

NortheastArc
Changing lives. Discovering abilities.



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present

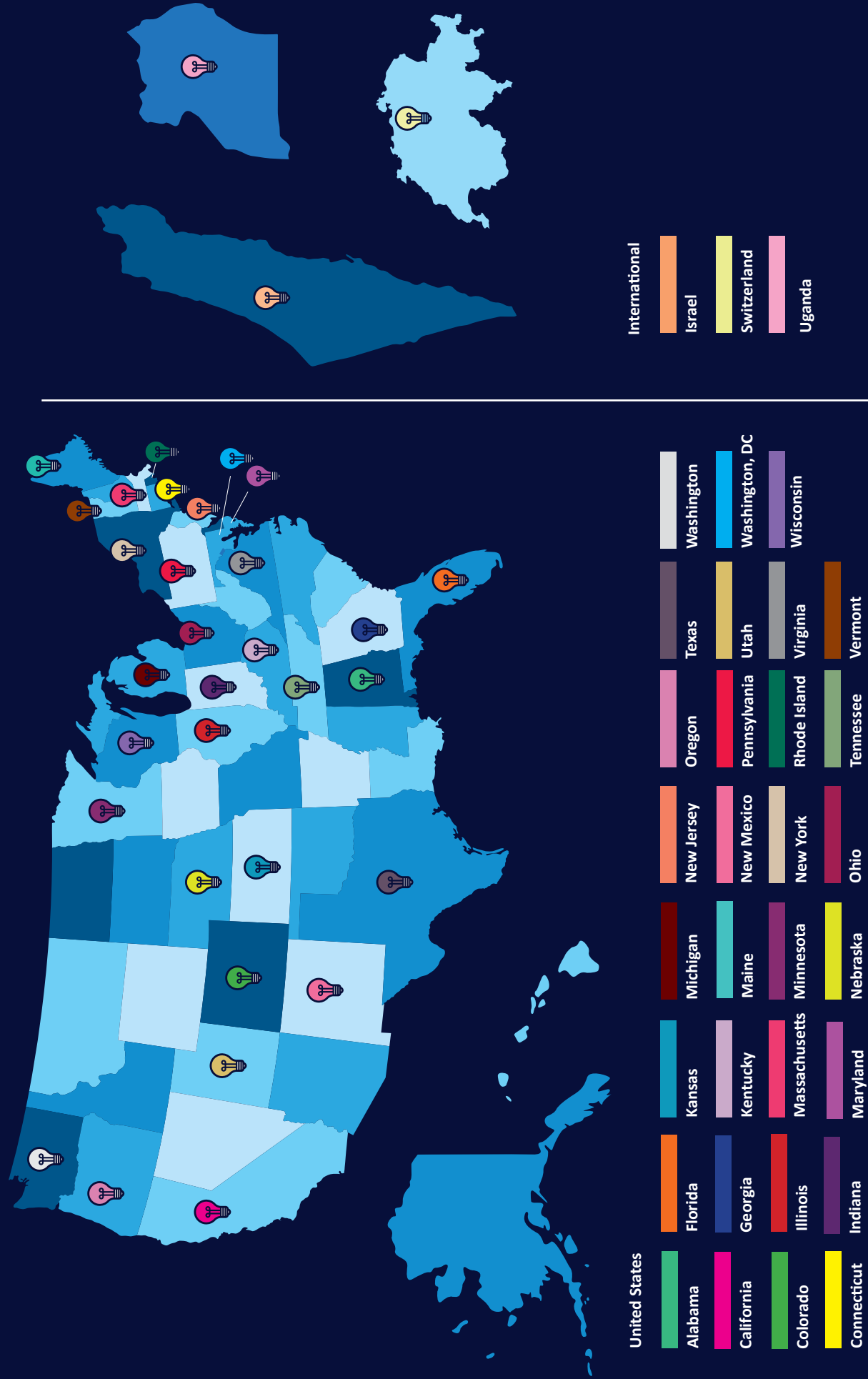


The Arc Tank^{3.0}

Creating *positive disruption* to services for those with
intellectual/developmental disabilities or autism

The Changing Lives™ Fund
established by Steven P. Rosenthal

NOVEMBER 19 | JOHN F. KENNEDY PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM



4 Countries | 30 States | 153 Communities | 296 Bold Ideas

The Arc Tank^{3.0}

The Changing Lives™ Fund



The Arc Tank is funded through the Changing Lives Fund™, which was established at the Northeast Arc through a generous donation of \$1,000,000 by Steven P. Rosenthal.

STEVEN P. ROSENTHAL

Steve founded West Shore LLC in 2016, a Boston-based real estate private equity firm, and serves as its chairman. West Shore owns and operates a national portfolio of multi-family assets in excess of \$1 billion. Prior to West Shore, Steve was president and chief executive officer of Northland Investment Corporation, which grew under his leadership into a \$3.5 billion diversified real estate company, including a 23,000 unit multi-family portfolio. Steve directed all aspects of Northland's multi-family, development and commercial portfolio, including capital formation and operations. He also managed the strategic direction of the firm and its investments.

As co-managing partner at Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo P.C., the firm grew to 500 lawyers and seven offices. During his 21-year career at Mintz Levin, Steve served as a business and finance attorney in Boston, where he focused on general corporate and business representation, business planning, mergers and acquisitions, venture capital, and corporate and real estate finance.

Steve holds an A.B. from Harvard College and a J.D. from Boston University School of Law. He is a member of the board of directors of Redwood Investments LLC, an investment management firm in Newton, Mass. Steve established *The Changing Lives™ Fund* at the Northeast Arc, and created *The Arc Tank*, which is being used to identify and fund positive disruptive ideas to improve the lives of persons with intellectual disabilities and autism and their families.

Steve has served as a member of the board of directors of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) in Washington, D.C., as a trustee of the Loomis Chaffee School in Windsor, Conn., as a director of the Harvard Alumni Association, trustee of the Ruderman Family Foundation and as a member of the Harvard Corporation Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility. He previously served on the board of directors of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority and as a member of the board of directors of the Downtown Crossing Partnership.

JO ANN SIMONS

Jo Ann Simons has more than 35 years of experience in the intellectual and developmental disabilities field. Her progressive initiatives have included closing several sheltered workshops, innovative school-to-work programs, inclusive community living and currently a large movement from community residences to shared living models.

She was named the CEO of the Northeast Arc in January 2016. The agency has an operating budget of \$290 million and supports more than 15,000 individuals.

