



BFAIR BUZZ

Fall 2018

BFAIR'S SHINING STARS





Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services

BFAIR SUCCESS

The Office of Quality Enhancement of the Commonwealth’s Department of Developmental Services recently completed a review of several of our programs. Through a self-assessment process and a target review, BFAIR earned positive licensing outcomes. The eight critical indicators reviewed met the standards set forth by the Department. These positive outcomes resulted in a two-year licensing and certification for BFAIR’s residential, individual home support, and day and employment services.

“BFAIR’s outcomes on reviews and assessments like these are indicative of the work that we do”, said Theresa Gelinis, Director of Program Operations for Day Services. She continued, “Receiving positive accolades and continued

licensing speaks to our commitment to consistency in quality services.

Rich Weisenflue, Executive Director, concurred, “I am very pleased with findings of the Department of Developmental Services Office of Quality Enhancement Team’s recent survey of BFAIR’s programs and services. I consider OQE’s survey a very important measure of the quality of BFAIR services and therefore a two-year license, the highest level awarded, is an outstanding outcome. The entire BFAIR team should be extremely proud of this accomplishment as the credit for the high quality of our services is directly attributable to the hard work of each and every one of our employees.”

TABLE of CONTENTS

DDS Licensing and Certification	2
Direct Support Professionals	2
Fall Foliage Parade	3
Woodcock Road Residence	4
Friends & Family Picnic	6
Buddy Walk	7
Pumpkin Decorating	7

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK

The shining stars of BFAIR, our direct support professionals, were highlighted during the week of September 9-15, Direct Support Professional Recognition Week (DSPRW). Celebrated throughout the Commonwealth and across the country, DSPRW is part of the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) National Advocacy Campaign, whose mission is to enhance the lives of all people with disabilities who rely on long-term supports and services by obtaining the resources to recruit, train and retain a highly qualified and sustainable workforce. BFAIR is proud of our direct support professionals and recognizes the work that they do to support those with disabilities.



**Shop at
AmazonSmile
to benefit BFAIR**

2 Sign up at smile.amazon.com



FALL FOLIAGE

Celebrating the 63rd Fall Foliage Parade was not a dog and pony show – though there were plenty of pups on the scene! This year's theme, The Year of the Dog, brought out all types of floats and costumes. From a hot dog, to a bunch of Dalmatians, to a bulldog offering free kisses in his pagoda, all types of “dogs” were represented. As for BFAIR, we wondered, “who let the dogs out?!” so we created our own pet patrol van, with Rich, our Executive Director, chasing staff down with a net, fully adorned as a dog catcher. With some of the BFAIR staff dressed as their favorite pooch, Rich had no chance to catch them (and they were all really motivated to run away as the song “Who Let the Dogs Out?!” was blasting from the van). While we didn't win any awards this year, everyone had a blast!





In August, BFAIR hosted an open house at the newest residence on Woodcock Road in Williamstown. The event highlighted the transformation of the residence into a fully accessible home that would welcome four of the gentlemen that had been residing in a home in Clarksburg. While welcoming friends and neighbors into the home,



Woodcock Road Residence Opens Its Doors

BFAIR received a citation from Senator Adam Hinds that recognized BFAIR for enriching the lives of our residents. Also present to support the renovations and attest to the BFAIR mission were the Northern Berkshire United Way and the Williamstown Community Chest, both of which BFAIR is a member agency.



Friends & Family Picnic Celebrates Diversity

In keeping with BFAIR's commitment to celebrating and supporting diversity, this year's annual friends and family picnic hosted by our Day Habilitation Program celebrated cultures from around the world. With homemade snacks and dishes from a variety of places, the program participants were able to share their culture and cuisine while sampling some new things, such as hummus and pretzels. All of the creative décor was crafted by the participants and included flags and "passports". Luckily, the weather was fully cooperative and all of the attendees at the picnic were able to enjoy the festivities.





Buddy Walk

Our friends at Berkshire County Arc and the Berkshire County Arc Down Syndrome Family group hosted the 12th Annual Buddy Walk of the Berkshires. A nationally supported event of the National Down Syndrome Society, the goal of the walk is to promote awareness and fundraise for people living in the Berkshires with Down Syndrome. As you can see, Brittany had a great time with LaKeesha Balawender, BFAIR Competitive Employment Coach, and her daughter Emma.



Pumpkins!

The residents of Kemp Avenue wanted to create some spook-tacular Halloween décor, so they worked hard to design and paint their own pumpkins. Corinne, Lisa, and Joanne had a blast making their personalized pumpkins. Corinne is even showing off her love of the Red Sox!





Berkshire Family & Individual Resources

771 South Church Street | North Adams, MA 01247

Presort Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
North Adams, MA
Permit No.121

Rich Weisenflue, Executive Director

Board of Directors

Alex Kastrinakis, Chairperson

Kelli Kozak, Vice Chairperson

Dana Mullen, Treasurer

Patti Messina, Clerk

Kim Baker

Alex Figueroa

Peter Mirante



PROUD MEMBERS OF

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



Fall into a Great Career at BFAIR



**Employment opportunities at www.bfair.org.
APPLY NOW**