

STAVROS NEWS

Volume 8, Issue 3

Fall 2014

TIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

For most young adults getting a summer job is not that complicated – maybe they just go online and apply at a chain restaurant or park and they get the job. When you have a disability getting job experience is not that easy. You may get the interview but when you show up, well...you are not hired. So how do you develop the job skills and experience that you need when you have a disability and are a young adult?

You get an internship or a job through the Transitional Internship Program (TIP)! This program, funded by the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, provides short-term pre-employment skills training, ongoing support during the program, and *paid* summer employment or internship placements to youth ages 16-22 who are still in high school or who have recently completed their studies. This summer Stavros has helped 32 young adults with disabilities get a paid internship through this program. Twenty-four local businesses have helped us make this happen.

Danielle S. is an example of how this program works. This summer she has been working at Valley Frame Works in Amherst. As part of her experience she has helped put together an art show, has taken care of customers, and has developed a passion for the art world. “We are thankful for businesses like
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WE ARE MOVING!

Yes, we are moving! The Stavros Springfield office will be moving to 227 Berkshire Avenue in Springfield. It has been a long process but we are finally ready.

The new office will feature a bigger waiting area, a Video phone unit for Deaf consumers in the waiting area, a drop box for time sheets outside the office, and a conference room for community events and workshops. In addition we will have temporary and HP spaces in the front of the building for easy access. Please **stay tuned for our moving date**. Check us on Facebook, twitter or our website for more details.

Special points of interest:

- Options Counseling
- Get ready Emergency App
- NEW Time Sheets
- Union Dues



You Have Options!

If you're thinking you or a family member might have to leave your own home for a nursing home, put on the brakes. You have options! Yes, you do. It is possible to keep living at your own place with some community resources – and now you don't have to figure it all out on your own. Stavros has Options Counselors that are ready to help you figure out what services and resources are available to you so you can stay at home.



Stavros staff will converse with you and explore your long term care options. This will help you make informed decisions and make a choice that is right for you. What is the best place to be? Only you and your family may decide that. To help you decide we will give you information on support services, we will help you get referrals to experts in your particular disability, and we will help you connect to the resources you need.

So if you or a family member is in a nursing home or rehabilitation facility or hospital, or if you are at home and you are trying to figure out what the future holds, you can give us a call. We can talk with you on the phone or in person and help you come up with a plan for the future that puts you where you want to be. We are always here to help you, call our Options Counselor at 1-800-804-1899 ext. 201.

Get Ready For the Storm!

The weather is lovely and we are enjoying the summer, but pretty soon we will be complaining about hurricanes and winter storms. You can be ready for any storm with a new app released by the Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management (OPEM)



If you have a disability that affects your ability to communicate (such as hearing, speech or cognitive disabilities) this app is for you. The app, “Show Me,” helps you communicate with emergency management personnel through easy to use icons tailored for Emergency Shelters, Emergency Dispensing Sites (also called Points of Dispensing or PODs), Sheltering-in-Place, and Evacuations.

“Show Me” for Emergencies is a free, downloadable mobile app available in both the iTunes and Google Play stores. One of the essential features of the app is that once it's downloaded to a user's device, the app does not need internet connectivity in order to access its content.

You can download the app from the iTunes store at: <https://itunes.apple.com/in/app/show-me-for-emergencies/id840012297?mt=8>, and from the Google Play store at: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.ma.dph.showme>

It's always good to be prepared.

NEW Changes in Personal Care Attendants Payroll



In June, the Supreme Court ruled on the Harris v. Quinn case that home-care aides (PCAs) who typically work for an ill or disabled person with Medicaid paying their wages, should be classified as partial public employees and should not be treated the same way as public school teachers or police officers who work directly for the government. The ruling means that home health care workers or PCAs cannot be forced to join unions and can opt out of paying dues even if the union bargains on their behalf.

We received notice from the state of Massachusetts that effective with the July 25 payroll, Union Dues will only be withheld for PCAs who are members of SEIU – Local 1199 (the PCAs' union). Personal Care Attendants who are paying Objector or Financial Core Contributor fees will no longer have to pay these fees.

NEW TIME SHEETS

We have NEW timesheets. They look a lot like the old timesheets, but there is now very important language written on the back about **Long Term Care and Adult Foster Care** that all consumers/surrogates need to be aware of. By **signing** the timesheet you are stating that you are not receiving Long Term Care and/or Adult Foster Care. Please discard any old timesheets you may have in your possession. Per Masshealth **we will not be able to process any of the old timesheets beginning February 1, 2015.** You should be getting new time sheets in the mail soon and they can be found at our website at www.stavrosfi.org

TIP Makes a Difference ! Continued from pg. 1

Valley Frame Works that has given an opportunity to a young adult to have a meaningful work experience, and has helped her be more independent” said the Director of TIP, Danielle Mimitz, “ Although the jobs are temporary, they give young adults the opportunity to gain the skills essential to transition into the world of competitive employment. While skill development is a huge component of the program, the program also allows the youth to recognize their true potentials. The program is also beneficial to the employers, as they have the opportunity to have a volunteer throughout the entire duration of the grant”.



The TIP summer Program is coming to an end this year but we are hopeful that next year we will be able to work with current business partners and new ones to give young adults with disabilities the work experience they need. If you own a business, please call Danielle Mimitz to see how you can get involved. 1-800-804-1899 ext. 280.

The Life and Art of a Holyoke Treasure

We are thankful to all who attended the grand opening of the art exhibit “The Life and Art of a Holyoke Treasure” . The sale of the Ed Kwiatkowski paintings on loan at the **Holyoke Senior Center, 291 Pine Street until September 29** will benefit the Stavros Home Sweet Home Program. Come on by the Holyoke Senior Center and enjoy the art. This exhibit was made possible by Valley Frame Works, Holyoke Senior Center and Ed Kwiatkowski’s family.

STAVROS CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

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EVENTS !

Stavros invites you to celebrate the American with Disabilities Act **Celebrate the Promise**



**September 20
11 am to 4 pm.
227 Berkshire Avenue
Springfield**

This festival celebrates the achievements and diversity of our disability community! The event will have an arts and crafts fair where all art is created by people with disabilities. We will also have massages from Branford Hall, the Fire Department will be there giving out safety tips and other area agencies will be there to answer questions you may have. Join this great event at 227 Berkshire Avenue in Springfield – the *new site for our Springfield office.*



Stavros Outdoor Access Program wants you to take a hike. Come with us as we explore accessible trails, meet new people and have a good time. Can't walk? Not a problem: our volunteers will help you using our assistive equipment. Can't see? We have sighted guides that will tell you what is going on. Need a ride? Call us: we may be able to arrange one. You see there is no excuse to join us in one of our programs onn October 8, 16, 17 or 18. Call us for more information or to register at 413-259-0009. Visit our website at <http://www.stavros.org/events-calendar.html?month=201410>