Prior to joining Northeast Arc, Jo Ann had served as president/CEO of Cardinal Cushing Centers, Inc. since 2008, after leading The Arc of Middlesex as its executive director for 15 years. In addition, she had been the deputy facility director of the Fernald Development Center in Waltham; the director of Policy Initiatives and acting director of Family Support Services for the Massachusetts Department of Disability Services; and director of the Community Division of the North Shore Arc.

Under Jo Ann's leadership, Northeast Arc was recently ranked No. 2 in The Commonwealth Institute and *Globe Magazine's* Top 100 Women-Led Businesses in Massachusetts. In 2016, Jo Ann was named one of Boston's Power 50 by the *Boston Business Journal*.

Jo Ann is a member of the Governor's Commission on Persons with I/DD and a member of the Autism Commission. She is the current chair of LIFE, Inc. of Cape Cod and a director of Century Bank. She previously served on Gov. Charlie Baker's Transition Committee on Health Care as the Disability Advisor to the Ruderman Family Foundation, and a past chair of the National Down Syndrome Society and past president of the National Down Syndrome Congress. She is a board member of the Providers' Council, the North Shore Chamber of Commerce and past member of the board of directors of Special Olympics International.

Jo Ann is the author of the "Down Syndrome Transition Handbook" (Woodbine House 2010). She is also the chapter author of "Legal Issues in Babies with Down Syndrome," an essay in *You Will Dream New Dreams* and the author of the chapter on Long Term Impact in a textbook for dental students, "Treating the Dental Patient with a Developmental Disorder." In addition she created Footprints for the Future, a personal planning tool that provides a place for families and professionals to record specific and personal information as part of their future and estate planning.

Jo Ann has a B.A. from Wheaton College of Massachusetts and an MSW from the University of Connecticut.

She lives in Swampscott with her husband, Chet Derr. They have two children. Emily is an attorney and Jonathan is a man with Down syndrome who lives independently. They are the inspiration for her life's work.



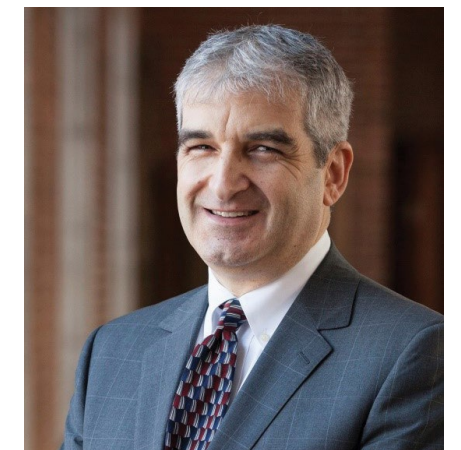
STEVEN M. ROTHSTEIN

Steven M. Rothstein is the executive director of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation. He is an accomplished nonprofit administrator, public servant, and entrepreneur. During the past three years, he has been honored to work with an amazing team to highlight President Kennedy's legacy in many ways, including his work in civic rights, space exploration, Peace Corps, international affairs, inclusion for people with disabilities and more.

As president of the world-renowned Perkins School for the Blind, Rothstein led the institution through a period of significant growth. During his tenure from 2003-14, he grew in-person and online educational services from 40,000 to 900,000 people, diversified teacher training services to all 50 states, increased academic offerings, and expanded to 30 new countries. In collaboration with an amazing team, he also started and led the Perkins online educational programs, as Perkins became the largest trainer of teachers and parents in the blindness field.

In 1979, Rothstein was part of the founding team of Citizens Energy Corporation with Joseph P. Kennedy II. In his six years as general manager at Citizens, the world's first nonprofit social mission oil company assisted needy citizens in low-cost oil, natural gas, electricity and pharmaceutical services. Citizens, which continues to be led by Joe Kennedy, has delivered millions of gallons of home heating oil to poor and elderly households and provided a range of other services.

Having served on numerous nonprofit boards throughout his career, Rothstein is currently a director of the Brady Campaign and Brady Center for the Prevention of Gun Violence. He graduated with honors from Williams College and received a Master of Business Administration degree from Northeastern University. He and his wife, Susan Maze-Rothstein, have two grown sons and reside in Somerville, Mass.



FRED MISILO

Frederick M. Misilo, Jr. is chair of the Trust and Estate Department of Fletcher Tilton PC., a 200-year old regional law firm with offices in Boston, Providence, Worcester, Framingham and Cape Cod. He founded the Elder Law Special Needs Practice Group of Fletcher Tilton PC 25 years ago.

His legal career has intersected with his consistent advocacy and service on behalf of individuals with disabilities and their families. His professional experiences in the disability field includes serving in direct service and mid-management positions, as the executive director of Harbor Area Community Services, Inc. and as deputy commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services.

Fred is currently the president of The Arc of the United States, Inc. where he has also served as chair of The Arc's Policy and Positions Committee and as a long-time volunteer on The Arc's Legal Advocacy Committee. Fred is also a past president of The Arc of Massachusetts, Inc.

Fred has served as a consultant to media outlets on various issues related to disability advocacy. He was major contributor and his advocacy work was featured in "Autism: Coming of Age" a PBS documentary which explored the challenges and dynamics of transitioning from special education entitlement services to adult services experienced by individuals with autism. The documentary was selected as the 2012 winner of the National Journalism Award from the National Institute of Health Care Management.



Name	Affiliations
Carol Lavoie Schuster	Essex County Community Foundation
Cindy O'Donnell	Department of Developmental Disabilities
Crystal Bates	Essex County Community Foundation
Danny Stamp	Northeast Arc
David Giller	Cue Ball Capital
Eric Immerman	Blue Horizons
Erin C. Stewart	Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Jeff Keilson	Advocates
Jennifer Killian	Department of Developmental Disabilities
Jesse Aubin	Southern New Hampshire University
Kevin Moforte	EforAll
Kim Sokol	Easter Seals
L. Tyler Hains	Chikara Health Records
Lea Hill	Department of Developmental Disabilities
Margaret Van Gelder	Department of Developmental Disabilities
Max Friedman	Give Butter
Nick Randall	Tower Foundation
Ricki Meyer	
Ryan Pittman	
Sarah Jackson, SFRE	Sarah J Consulting

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Doug Flutie Jr.
Foundation for Autism

The Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism was founded by former NFL and Boston College quarterback Doug Flutie and his wife, Laurie. After their son, Doug, Jr. was diagnosed with autism, they wanted to ensure that other families affected by autism had opportunities for support. Now in its 21st year, the Flutie Foundation offers several programs aimed to help people and families affected by autism live each day to the fullest. The Flutie Foundation organizes its programs under two primary initiatives:

Direct Financial Support: Understanding that many families struggle with the additional costs associated with caring for a loved one with autism, the Flutie Foundation offers direct financial support for immediate autism-related expenses including assistive technology, therapies, camp scholarships, GPS-enabled safety bracelets, and more.

