

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



Networks News

I HAVE A DREAM— BY SAMANTHA

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

- Jane
- Billy
- Mitchell
- Sam
- Justin
- Eastman
- Richard

Just like Martin Luther King Jr had a dream that all races will one day live in peace and that segregation will end, I have similar dreams for people with disabilities. I have a dream that one day people will stop looking for a cure for autism and work on more techniques to establish a sort of autistic culture and use their gifts. I have a dream that more places in the world will make themselves sensory friendly, with quiet places dim lighting, a tolerant atmosphere, places to move or pace, and either wider spaces to avoid touch or little nooks and crannies to be cozy and close to each other. I have a dream that there will be Braille everywhere, like on all bathrooms, room numbers, and elevators, all restaurant, bar or cafe menus, department, drug, or grocery store shelves and products, Braille books in every library and bookstore, and Braille forms at doctor's offices or other places where people have to fill out forms. One day, places of entertainment and education like theaters and museums and movies will have audio description and more tactile or motion experiences. I have a dream that one day, no blind person will ever be robbed or cheated out of money because they don't know the denomination. Instead, we will have bills with Braille or with textures or with corners missing or folded. I have a dream that all crosswalks have audible signals for the blind. I wish that people with service dogs were never refused into a building. I hope that everywhere is wheelchair accessible. I hope that people with medical conditions or disabilities will one day never be refused a job. I wish one day that a person with a medical condition that needs food or a drink with them would not be refused entry or be penalized for having what they need on them in establishments where food or drink aren't allowed. I wish that during driver's ed, all drivers were taught to obey the white cane awareness law. I wish all teachers, law enforcement, and medical professionals were trained in dealing with sensory issues and autism. Most of all, my dream is to have people be educated in how to help people with disabilities and have myths surrounding disabilities dispelled.



VOLUNTEER BREAKFAST – BY MATT R



On Thursday April 11th, 2019 hunt community had its annual volunteer breakfast. They served scrabbled eggs, eggs benedict, sausages, bacon, and fruit. The food was in buffet style. The Annual Volunteer Breakfast was held in the 4th floor fancy dining room at Hunt Community. The residents and staff showed there gratitude to all Hunt Community volunteers.



There was an award given to one of the residents. A very special thanks to the dining services staff and the kitchen staff for preparing the breakfast, Hunt Community, the volunteer offices and the maintenance department. All the volunteers were a gift by the volunteer department. The gift was a beautiful flower and a bottle of lilac oil wrapped in a light purple box tied up with light purple ribbon. I hope they do another volunteer breakfast next year. I work in the maintenance department of Hunt community. Michelle made the gifts. Next year it’s going to happen again. Please join us because it’s right we need love/support. “We need all help we can get.” My position at hunt community is a maintenance volunteer. I’ve been a volunteer at hunt community for more than 2 years.



GET AWAY ESCAPE – BY JUSTIN



Every Summer we take a family trip to Canada. Before we leave we have to make sure to tell my work. I have learned how to approach my employer and ask for time off. Yearly we drive to Prince Edward Island for the first week of July for two and a half weeks. My uncle, nieces, aunts, and grandparents have a house there. We went with my parents, my grandmother, my sister and my brother. The weather was hot but beautiful. It took us 11 hours to drive down. We went to McDonald’s on the way in Kenny Bunk Port, Maine. We went to the beach where we saw a lot of seagulls and went in the water! During our vacation we went to Sharkey’s to eat fish, and we stayed at a rental house. In the years past we stayed with family, this is the first time we stayed at a different location. My favorite part was going to the playground and the boardwalk. I had a lot of fun at Prince Edward Island and hope to continue this tradition that’s been going on since my childhood.

DAZZLING DANCE – BY EASTMAN

While attending opportunity Networks and participating in an activity in the community I was offered a chance to participate in the dance recital that was going to be held by the opportunity Networks Dance Company at Nashua North high school on June 9th. All of the people from Opportunity Networks met at for several practices to learn all of the moves that went into the performance we were going to perform on stage. It took about three to four classes to learn all of the moves. In the end I feel like our last practice was were we performed our best. I give Taren and our dance teachers so much credit, especially Taren for helping to make the shirts and be at almost all of our practices consider she had a child on the way at the same time.



It was June 9th the day of the dance recital and I was thrilled to go inside. I ran like the wind and could not wait to get on stage in front of everyone. After asking where to go and opening the door to the theater I was surprised to find myself entering a room that was completely dark and finding everyone from our dance group to be sitting near back of the theater and not up front because that is what I am used to. From a distance the stage had lights from the selling all over it and red curtains on each side. Once a bit of time had past our turn had come to go on stage and we all went back stage and waited for our cue to go on we practiced our dance routine and got our glasses and shirts and my parents wished me luck and said “have fun.” While we were waiting back stage I felt like I was on Broadway. Just before we went on stage One of the past dance instructors and the previous performers wished us luck. Then we went on and got in our positions on the stage. Before the music started I heard a few members of the audience cheer us on. Then we did our dance and thankfully we had one of our instructors guiding us through the moves while the music was playing. After we finished our dance up on stage and went back stage everyone congratulated and we then went out to the hallway that led to back stage and we then the sound of several people from the crowd screaming glee about our performance on stage. We then got our picture taken and I asked if we could keep our shirts and glasses. I was then told we could keep them and then we left after I said bye to everyone. Once we got home I





SPOTLIGHT ON SAM – BY JANE & BILLY

On May 20th 2019 Sam started at Opportunity Networks but before she started at Opportunity Networks she went to the Plus Company. Than she moved to the sea coast but there were no good programs there for her there. She needs help to sit down or needs to know what the schedule says like who is bringing her home. Also she asks what she is doing or someone tells her what she is doing or going. Also she has a favorite activity like music school. She also gives ideas like she gives the teacher what it might sound right or Maybe people might like it. She also like the cooking group which she does with another staff person from perimeter.

She makes different foods. Different weeks like one week she made n National pasta day. Tomato sauce with pasta also salad and garlic bread.

She also likes to exercise on a exercise bike.

She likes the College football team Notre Dame.

Also she uses a cane to get around so she doesn't bump into things and her favorite activity is news crew. She also installed an app on one of the computers at caldwell and one of the computers at perimeter that talks so she can hear what she needs to do .she uses this program on the computer called non visual desktop access.



JOKE CORNER – BY NATE

Q. What do you get when you cross a sloth and a Scottish rock band?

Slow Patrol

Q. What do sloths throw in winter?

Slowballs

Q. What do you get when you cross a sloth and a cat?

A slow leopard

FALL IN LOVE WITH FALL – BY SAMANTHA

There have been lots of great events for fall at Opportunity Networks. The first one we did was make a scarecrow for the downtown Nashua scarecrow contest. We all got a chance to make a face out of clay, dress it, and stuff it. I helped make the eyes and a smile. Someone else did the nose. We even put a hat on it. I loved that project because it was tactile and playing with the clay was therapeutic. Hopefully we'll win the contest.

The other event I attended was the Halloween dance at the Milford Congregational Church. Everyone, including the staff, dressed up in costume and dance the night away on Friday, October 18! I dressed as a pegacorn, that is, a cross between a pegasus and a unicorn. The costumes ranged from creepy to humorous to cute. They had lots of candy and chips to snack on and water to drink! We all boogied down to some great songs that were a mix of all different styles, slow and fast, but all great dance songs. The Halloween dance was all treats, no tricks.

COLLAGE



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and our Winter Gala.



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Upcoming Events

Our Next Fundraising Events: 2020 Golf

Please check out our website at 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

