Opportunity Works is proud to share that on October 18th we kicked off the construction process of a brand new, state of the art, 37,000 sq. ft. facility at a groundbreaking ceremony on site. The new building was carefully designed for the caring of those with developmental and acquired disabilities. The new facility will be located on Kenoza Street adjacent to the NECC Campus. It will consist of two levels, both with ground level access and a communicating elevator. The upper level is where the main focus of the program will be taking place; the lower will be available for rental or future expansion. The Board of Directors formed an expansion committee, which later formed into a construction committee when NECC informed us of the availability of this parcel of land.

Participants of Club 22 who live in the Haverhill area will have the opportunity to transition to the new facility, however there will continue to be a Club 22 program at the Newburyport location for people who prefer our current location. For more information visit: opportunityworksinhaverhill.org
On October 16th, Sam’s welcomed twenty two individuals and eight staff members for a day of scheduled workplace activities to celebrate National Disabilities Day. Upon arrival at Sam’s Club, participants from Club 22 were greeted by the entire staff at Sam’s and participated in their daily opening routine with cheers and a plan for the day. Sam’s split the group into eight sub groups to perform the job in each section and rotated groups every twenty minutes. A staff from Sam’s Club and Opportunity Works were in each group as they experienced the following job tasks first hand:

- Door greeters
- Cashier Assist and Purchase Packer
- Food Preparation in the Café’
- Cupcake artistry in the Bakery
- Produce Production
- Brochure/coupon Distribution
- Membership Distribution

Around 12:30 the rotations stopped and Club 22 participants got to reap the benefits of their hard work as they ate their decorated cupcakes and homemade pizzas. Each individual left with a large pumpkin which was donated by Sam’s, a full belly, and a smile.

The excitement by everyone, both Opportunity Works and Sam’s Club, was infectious and we received an abundance of favorable comments.

A few comments from the day:
- The greatest day ever! - Sam’s
- “I love this place!” - Kevin
- “Can I work here?” - Grace
- “I could not ask for a better day!” - Sam’s
- “When can we come back?” - Renee

While Club 22 participants were learning the everyday jobs of a Sam’s Club worker, their human resource team was observing for the potential of hiring Club 22 participants in the future. Since their Disability Day, we are pleased to say that there are four Opportunity Works participants that work at Sam’s Club every week. Thank you Sam’s Club for an outstanding job welcoming, training, and listening to Opportunity Works individuals.
OpArt

OpArt, a partnership between Opportunity Works and The Newburyport Art Association, was first started in 2004. Initially, the program was small and focused mainly on using very basic art materials such as crayons, poster paint, and construction paper. The Newburyport Art Association is a volunteer and staff member facilitated program that has grown significantly over the years.

Today, this critical art education outreach program meets weekly with the help of talented associate artists. The group has incorporated working with advanced art supplies and techniques, such as acrylic paints, pastels, water colors, charcoals, photography and sculpture. The artists have enjoyed growing recognition at the regional and state-wide levels for the quality of artwork created. The program is now widely known for the positive impact it has had on artists with special needs over the years. Sales of the artwork in various retail venues support the artists and Opportunity Works, Inc. in Newburyport.

Let’s Hear from one of the Artists

Ashley Scanlan

Op Art is an extra-curricular activity that I look forward to going to each week. I consider myself a very artistic person and enjoy being able to express myself in a creative way. When I go to class, I am offered to utilize a variety of art materials such as pencil sketching, watercolors, markers, crayons, and needlework. My favorite thing to work with and what I choose most often is to paint on canvas. Some of the art pieces that we create are selected to be displayed within the community at various locations. Sometimes there are art shows at these places which I enjoy going to. Its fun to see our pieces framed and hung up. Recently, I received payments for two of my paintings which were purchased. OpArt is a great outlet that allows me to utilize my artistic abilities and express myself in a creative way.
Opportunity Works partnered up with CVS Pharmacy for a day of job shadowing and workplace practice. Participants spent the day engaging in the job tasks of a CVS employee including shelf stocking, labeling, merchandise organization, photo lab work, and delivery distribution.

“It was fun! I would really enjoy getting a job there. Stocking the refrigerator was my favorite part but it was very cold.”

Brett Hanley

The CVS Regional manager and local employees were all impressed with the dedication, ambition, and work ethic provided by Club 22 participants. Since the visit, Opportunity Works has maintained contact with the store and other area managers with a hope of securing paid positions in the near future.

Here at Opportunity Works we try to promote a healthy lifestyle by offering healthful snack groups and exercise opportunities within the program. We are pleased to share that we will be partnering up with Dr. Alfred Costanza and Holistic Health Coach Elizabeth Leonard from Holistic Health Counseling to run a ten week educational nutrition program.

Along with a better understanding of nutrition, individuals will explore the importance of exercise along with diet in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Participants will learn ways to slowly and pleasantly increase their movement within each day in order to combine exercise of their liking and a healthy diet for a Healthy Lifestyle. We encourage all Club 22 members to participate in this exciting opportunity!

Public Speaking With A Purpose

Richard Mullen from Clipper City Toastmasters contacted Opportunity Works with an idea to partner up for a public speaking workshop. The first session lasted eight weeks and those that successfully completed the program were presented with a certificate of completion. The workshop was an educational program that focused on individuals learning the needed skills for interviews and public speaking to include: eye contact, speaking fluidly, proper handshake etiquette, posture and composure.

After the initial workshop, the group continued to practice these skills and expanded this opportunity by running their groups at the local Port Media in Newburyport. At the news station, participants practice filming, reporting, and editing mock interviews to understand their progress and need areas. The ultimate goal of this program is to develop video clips to send to local schools and agencies that promote and educate an anti-bullying campaign.
Around Club 22
The 30th Annual Lend-A-Hand-Auction was a success! With the help of the many volunteers and sponsors we were able to raise over $70,000 to support programs at opportunity Works. Thank you for all who helped contribute to this success!!

ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT
SPECIAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

Last year Opportunity Works piloted a special outreach program at the Essex County Sheriffs Department. The program was an educational learning experience for disabled adults to learn about Staying Positive, Respect, Integrity, Self Defense, and Personal Advocacy.

Since the pilot of this program, several more academy’s have taken place. Today, the program has grown to incorporate additional non-profit agencies with a hope to expand this opportunity to other adults with disabilities. This program is truly one of a kind in the Massachusetts area and we are thankful to have been a part of it.

Above: Grace accepting her diploma at the Academy’s graduation

Questions? Comments?

Is there something you would like to see in our newsletter? Your feedback is welcome! Please send any suggestions or comments to:

Monica.Albach@Opportunityworks.org

To join our Email list, simply write an email to Monica and you will be included on all Club 22 group emails!

In Loving Memory of

a beloved co-worker and friend

Joe Buchanan