Community Partnerships and Grants: The Flutie Foundation provides financial support to schools and organizations that are providing critical, innovative, and responsive services to people with autism and their families. The Foundation also has a specific program focused on expanding schools' access to technology tools that improve learning outcomes. Lastly, the foundation identifies opportunities for partner organizations to convene and collaborate when they share common goals.

NLM

FAMILY FOUNDATION

The NLM Family Foundation is a private foundation in Wellesley, Mass. that seeks to help individuals with autism lead fulfilling and rewarding lives. The foundation advances the scientific understanding of autism, funds educational and social opportunities for individuals with autism across the lifespan, and educates society about autism. In pursuit of this mission, the foundation develops and provides grants to programs in research, clinical care, policy, advocacy and education, including programs ensuring that the needs of aging adults with autism are well understood and adequately met. The principal goal of the scientific program is to achieve a deeper understanding of the biological basis of autism, focusing on genetics, synaptic chemistry, neurobiology of communication, systems biology and the physiology of movement. The foundation funds collaborative program projects, postdoctoral research fellowships, and career development awards. Through sponsorship of scientific conferences, symposia and workshops, the foundation seeks to encourage innovation and provide a springboard to generate new avenues of shared inquiry. For more information about the NLM Foundation, please visit www.nlmfoundation.org.

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THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS

Our thanks to the following people, for their time and talent leading up to and at today's event:

MARGARET AKE PRESENTATION MENTOR

Margaret Ake is an instructor for the Corporate Learning Division of Harvard Business Publishing, a subsidiary of the Harvard Business School. She is also a partner at Herter Associates, a corporate training firm that offers customized courses for financial analysts and relationship managers at commercial and investment banks worldwide.



Margaret joined Herter Associates and Harvard Business School after a 14-year career in teaching at Endicott College in Beverly, Mass. At Endicott College, she taught a variety of courses in the general business curriculum including: Finance, Accounting, Organizational Behavior, Business Writing, and Strategy. Margaret also taught a series of corporate financial training seminars delivered through the Graduate and Professional School. She directed the Case Writing Program and has had eight business education case studies published in a variety of business journals. She also has experience from her time as a research analyst for Fidelity Investments.

In addition to her work with Northeast Arc, Margaret regularly travels internationally with Operation Smile working as a medical records, statistical reporting, and data outcomes volunteer. Margaret's relationship with Northeast Arc began 28 years ago, when her son was served by the agency's Early Intervention program; he is now a high school special education teacher. For more than 20 years, Margaret was a valued member of the planning committee for Northeast Arc's annual golf tournament, the Mike Frangos Commodore Invitational. In 2018, Margaret received the sixth annual Mike Frangos Award for her outstanding support of the tournament.

PHIL LIPOF EMCEE

Emmy-and-Murrow-award-winning journalist Phil Lipof was born and raised in Newton, Mass. He came to NBC 10 Boston and necn with 20 years of experience, covering some of the biggest and toughest stories throughout the country.



Most recently, Phil was a main anchor at WCVB in Boston. Before that, he worked at WABC-TV in New York City for seven years, anchoring and reporting. Prior to that, Phil anchored with his wife, Juli, at WHDH in Boston, WFOR in Miami and WRNN in Kingston, N.Y. He began his career at KIDK in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Phil has reported live from the Boston Marathon bombings and braved 80 mph winds during Superstorm Sandy. He covered the devastation left by Hurricane Katrina, traveled to Israel after Sept. 11 for a special series on terrorism and to Germany to speak with wounded troops. Phil has interviewed everyone from President Donald Trump and the Dalai Lama to Les Paul and Jimmy Page.

Phil began his journalism career working as an unpaid volunteer at New-TV in Newton. His roots in Boston run deep, with his mother and four siblings still living in the area. His wife is from Haverhill. His father, brother and sister have served on the Newton City Council. His mother Emily, now retired, was one of the first women in the world to become a Rabbi, serving on a pulpit in Brookline.

The Arc Tank^{3.0}

PANEL OF EXPERTS

Our thanks to the following business and community leaders for lending their time and expertise today to identify the winning ideas at the **Arc Tank 3.0** competition:

Ex Officio Members:

STEVEN ROSENTHAL • STEVEN ROTHSTEIN • JO ANN SIMONS



RALPH JAMES

Ralph James retired from Harvard Business School in 2017 and currently spends his time on philanthropic ventures and volunteer roles with organizations such as Harvard Graduate School of Education, the Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Studies, Harvard Divinity School, Joslin Diabetes Center and the International Quilt Museum.

He previously held both strategic advisor and executive director of University Affairs roles at Harvard Business School. He also had been responsible for external relations and executive education activities for HBS.

James attended the College of Wooster in Ohio and received his B.A. in religious studies from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1977.

Ralph received his MBA from Harvard in 1982. Over the next 15 years, he held several different positions at HBS in the areas of executive education, MBA admissions, and major gift fundraising, finally serving as associate dean and senior executive officer under Deans McArthur and Clark.

In 1996, James left HBS to join the First Marblehead Corporation, as chief marketing officer, becoming chief operating officer in 1998 and president in 2000, prior to the company going public in 2003 (NYSE: FMD). In 2005, James stepped down from his position as vice chairman to return to HBS.



MATTHEW KENNEDY

Matt Kennedy is a senior adviser at Laurel Strategies and a founder of Kennedy Merchant Partners (KMP) and has worked in more than 20 countries on six continents. Previously, Matt served in senior roles in the Obama Administration at the Department of Commerce, Department of the Treasury and the White House. As the director of the Office of Strategic Partnerships at Commerce, Matt worked closely with the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and Export-Import Bank of the United States to develop innovative public-private partnerships with leading trade organizations and several Fortune 500 businesses. These partnerships have enabled more than 5,000 small businesses to learn about overseas markets and begin exporting.

