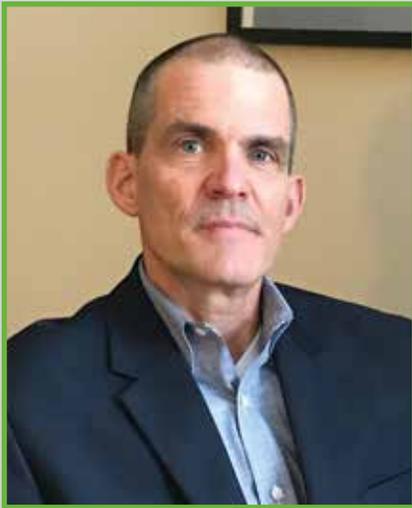




BFAIR BUZZ

Winter 2018





HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Happy New Year, Friends - 2017 offered numerous cause for celebration at BFAIR, beginning with the opening of new program and office space for our Individual and Family Supports located on Fenn Street in Pittsfield. Continuing in that vein, mid-year we welcomed four residents with an acquired brain injury to their new home in Northampton. Although BFAIR already offers several other services in Franklin and Hampshire County, the establishment of this particular home, which compliments three similar residences we operate locally, represented the first significant commitment of personnel and financial resources outside of Berkshire County in our twenty three year history. Building on this success, within the next few weeks we will open the doors to another home, this time located in Westfield, for adults with an acquired brain injury.

The number of people served in nearly every program or service offered by BFAIR grew in 2017 perhaps none more our In-Home Clinical Supports for students with autism and our HomeCare supports for older adults. These two combined with our other work increased the number of residents of our communities that we positively affect to six hundred or more annually.

To make all of this happen of course comes down to a few essential factors, none of which is more important than the members of the wonderful staff or caregivers of this organization. To paraphrase, a few years ago a family member of a person served by BFAIR commented that our staff provide for the physical and emotional needs of people with disabilities in a caring and compassionate manner. I'd like to personally thank our program staff, caregivers and administrative team as this description continues to ring true.

Quickly however, there's much to do. We will begin a renovation which adds living space and accessible features to our newest residence located in Williamstown. Funds generated by our 'Raise the Roof' annual campaign will go directly to support the renovation of this home. Thank you to many of you who've already donated to support this work (especially our dedicated staff who give each and every year) and I hope others will consider making a gift as well. Planning is also underway for our Annual Meeting scheduled

for the morning of April 27th at the Berkshire Hills Country Club. If you haven't attended in the past I hope you will consider doing so this year. Finally I would like to congratulate our newly elected legislators and public officials. Your work, contributions, and awareness of the needs of the citizens with disabilities of our communities is as vital as ever by either helping to secure funding or creating pathways for employment and other contributions.

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2 Sign up at smile.amazon.com

SPECIAL THANKS

BFAIR would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the City's outgoing Mayor, **Dick Alcombright**. He has been a true advocate and supporter of the work that BFAIR does with the City of North Adams.



Photo credit: MountainOne

*Best of luck in your
new adventures in your return
to MountainOne!*

Our Mission:

To enrich the lives of people of all
abilities by providing
life experiences and
through distinctive
size ability se



Above: Linda Lefebvre, bookkeeper; Deanna Trumble, CBDS specialist; Rebecca Carson, home life support counselor;
Right: Lakeesha Balawender, employment counselor;

EMPLOYEES OF THE QUARTER



An impressive group of employees this quarter! With a dedication to the mission of BFAIR, these employees impact nearly every facet of the work we do at BFAIR. Congrats, ladies!



NOTHING BUT NET!

Joanne Potash felt like a star on the court when she got the opportunity to meet the MCLA Trailblazers Women's Basketball team. A basketball enthusiast, Joanne was absolutely thrilled to meet this season's team. Taking the time to introduce themselves individually to Joanne, the team then gave Joanne a shirt that she can wear to any team practice or game that she attends. As an honorary Trailblazer, Joanne will be able to assist with getting the

team water, helping with the balls, and any other task that she might be able to offer for the team's assistance. No matter how the season turns out, this was a win for Joanne!

Head Coach: Loren Stock

Assistant Coaches: Courtney McLaughlin & Emily Castle

Team: Kylah Langston, Arianna Walden, Samantha Gawron, Mackenzie Robinson, Kayla Dupont, L'Rae Brundige, Alanza Quinones, Emily Moulton, McKayla Brown, Courtney Pingelski, Erika Ryan

Happy Halloween!



Whether you're greeted by Elvis, a Minion, Thing 1, or a police officer, chances are that you're having a blast celebrating Halloween with us! And why stop at just one party? All of our program participants were invited to a costume dinner & dance party to show off their creative costumes and dance skills. Year after year, this is a party that never disappoints! Also, our community based day services program hosted a costume party with snacks – and the costumes by program participants and staff were outstanding!





Raise THE Roof

— ANNUAL CAMPAIGN 2017 —

We'd say we are over the moon happy with our current campaign total, but really we are over the ROOF happy! With just over a month into our **Raise the Roof Annual Campaign**, our total is **over \$10,200**. This year's campaign is unique in that all of the funds raised will go to support just one of our residences, but an important overall initiative for our agency. As the people in our residential program age and have changing needs, it's important to respond to those changes. Our newest home on Woodcock Road in Williamstown will become the new home to our residents who are currently living in our Middle Road, Clarksburg home. As most of the cost for the renovation of Woodcock Road are accounted for, the funds from the Raise the Roof campaign will be used to purchase items that aren't covered by contracts or insurance - most simply, the items that our residents need to live an everyday life, every day.

If you'd like to make a tax-deductible donation to our **Raise the Roof Annual Campaign**, it's easy. Easy, online donations accepted at www.bfair.org, or mail a check payable to **BFAIR, 771 South Church Street, North Adams, MA 01247**.



Woodcock Road in Williamstown

Berkshire Museum's Festival of Trees Whimsical Wonderful

Whimsical Wonderful – Whoville style!

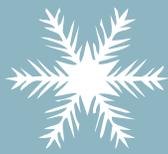
That's right, this year our tree at the Festival was adorned in all things Whoville. Crafted by our community based day program and supported employment program participants, the tree had hand-made ornaments that included colorfully painted bulbs, whacky pom pom and pipe cleaner creations, and even a hidden ornament – a heart, cause the Grinch's heart grew on Christmas Day! You can even see the Grinch with his head in the tree, that sneaky guy!

*“No matter how different
a Who may appear,
he will always be welcome
with holiday cheer.”*





A Season of Giving



Nothing makes our hearts feel quite as good as giving. For Thanksgiving, our day habilitation program hosted a food drive for the Louison House. Program participants happily delivered the donations to the shelter. In support of Berkshire Community Action Council's (BCAC) Elf Program, BFAIR staffers sponsored twenty children and held a coat drive. With warm coats, clothing, and toys, we were happy to spread some holiday cheer to children in our community!





Berkshire Family & Individual Resources

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Peter Mirante



PROUD MEMBERS OF

North Adams Chamber • Williamstown Chamber
1Berkshire • Greater Northampton Chamber of Commerce
Southern Berkshire Chamber • Greater Westfield Chamber of Commerce



**please note the new venue*

BFAIR's 2018 Annual Meeting!

Friday, April 27, 2018

7:30am – 9am

***Berkshire Hills
Country Club, Pittsfield**

Employment opportunities at www.bfair.org. APPLY NOW