hand that managers in many programs would talk the talk and not walk the walk. They would claim they would be in the interest of “developmental disabilities” but their *actions* would take that phrase so literally to think they are not capable of growing up. Being in this environment, I personally felt as if I wasn't growing. Humans are supposed to

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grow and mature; in some cases for me it was *nurture* (not *nature*) that had held me back. (To be fair, the management here has been a breath of fresh air! And no I am not getting compensated for stating this!)

I'm also a former self advocate. I use this in past tense because for a number of years I had been in direct relations with Concord based interest groups as well as state employees (relevant to my group). I used to attend an annual conference for family support in the North Country, and stopped going a year ago. This has been "work"; speaking and pushing change to this group was so counterproductive, some *clearly* was treating me like a wallflower. I was so desperate that Adele's *Hello* was on loop because I felt so hopeless. Yes, you read that right; it escalated to be like "there will be no decent program for me", "I won't ever find my dream support team or personnel", "people won't help *push with* me to move forward not the other way around." Fortunately, for the most part the feelings has dissipated.

Given my life experiences, I do come in skeptical, in some days I feel like I may be raining on the parade here. I struggle with the fact if even the "real world" can cope with me and vise versa. Even more, when I am put under pressure, because it could happen. There are likes and things I aspire to be but I keep that internal as a "secret recipe" to my life; because for many years I'd start talking then people could take my ideas, "steal" them for their own agendas; or use it to say "no" or what. And my own happiness is no one else's business to be honest. I hope I don't become "a piece of work" as some say about tough clients.

## TRIVIA QUESTIONS



- 1.) Prior to 2007, what was the state song of New Hampshire? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.) When did NH become a state? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.) What male tennis player has won the most Grand Slam titles? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.) Which NH native was an "American Idol" finalist? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.) What was Director David Leans first film? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6.) What is the only man made object that is observable from the moon? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7.) What is the largest freshwater lake in the world? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8.) What is the NH State bird? \_\_\_\_\_

1. Old New Hampshire
2. June 21, 1788
3. Roger Federer
4. Alex Preston
5. The Night Porter
6. Great Wall of China
7. Lake Superior
8. Purple Finch

## OPPORTUNITY NETWORKS RECEIVES GRANTS FROM:

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for helping fund our Film and Food Festival  
and our Winter Gala.



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## Upcoming Events

### Our Next Fundraising Events:

#### Winter 2017 \$10,000 Extravaganza

Please check out our website at [www.opportunitynetworks.org](http://www.opportunitynetworks.org), for more information on our fundraising events and how you can participate!!

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](http://www.opportunitynetworks.org)