Prior to his service in government, Matt managed Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's 2006 reelection campaign and the MoneySite, a nonprofit financial services initiative that leverages tax preparation as a vehicle to create personal financial plans for low-income households.

Matt graduated from Stanford University with a B.S. in Management Science and Engineering, where he was also captain of the lacrosse team. He holds an MBA from Harvard University. He sits on the board of the John F. Kennedy Library and the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights.

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PANEL OF EXPERTS



SHIRLEY LEUNG

Shirley Leung is a columnist writing on everything from the intersection of business and politics to gender issues in the workplace. She is also a WGBH contributor to "Boston Public Radio" and "Greater Boston," as well as a regular guest on New England Cable News.

Shirley has been a three-time finalist for the Gerald Loeb Award for Commentary, and in 2018 *Boston Magazine* named her to its list of the "100 Most Influential People in Boston."

Previously, Leung was the *Boston Globe's* interim editorial page editor and business editor, where she oversaw its award-winning coverage of the 2008 financial crisis. Prior to the *Globe*, Leung was a staff reporter at the *Wall Street Journal*. A graduate of Princeton University, Leung started her career at her

hometown paper, *The Baltimore Sun*.

She is a working mom of two sons on the autism spectrum and lives in Milton with her husband who is also a journalist.



QUINCY MILLER

Quincy Miller is president and vice chair of Eastern Bank, the largest and oldest mutual bank in the United States, with more than \$11 billion in assets and more than 100 banking and insurance locations serving communities in eastern Massachusetts and southern and coastal New Hampshire.

Quincy is the former president of Citizens Bank, Massachusetts, and president of its Business Banking division.

Quincy is committed to supporting the communities where he lives and works. He serves on the board of directors for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, the Boys and Girls Club of Boston, Bottom Line Boston, The Alliance for Business

Leadership, the Greater Boston YMCA Board of Overseers, Board Emeritus of The Greater Boston Food Bank and the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts.

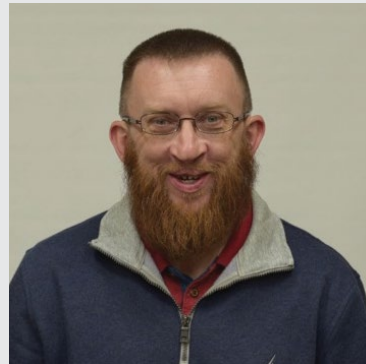
He has been recognized in the community as an inaugural member of the GK100 "most influential people of color in Boston" by Get Connected, and has been honored with leadership awards from the *Central PA*, *Cleveland* and *Boston Business Journal*.

Quincy is a graduate of Lafayette College, where he earned a B.A. in Economics and Business, and of the Consumer Bankers Association's Graduate School of Retail Bank Management.

Quincy and his wife, Jenna, have two children.

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PANEL OF EXPERTS



MATTHEW MILLET

Matthew Millett works for the Department of Youth Services for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and serves on the board of directors for the Special Olympics of Massachusetts.

He is a well-rounded athlete participating in soccer, basketball and volleyball. In 2010, Matthew earned the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel to South Africa to play in the Unity Cup, a global, unified soccer match prior to one of the FIFA World Cup quarterfinal games in Cape Town Stadium. In 2018, Matthew traveled to Seattle with his basketball team to compete in the Special Olympics USA Games.

Last March, Matthew and his basketball team participated in the 2019 Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates as part of the Special Olympics USA team. In one of the basketball games, Matthew scored a Hail Mary basket from his own free throw line at the buzzer. The YouTube video of this feat has more than 24,000 views and has been shared on multiple social media platforms.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAeweVKwnEo>



MARYLOU SUDDERS, MSW, ACSW

Marylou Sudders is Secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health & Human Services, the largest executive agency in state government. Sudders provides executive leadership of a nearly \$24 billion budget; the MassHealth (Medicaid) insurance program that provides health coverage to 1.86 million low-income or disabled residents and 12 agencies including the Departments of Children and Families and Public Health. She leads the Commonwealth's efforts to address the opioid epidemic; chairs the state's health care marketplace and the Autism Commission; and co-chairs the Governor's Interagency Councils on Homelessness, and Aging.

A trained social worker, Sudders has served as the Massachusetts Commissioner of Mental Health and has also been a private nonprofit executive, advocate and college professor.

Sudders holds a bachelor's degree with honors and master's degree in social work from Boston University, and honorary doctorates from the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology and Bridgewater State University.

The Arc Tank^{3.0}

MODERATOR

Our thanks for moderating the Panel of Experts' deliberation today:



DAVID S. CHANG

David Chang is the chief executive officer of Gradifi and an Entrepreneur-in-Residence at Harvard Business School.

As a leader in the entrepreneurship community, he has held operating roles at five startups and made 40 angel investments in early-stage startups. He previously led the PayPal Boston office and co-founded the Start Tank innovation space. Earlier in his career, he held roles at TripAdvisor (IAC), m-Qube (Verisign), edocs (Siebel), SnapMyLife (Exclaim Mobility), and Goldman Sachs.

Awards include *Boston Business Journal's* Power 50: Most Influential Bostonians, BostInno's 50 on Fire: Education Winner/Investment Winner/Tech Finalist, and

Finalist for NEVY Angel of the Year.

David holds a B.S. with Distinction in Computer Science from Cornell University and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

Heritage Shredding

FOR DECADES, NORTHEAST ARC HAS PROVIDED EMPLOYMENT TRAINING, EDUCATION AND SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH PROGRAMS SUCH AS HERITAGE SHREDDING.

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BEAT ROCKER APP



LEADER & PRESENTER:

James Kim
Bridging Education & Art Together (BEAT Global)
44-02 23rd St.
Suite 414
Long Island City, NY 11101 
james@beatglobal.org
Requested funding amount: \$50,000

INTRODUCTION

In 10 years of teaching beatboxing to almost 900 students with disabilities, we have unlocked how to make speech therapy fun. Students using beatboxing have noted improvements in vocalization, articulation, expressiveness and other speech-related delays.

Through development of a mobile app we will be able to make speech practice more fun for six million children ages 3 to 17. This engaging app will also improve the accessibility and reduce disparity between white and Hispanic/black children.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION


We have witnessed the transformative power of beatboxing as an engaging, effective, and fun tool for youth with disabilities to improve their speech and social awareness while having fun. The development of a mobile app will increase accessibility of our teaching.

