

Stavros Center for Independent Living

STAVROS NEWS

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Inside

[Finding a PCA](#)

[The Winners are...](#)

[Bringing People Home](#)

[Advocacy Needed](#)

[Fragrance Free](#)

[Surrogate News](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Outdoor Access](#)

[Partner with Stavros](#)



A Better Way to Find a PCA?

Finding a good Personal Care Attendant can be hard work, and expensive too. No wonder many PCA employers don't like to look for new ones, even when they need them. But things are changing. PCA employers now can use the Rewarding Work web site to look for qualified individuals to provide personal assistance.

That's right – and it's **FREE!** At RewardingWork.org you can see the new PCA Directory and find out who's looking for work, what kind of experience they have, and what shifts they're available. You can check it out at <http://www.findpca.org/State-Resources/Massachusetts.aspx>. There's a Spanish site too. And if you don't have a computer, just call 1.866.212.9675 and you can get the same information over the phone.



Joe Tringali, Director of Community Services at Stavros and a member of the Workforce Council, is pleased with the way things are working out. "So far the online directory has been a success. People with disabilities and PCAs are

beginning to use a system created to benefit them.” Joe points out that PCAs no longer have to come to a Stavros office to fill out a paper application. “People who want to work as PCAs can go online and fill out the application right there.”

Joe adds that the site will get better the more it’s used. “The more people who sign up to become PCAs on this site -- the easier it will be to find PCAs.” So make sure to check out the website next time you are looking for a PCA. And if you have a PCA who is looking for additional hours make sure he or she knows about the site. “We want to make sure that as many PCAs as possible sign up so the directory can work for people who need PCAs right away.”

Now it’s really true: a good PCA can be just a click away!

[Return to top of Page](#)

The 2009 Access Awards...and the winners are...

You nominated dozens of businesses and organizations as great examples of accessibility - and here are the ones who made the cut. After we received your nominations we had them checked out by a team of trained members from our Disability Action Networks. And the winners are...

Paul Winske Awards ***Brookfield Farm*** (Amherst) ***The Children’s Playground at School Street Park*** (Agawam) ***Cup and Top Café*** (Florence) ***Eddie’s Wheels*** (Shelburne Falls)



Grand Lumber (Belchertown) ***Hampden County Physician Associates, LLC*** (East Longmeadow) ***Lilly Library*** (Florence) ***Northampton Senior Center*** , ***Rendezvous*** (Turners Falls) ***River Valley Coop*** (Northampton) ***Stanley Park Asian Garden*** (Westfield) ***Thai Blue Ginger*** (Greenfield) ***Westfield Athenaeum***, ***The Wisdom Way Solar Village*** (Greenfield)

Home Sweet Home Heroes – these are volunteers, businesses or organizations that have gone above and beyond to help us build ramps for people with disabilities in the Pioneer Valley. The winners are: ***Carpenters’ Union, Local 108*** (Springfield) – ***Lowe’s*** Scott Horsfield (1660 Boston Road, Springfield) ***R K Miles*** (Hatfield and Manchester Center, VT) –***Bob Schmid*** (Leverett)

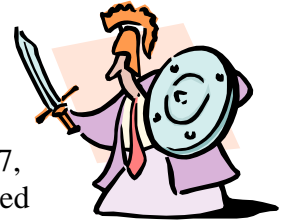
Paul Winske Awards, Individuals

Aby Adams (Recovery Learning Community, Holyoke) ***Carrie Barrepski*** (Springfield Newspapers) – ***Dr. Vincent Biggs*** (Holyoke) –***Jan Caswell*** (Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, Holyoke) ***Terry Gaberson*** (Hospice of Franklin County) – ***Wynn Gerhard*** (Greater Boston Legal Services) ***Nancy Lorenz*** (Greater Boston Legal Services) ***Margo McMahon*** (Department of Mental Health, Northampton) ***Maria Rodriguez*** (Latino Elder Program, Springfield) –***Tom Shea*** (Springfield Newspapers) ***Diana Smith*** (New Salem Public Library). ***Carolyn Young*** (Project AIM, Springfield) Congratulations to all the winners!

[Return to the top](#)

Fighting for the PCA Program!

