

## **Autism Housing Pathways, Inc.**

### **2013 Annual Report**

In 2013 the focus of Autism Housing Pathways was developing tools and systems for families and service providers to better provide residential supports to individuals with autism. We also engaged in outreach to the legislature and state government, with the goal of producing a regulatory environment more conducive to housing development.

Our initial training video for direct care staff, “Learning about reinforcement”, was released, and is now used by a major service provider for all new hires in its autism specialty houses. It is available for free on our website, along with a multiple choice pre- and post-test.

We devoted much of our focus this year to the development of “My Benefits Generator”, an interactive, web-based tool which will allow individuals and families to determine the MassHealth disability programs for which they should apply. My Benefits Generator is now in alpha testing. It will be accessible through the new version of our website. The website, which has gone live, but continues to undergo upgrades, has been re-organized and contains expanded resources, particularly in the Members Only section. These include an expanded matrix of housing models, boilerplate legal documents for various forms of home ownership, and substantial new information on location and design considerations.

We trained 7 facilitators in our free, introductory presentation on housing “Thinking about housing for your adult child”, and can offer it anywhere in the state.

We provided informal consultation to over 20 families regarding their individual housing situations.

AHP took the lead in encouraging implementation of the Massachusetts Autism Commission’s housing goals. Catherine Boyle, AHP’s president, outlined the housing needs of individuals with autism for members of the Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness. She also worked with Rep. Jason Lewis of Winchester, to draft H. 3364, a bill that would encourage the creation of housing for persons with disabilities in four ways:

- 1) allow individuals and families to open tax-privileged housing savings accounts, similar to 529 college savings accounts;
- 2) increase and stabilize funding for Individual Development Accounts, which may be opened by low-income working individuals and which provide a 3:1 funding match, by funding the program with tax credits;
- 3) permit long-term subsidized housing for individuals with disabilities to count as affordable housing, with each bedroom counted as one unit of housing, regardless of which government agency is funding supportive services (currently this only applies to DDS and DMH group homes);
- 4) prioritize projects serving DDS and DMH clients that are not eligible for the Facilities Consolidation Fund for funding through the Housing Innovations Fund, thus placing them on equal ground with projects serving others with disabilities.

We streamlined many of our back office functions, including accounting and donor tracking.

Nationally, Catherine Boyle participated in a national housing roundtable hosted by the Madison House Autism Foundation in Maryland, and was the invited speaker at a housing workshop in Austin, Texas.

Our goals for the coming year include:

- Holding day-long workshops around the state for families interested in creating housing;
- Developing a second staff training video, this one covering the use of visual supports;
- Issuing a list of recommended trainings for direct care staff.

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## Financial Report

September 30, 2013

### Balance Sheet

#### Assets

##### Cash assets

Bank account ..... 29,637.01  
PayPal account ..... 942.13

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Total assets ..... \$ 30,579.14

#### Liabilities

Debts ..... \$ 0.00

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Net Assets ..... \$ 30,579.14

### Statement of Revenue and Expenses

#### Revenue

Donations and matching gifts..... 13,035.55  
In-kind ..... 5,000.00  
Other fundraising ..... 8,425.00  
Membership and joining fees ..... 1,595.00  
Grants ..... 750.00  
Exempt purpose related income ..... 600.00  
Interest income ..... 15.71  
Adjustments ..... 5.11

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Total revenue ..... \$29,426.37

#### Expenses

Family training ..... 15,239.02  
Direct care professional development ..... 11,450.00  
Outreach ..... 556.49  
Research ..... 72.00  
Fundraising ..... 2,970.93  
Administrative personnel ..... 200.00  
Services ..... 65.00  
Supplies and copies ..... 50.67  
Governmental filing fees ..... 218.50  
Lobbying ..... 17.90  
Adjustments ..... 5.41

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Total expenses ..... \$30,845.92

#### Change in Net Assets

Net Assets as of Oct. 1, 2012 ..... \$31,998.69  
Revenue less Expenses ..... (\$1,419.55)

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Ending Net assets ..... \$30,579.14

## **Board of Directors**

Jane Becker	Arlington
Cheryl Chan	Auburn
Deborah Hemdal	Shrewsbury
Brenda Spezzaferri	Danvers

## **Officers**

President:	Catherine Boyle Winchester
Vice-President	Brenda Spezzaferri Danvers
Secretary:	Charlotte Nunez Dorchester
Treasurer	Kevin Boyle Winchester

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Autism Housing Pathways ... building roads to home