Elements of Beatboxing already mirror phonetic sounds that speech language pathologists drill with their students, but the rigid practice often leaves students unmotivated and discouraged to practice in and outside of their sessions. Beatboxing celebrates creativity and individuality, which encourages the students to comfortably practice in any space while building confidence and skills. Through BEAT Rockers, parents, staff, and our instructors noticed improvements in vocalization, collaboration and expressiveness in students with developmental disabilities. As a result, their confidence grew and they have taken more initiative in leading classroom participation.

ADAPTX



LEADER & PRESENTER:

Brendan Aylward
Unified Health and Performance
121 Mill Street, Unit 7 
Lancaster, MA 01523
unifiedhp@gmail.com
Requested funding amount: \$80,000

INTRODUCTION

AdaptX is a multi-faceted educational, fitness, and marketing company. We have taken the fitness and business knowledge acquired over the last four years of running Unified Health and Performance and turned it into a product that can be scaled and applied universally.

Our business will improve the health of individuals with disabilities by increasing accessibility and opportunity. Rather than simply offering information and programs to adaptive athletes, we are addressing the professionals who have the power to make actual change: gym owners and trainers.

We will educate a community of trainers, coaches, and special educators who are passionate about adaptive fitness so that they are confident in their abilities to deliver safe and effective training.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

There are more than 40 million people in the U.S. with a disability and obesity rates in this population are up to 60% higher than their non-disabled peers. When it comes to health and wellness opportunities, this large population is an underserved one. However, simply providing training and nutrition information from a distance isn't enough to make a lasting change. We need to build a better support system.


The fitness world has focused on athletes with physical disabilities but not as much attention has been given to athletes with intellectual disabilities or autism. Existing products are not engaging trainers and adaptive athletes are presented as complex cases; which likely deters many from being interested.

We will teach fitness professionals how and why to include athletes with disabilities into their gym programming and culture. This program will have the potential to impact tens of thousands of adaptive athletes. Likewise, if coaches have the opportunity to experience adaptive fitness in the way that I have through Unified Health and Performance, I'm certain that they will have a more fulfilling and successful career.

4-A CLUB: AUTISM, AGING, ALEXA, ACCESS



LEADER & PRESENTER:

Doreen Cummings
 New England Yachad
 384 Harvard St.
 Brookline, MA 02446 
 cummingsd@ou.org
 Presenters: Becca Zebovitz, MPP and Liz Offen, MS
 Requested funding amount: \$80,131

INTRODUCTION

It is rare that society encounters a wholly new population, but older adults with autism and other developmental disabilities living in the community are just that. Simultaneously, the technological advancements happening in this generation are unparalleled. While these advancements have the potential to bridge the gap between isolation and feeling connected for older adults with autism, this population is being left behind because of a lack of education, accessibility, and ongoing assistance. The 4-A Club: Autism, Aging, Alexa, Access disrupts this status quo.

The Amazon Alexa provides access to social connection, home automation, and entertainment. Without adaptation, this device can be used by highly and moderately verbal participants, but potentially excludes users who have low or no vocal audio output. We will partner the Alexa technology with low-tech recordable push buttons or voice output smart device apps, such as Voice Recorder or Voice Memos, to provide access for everyone. These simple solutions can lower the barriers of isolation and loneliness and create a sustainable impact.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Social isolation and loneliness have been proven to contribute to physical and mental health problems, but technology can offer a solution. For older adults with autism, being able to participate in online communities, as well as seeing family members and friends through video calling, helps build and maintain social connections and friendships. Listening to music and audio books lessens the silence when they are alone. Watching movies alleviates boredom. Setting reminders and alarms and having lights automated provides safety life-hacks. The 4-A Club disrupts the notion that this group is unable to incorporate enhancing technology into their lives.


We will send a dedicated team of experts including a social worker, a home automator and occupational therapy interns to work with participants to create maintainable home automation and alone plans using the Amazon Alexa. Our approach is unique, combining technology and in-person education in a home setting.

We propose a pilot program of initially 30 seniors ages 40 and up, 1/3 with high verbal communication, 1/3 with moderate verbal communication and 1/3 with low or no verbal communication. Once we have completed a successful first-year pilot, we aim to expand with a global approach to reaching Yachad's international network of people aging with autism by creating an easily duplicated project tool kit that can be used by anyone.

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEMS



LEADER & PRESENTER:

Jenny Anderson
 Celebrate EDU
 4564 Arapahoe Ave 
 Boulder, CO 80303
 Jenny@celebrateedu.org
 Presented By: Jenny Anderson
 Requested funding amount: \$75,000

INTRODUCTION

In the U.S., 85% of adults with developmental disabilities are unemployed and employment options are limited and antiquated. The long-standing philosophy is to secure any low-level job rather than finding opportunities best suited for the person. We reject the notion that a person with a disability is only capable of an entry-level, minimum-wage job. We believe that every person has unique skills and talents and should be provided the opportunity to turn them into a meaningful life.

Through this project, we will empower communities to implement programming that allows those with disabilities to design their own future through entrepreneurship education and skill development, ultimately, creating forward-thinking communities that are empowered by possibilities of entrepreneurship.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Celebrate EDU's unique approach is shaking up the disability community. Founded by the family of a young man on the autism spectrum, we experienced the challenges that exist for those with disabilities transitioning out of the "system" and into adulthood. Brent struggled to find employment and a place in the community, but he finally found success as an entrepreneur. Celebrate EDU was created to teach skills in business and entrepreneurship that help people with disabilities to create their own opportunities.

This project will bring Celebrate EDU programs to the Northeast, providing business and technology training to 125 self-advocates with disabilities, 50 family members, and 25 disability service providers. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor, more than half of today's jobs require some technology skills, yet most with disabilities do not have this training. Our online programs not only teach business and entrepreneurial skills but also equip our students with the digital literacy needed to be successful in 2020.

Celebrate EDU is changing the mindset of the disability community by encouraging them to challenge the notion that "underemployment" is the best option and instead recognize the possibilities for success through the power of entrepreneurship education. Celebrate EDU programs have directly impacted 755 self-advocates and 405 family members/service providers in seven states. We believe that every person, regardless of ability or disability, should have the opportunity to create a meaningful life.