We'll go anywhere to fight for the Personal Care Attendant program! On October 14th members of our staff joined people from across the state at the State House to tell Governor Patrick about the importance of services for people with disabilities. With the Governor getting ready to make 9C cuts that will go to the bone of many programs and harm lots of others, it's important to let him and his staff know that the PCA program is vital - we don't want to see *any* cuts. We returned a couple of weeks later, on October 27, joining our friends from Boston Center for Independent Living. We talked with Senate President Therese Murray and Governor Patrick's



Communications Director about the importance of this program for thousands of persons with disabilities. If you want updates on this and other advocacy issue please check us out at www.stavros.org or send us an email to info@stavros.org with the word 'advocacy' on the subject line: we will send you updates and calls to action as they become available. You can also find us in facebook.

[Return to Top page](#)

Our Bringing People Home Is Award-Winning!

Stavros Advocate Elaine Buckley has a very specialized job. She works with people who are forgotten or trapped in nursing homes, the ones who have been told there is no way to get back home, that it's too risky, too hard.

Those are fighting words for Elaine Buckley. First, she helps these folks get their hope back, and then she helps find them apartments, special services, even furniture and sheets and clothing. And then she gets them home – dozens and dozens and dozens of people over the last few years.

Word gets around, and this fall the Massachusetts Statewide Independent Living Council gave Elaine an award for her amazing work. Listen to what one man said to some state officials recently: "Elaine Buckley is my angel – she did in one month what the nursing home social worker couldn't get done in a year!" Congratulations Elaine on a well deserved award.

[Return to Top](#)

We've Got a New Volunteer Surrogate Coordinator!

Just about everybody knows how important our Personal Care Attendant (PCA) program is. Without the opportunity to hire assistants to help with basic activities like getting out of bed, bathing, and dressing, many persons with disabilities would have to live in nursing homes. But running your own PCA program can be very hard. Finding PCAs, training them, making sure their timesheets are correct and sent in on time: some folks just can't keep up.

This is where our Volunteer Surrogate Program comes in: hard-working volunteers who help people manage their PCA programs. But these volunteers don't grow on trees, and they don't just show up at our offices. We need to find these dedicated individuals and teach them the ropes.

Jeri Bachli is our new Volunteer Surrogate Coordinator. She comes to Stavros with lots of experience in getting volunteers to get important jobs done. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer surrogate for the Stavros PCA program, give Jeri a call at 413.781.5555 or e-mail her at jbachli@stavros.org.

[Return to Top of Page](#)

Stavros ADOPTS FRAGRANCE FREE POLICY

Fragrances can be a real problem. All those things that we think make us smell good – perfume, aftershave, shampoos, body washes – can make some people feel pretty bad. It's true - sensitivity to chemicals (known as Multiple Chemical Sensitivity) is a real disability.

For some people, long-term exposure to the chemical compounds present in many modern products, makes them very, very sensitive to chemicals in the air. A sniff of strong perfume can lead to reactions that make work and just getting through the day just about impossible.



At Stavros, we want our communities and our own services accessible to *everyone* – whatever their disabilities. So we now have a **fragrance free policy**. This means that staff members are refraining from using products that have scents, such as hair gels, mousse, perfumes, and colognes. And at our offices, all soap and cleaning products are fragrance free!

We ask all people who come to our office to avoid using personal products with fragrances. This will help us create a healthier environment for all!

[Return to top page](#)

Stavros JOINS facebook

Are you in Facebook? Stavros is there too. If you want to be our friend or just a fan there is an easy way to do it go to our website www.stavros.org and click on the facebook button or put this address on your browser

<http://companies.to/stavroscil/>

[Return to top of page](#)

OUTDOOR ACCESS

Join us for accessible fun in the snow, snow shoeing, sit down skiing, cross country skiing or come warm up with us by the campfire. Join us next year,

January 2010.

For more information
Call Brenda 259-0009

[Return to top of page](#)

YOU CAN PARTNER WITH STAVROS

Stavros needs your support! Please go to our website and find out ways you can support our mission some will not cost you anything

<http://www.stavros.org/donations.html>

You May also HELP people with disabilities in the Pioneer Valley by sending your donations to: **Stavros**

**210 OLD FARM ROAD,
Amherst, MA 01002
Attention: Development Office**



Partner Agency



[Return to top of page](#)