AUTISM WORKS - DEVELOPING A NEURODIVERSE WORKFORCE FOR THE FUTURE



LEADER & PRESENTER:

Ian Miller
Interactive Media Institute
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San Diego, CA 92121
ian@interactivemediainstitute.com
Requested funding amount: \$199,100

INTRODUCTION

Ninety percent of adults with ASD are unemployed or underemployed. 53% of autistic young adults never work during their early 20s and only 36% participate in postsecondary education or training between high school and their early 20s. Interactive Media Institute (IMI) and the National Foundation for Autism Research (NFAR) are partnering to deliver innovative vocational readiness training to autistic individuals. Our program, Autism Works (AW), combines technical certification in virtual reality (VR) development and computer programming with soft-skills training to help autistic young adults find gainful employment. Autism Works also offers informal STEM engagement workshops. The goal of this project is to help autistic young adults enter the workforce and certify the AW program for widescale dissemination.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Arc Tank 2.0 catapulted IMI's Autism Center of Excellence (ACE) to new heights. Now, we are developing an ecosystem that supports the critical employment needs of autistic individuals. IMI and NFAR present Autism Works, a project-based VR development and computer programming curriculum that culminates in industry-level certification and job placement for autistic transition-aged youth.

Private companies and government agencies preach the importance of a neurodiverse workforce to bring people with different backgrounds, thought processes, and trainings together to collaborate and solve some of the most pressing problems of our time. For example, companies such as IBM, JP Morgan Chase, EY, SAP and Microsoft all include neurodiversity hiring initiatives. Also, the National Science Foundation emphasizes the necessity of maintaining American competitiveness in STEM disciplines by educating underrepresented groups, one of which is autistic individuals. Thus, Autism Works offers formal technical training and informal workshops in order to improve engagement and participation in STEM.

Autism Works combines technology training, social-skills training, and real work experience into an innovative after-school program format for autistic adolescents and young adults. Autism Works provides this training to autistic individuals in a pilot program, which will then be translated to an online format for anyone in the world to use. Moreover, students will create virtual environments to be tested and disseminated via IMI's ongoing VR-FCA research program as part of this curriculum—a self-sustaining ecosystem. Secondarily, Autism Works delivers informal STEM workshops with autistic teenagers and their parents in order to increase awareness, engagement and participation in STEM across all ability levels and encourage students to pursue STEM education.

L.A. LAB FOR ENTERTAINMENT PROFESSIONALS WITH DISABILITIES



LEADER & PRESENTER:

Lauren Appelbaum
RespectAbility
11333 Woodglen Drive, #102
Rockville, MD 20852
franklina@respectability.org
Presenter: Lauren Appelbaum
Requested funding amount: \$43,750

INTRODUCTION

Just 2.1% of characters on primetime TV have disabilities, even though more than 25% of people live with disabilities. What people see and hear impacts what we think and feel about ourselves and others. Depictions of disability, starting at the earliest ages, need to be accurate, diverse and inclusive portrayals, showing what people with disabilities CAN do. Therefore, RespectAbility has been working with studios and networks since 2016, consulting on scripts and conducting trainings on disability inclusion. The Lab Series addresses this issue in a new way – ensuring that people with disabilities are hired behind the camera, as they have the capacity to ensure characters with disabilities are written into scripts, actors with disabilities are hired and disability-related storylines are included.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

While there are numerous programs for actors with disabilities, programs for individuals with a variety of disabilities working behind the camera are lacking. The Lab connects more established individuals in disability advocacy as well as people with disabilities who have yet to be involved in disability justice. Participants will not feel alone, learning they belong to a community.

- **Individual impact among lab participants:** The 20-25 participants will be exposed to unique networking and job opportunities. Our 2019 Pilot Lab already has placed five graduates at Disney, Paramount and Sony.
- **Individual and community impact for studios:** At least 100 entertainment professionals from a minimum of six studios will be exposed to a group of qualified individuals, shifting their mindsets in equity hiring goals. This will build a community of caring and consciousness-raising within their companies.
- **Individual impact among viewers:** Millions of people with disabilities will see themselves reflected on screen. Ideally, this will raise their own feelings of self-worth and ability, leading to greater involvement in their communities as leaders. This includes a focus on nonvisible and developmental disabilities, such as Born This Way, Everything's Gonna Be Okay, Healing Powers of Dude, Perfect Harmony and Stumptown, which include actors with anxiety, Autism, Down syndrome and dyslexia.
- **Systems change:** Planting seeds for the future of disabilities representation will grow slowly but steadily. Impact will not be easily assessed for years to come, through societal, attitudinal change.



LEADER & PRESENTER:

Oliver Wendt, Ph.D.
Research Lab on Augmentative and Alternative Communication in Autism and Developmental Disorders
University of Central Florida, School of Communication Sciences and Disorders

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Presenter: Oliver Wendt
Requested funding amount: \$72,000



INTRODUCTION

About 50% of learners with autism or developmental disabilities remain minimally verbal even after years of receiving treatment. Establishing communication and language is an immediate and crucial need. Our scientifically proven SPEAK*** software targets functional communication, natural speech development, early language, and social interaction. The goals are to refine and deploy current prototypes and evaluate their usability with Northeast Arc clients. We aim to reach 30-40 learners through local service providers as prospective reference partners (i.e., schools, clinics, and rehabilitation settings). Implementation in the field will help to reach broader market acceptance, create a strong position for subsequent commercialization, while making an impact for this underserved population.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The SPEAK*** tools are evidence-based mobile applications, created with funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), for optimized speech and language therapy in individuals with severe autism and/or developmental disabilities. Both low-technology solutions such as picture exchange or high-technology speech devices proved ineffective in transitioning clients from basic communication skills to more conventional language systems beyond initial requesting and labeling. The NIH revealed an urgent need to design novel interventions and technologies for nonverbal learners; the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee declared nonverbal autism a healthcare priority. Our patent-pending inventions fill this gap by exploring the full potential of tablet and cloud technologies: SPEAKall! turns mobile devices into a learning platform for functional communication, natural speech, and social behaviors; SPEAKmore! targets early language and vocabulary acquisition; SPEAKtogether! allows clinicians to share therapy lessons, extending intervention into the family home. Previous versions have reached more than 40,000 customers with 20% coming from international locations. Such traction represents a significant opportunity to lower the economic burden caused by autism and developmental disability, currently estimated at \$268 billion annually and rising to \$461 billion in 2025 in the U.S. alone. Our tools address a market of 4.25 million learners in the U.S. (growing at 10-17% annually) and 85.5 million globally, allowing better participation in school and society, thus reducing the lifetime cost of care.

ALEC: AUTISM LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION COALITION

ALEC is a program that offers specialized trainings to first responders. The goal of the ALEC program is for first responders to hear directly from other first responders who have personal and professional experience with individuals with autism and to provide additional tools to use in assessing the risk of a situation. Led by former fire captain Bill Cannata, the program increases communication between parents within the community and first responders, increasing their ability to interact effectively with individuals with autism. At Arc Tank 2.0, Capt. Cannata and Sgt. Ryan Roettger provided a brief presentation on the need for increased autism awareness and education among first responders. Bill and Ryan were "fan favorites" for their moving presentation and were awarded a grant from the Northeast Arc to provide additional training throughout the country.

All Certified ALEC Trainers are professionals in the law enforcement/emergency response fields and have a family member diagnosed with autism. Autism is estimated to occur in one out of every 59 births, and as this population continues to increase, programs such as ALEC must grow to ensure safety and reduce the risks of injury for individuals with autism. We are grateful to The Arc Tank for recognizing the impact of the ALEC program and supporting its growth. Within the last 10 months, ALEC has provided training to the following organizations and departments:

The Arc of Northwest Mississippi: The train the trainer model was conducted with the Arc of Northwest Mississippi in May. A first responder training session was held with more than 60 first responders in attendance. The Arc of Northwest Mississippi has launched the ALEC program this year by training two area law enforcement departments.

The University of Delaware: Several Delaware police, fire, and EMS members attended the workshop. The University of Delaware will launch the ALEC program by December.

Families on the Spectrum, Paducah, KY: In September more than 100 first responders attended.

The Alabama Fire College: A program update for the Alabama Fire College resulted in its relaunching the ALEC program in October.

The Connecticut State Police recruits: ALEC conducted the first training for the Connecticut State Police recruit training. With Arc funding, ALEC was able to offer this training to CSP and will continue with future classes at the Connecticut State Police Academy.

South Burlington, Vermont Area police officers: The ALEC Law Enforcement training program was delivered in South Burlington in October. Thirty-six first responders attended two training sessions. This was the first ALEC training in Vermont.

VIRTUAL REALITY FUNCTIONAL COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES (VR-FCA)

Background: Social communication is a primary deficit of individuals on the autism spectrum. It is also the primary treatment concern for parents and clinicians because it plays an integral role in enhancing independence, self-advocacy, social integration and overall quality of life. With funding from the Northeast Arc, Interactive Media Institute's (IMI) Autism Center of Excellence (ACE) launched its virtual reality-functional communication activity (VR-FCA) research program. VR-FCA leverages virtual reality technology and evidence-based social learning strategies to create accessible, affordable, and effective therapeutic tools that promote quality of life in individuals along the autism spectrum. Using VR-FCA, therapists, caregivers, and family members can implement functional communication training in social contexts with ease.

Progress: In less than one year, we have exceeded Arc Tank 2.0 projections and begun sharing our research and tools with national and international audiences. Moreover, Arc Tank 2.0 allowed IMI to integrate and translate what the award made possible to the public. IMI has five new academic publications, three in progress, one published in the Annual Review of CyberTherapy and Telemedicine (ARCTT), and another selected for publication in a Virtual Reality special issue of Cyberpsychology, Behavior and Social Networking. The reports in progress detail the success of the VR-FCA research program and the potential impact they will have in the hands of autistic individuals and their families. Primary outcomes of these publications include:

- **35% increase in activity-specific vocabulary words**
- **22% improvements in activity comprehension**
- **81% improvements in activity completion observed by a clinician**
- **63% increase of activity completion as observed by parents**
- **Scripting and design consideration**

Our research data were also shared at the 24th Annual CyberPsychology, CyberTherapy and Social Networking Conference (CYPSY24), a gathering of more than 250 experts from more than 20 countries specializing in virtual reality and other interactive technologies for patient healthcare. IMI ACE has been asked to lead a 2-hour autism symposium and present research at CYPSY25, in 2020. The two-hour symposium will be co-chaired by Dr. Brenda Wiederhold, president of IMI and Dr. Elisabetta Vaudano, CEO and president of the Innovative Medicines Initiative in Europe.

Lastly, we have held numerous events in partnership with Autism Tree Project Foundation showcasing and testing VR-FCA with autistic teenagers and their families. To date, more than 100 individuals have attended these events. On Oct. 6, 2019 IMI participated in a JetBlue Blue Horizons event, where 165 visitors to the San Diego airport demoed the VR-FCA modules and received free access to download them for use at home. VR-FCA is currently sustained through 2020, while IMI ACE is actively soliciting funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF) and other government and private funding organizations to sustain this impactful program for years to come.

SCOOT STRONGER COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH ORGANIZED TRANSPORTATION

Purpose: Transportation is paramount in order to live, work, learn, and thrive within our communities. Transportation is also one of the most challenging barriers for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. How can transportation work for a person with an intellectual or developmental disability who does not drive? Public transit can meet some needs, but schedules are often not user-friendly and many communities lack public transportation. While existing ridesharing can be an option for some individuals, it can be expensive, depending on the length of the ride and the time of day. Additionally, many families will not trust an unknown driver to transport their loved ones with I/DD. This void leaves many individuals without reliable transportation, which limits their full participation in the community.

New Star developed a ridesharing app that provides both on-demand and scheduled transportation specifically for people with I/DD. The rider can select a driver who meets their needs, and the driver can provide transportation for people they can comfortably support. All drivers, who may consist of family members, employees, and volunteers, are vetted and trained to support people with I/DD.

Progress: SCOOT has been in development since early 2018. By summer of 2019, the SCOOT app was ready to be beta-tested and adapted over several months. The app is now approved and available in Google and Android app stores.

New Star is piloting SCOOT with people supported by the organization, with the goal of increasing ridership over the next several months. This is to further test the app, apply upgrades and develop rider feedback. Upgrades currently being implemented include adding pictures of drivers and riders, incorporating visual mapping, and including a new payment system.

A goal of SCOOT is to make the app available to other nonprofit organizations. New Star has developed a licensing model with a tiered pricing structure and created a licensing agreement. Currently, there about 10 nonprofits indicating interest. New Star will begin to offer to license in early 2020.

PATHWAYS TO INCLUSIVE HEALTH CARE (PIHC)

Background: The lack of full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into our society gives rise to the numerous health disparities and suboptimal health status experienced by this population. The unprecedented rate of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) transitioning into adult services accentuates these health disparities, which are due in part to a healthcare workforce that lacks adequate training and experience caring for this population. The Pathways to Inclusive Health Care (PIHC) program seeks to address this gap by creating a pipeline of healthcare professionals who are motivated and equipped to provide quality healthcare to this population. PIHC provides an intensive, meaningful gap year for recent college graduates interested in entering the health professions that is specifically designed to expose them to the needs of children, youth, and adults with ASD/IDD. The PIHC curriculum includes both practicum experiences in area schools and day habilitation programs as well as a regular weekly seminar series comprising didactic sessions and observations that provide specialized training on clinical, professional, and policy-related topics.

Progress: Since its successful launch in September 2018, the PIHC training program graduated its first class of pre-healthcare trainees in May 2019. Two of the three PIHC graduates are currently in their first semester of medical school and one scholar is pursuing a graduate degree with the intention of beginning medical school in 2020. Feedback from the first cohort of PIHC graduates affirmed that the overarching intent of the PIHC program was achieved; as future healthcare providers, our scholars reported that their interest and confidence serving youth and adults with ASD/IDD was greatly strengthened as a result of their participation in the program.

In addition to start-up funding from the Northeast Arc through its Arc Tank competition, we are grateful for financial support from Fallon Community Health and internal funding from the E.K. Shriver Center through its University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) program.

For the 2019-20 academic year, two pre-nursing candidates have been accepted into the PIHC program thus far. They will be working at the Seven Hills Foundation Aspire program in Devens, Mass., a new practicum site for the PIHC program.

In addition to working at a practicum site dedicated to educating and supporting individuals diagnosed with ASD/IDD, the participants or 'scholars' as they are referred to in the program, participate in selected graduate courses through the UMass Medical School's Shriver Center's Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) program as well as additional didactic and experiential learning opportunities coordinated by the PIHC faculty. Not only are scholars exposed to an enriched curriculum of didactics covering such topics as Interdisciplinary Perspectives on ASD/IDD, Cultural Competence, Disability Policy and Systems of Care, but they are also encouraged to tap into the vast experience of the Shriver Center and the LEND mid-career health professionals as they begin to plan their own healthcare career paths. Scholars will also have opportunities to shadow UMMS physicians serving persons with ASD/IDD, observe interdisciplinary neurodevelopmental team assessments, and learn about the day-to-day concerns of children, youth, and adults with disabilities or special needs and their families. The PIHC program is already receiving applicant inquiries for the 2020-21 academic year. We look forward to accepting a larger cohort of scholars next year and believe that over time, we will indeed close the health care disparities gap between the number of persons with ASD/IDD needing adult primary care, and the number of healthcare professionals trained, experienced and available to meet this need.

THE CENTER FOR PUBLIC REPRESENTATION'S SUPPORTED DECISION MAKING INITIATIVES

The CPR SDM Initiatives have included at this point seven SDM pilot projects. Six have occurred in Massachusetts in cooperation with five service-providing organizations across the state, including: Multicultural Community Services, Northeast Arc, Nonotuck Community Resources, Families Organizing for Change and Advocates. The seventh pilot project is in conjunction with the Georgia Advocacy Office focusing initially on its citizen advocacy organizations.

A second and ongoing aspect of the SDM Initiatives is our training and outreach efforts within Massachusetts to help people learn about supported decision making. This has included in-person trainings, webinars, conference presentations, consultations, seminars and the linking of people to resources on supported decision making. The most notable initiative in that regard was a comprehensive updating and improving of the CPR website www.supporteddecisionmaking.org on supported decision making led by Anna Krieger. This includes links to other SDM websites, videos, publications on a wide variety of supported decision making subjects both nationally and internationally, and reports of various kinds of supported decision making. It is also proving to be very people-friendly due to its ease of use.

A distinct effort has been made nationally and internationally by CPR to link with other SDM individuals and organizations both in the U.S. and abroad. This has included contacts with countries such as Israel, Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Sweden. The most recent example was our hosting of a leadership exchange on supported decision making in cooperation with the (U.S. National Resource Center on supported decision making under the auspices of the International Initiative on Disability Leadership. Similar national partnerships and participation in the U.S. have occurred in cooperation with a variety of state and national bodies such as the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Disability Rights Network and others.

We have also created and collaborated on several in-depth symposia both in Massachusetts and Georgia with specific leadership and assistance from our supported decision making advisory council in defining and coordinating the symposium program. Similarly, we have recorded an increasing number of SDM videos on a variety of SDM subjects.

The last initiative to highlight has been the formation of an extensive coalition to bring into existence a Massachusetts supported decision making statute. Thus far that coalition has been successful in having filed supported decision making bills in both the Massachusetts House and Senate.

YMCA OF THE NORTH SHORE WATER WISE SWIM PROGRAM

The Y is a diverse organization of people of all ages and from all walks of life joined together by a shared commitment to strengthening the community. Driven by this cause, we work tirelessly to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive in an inclusive environment.

The Water Wise swim program meets this need by giving children with autism access to life-saving programming. The autism diagnosis rate in young children continues to rise. With elopement and hypersensitivity to stimuli further exacerbating the drowning statistics, it is the leading cause of death for children with Autism ages 3 to 15. Now more than ever we are committed to advancing swim-lesson opportunities to children with autism.

Through our innovative Individual Activity Plan placement system, we partner with families to identify key information on their child's diagnosis, physical needs, strengths, communication abilities, experience in water, response to instruction, interests and motivation tactics. This allows us to place the child in a class with proper ratios, structure and instructional approach.

The Water Wise program has gone beyond teaching children to swim; Water Wise provides an opportunity for children with cognitive disabilities to make much-needed social connections in their community. Families are provided with a social story that orientates the child to the YMCA and his or her lesson, a visual approach to instruction that builds confidence and self-esteem, opportunity for peer interaction and social-skill development, reduction of social isolation and the alleviation of parents' fear as their child becomes more confident and safe around water.

Since receiving the Arc Tank grant for Water Wise two years ago, we have provided life-saving water safety swim lessons to more than 100 children and are currently expanding to four more pools in the YMCA of the North Shore Association of YMCAs. Water Wise is serving as the model for a national pilot program in 2020 through the YMCA of the USA.

“THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TEACHING MY TWO
SONS WITH LOVE AND PASSION. WE ARE DEEPLY
TOUCHED BY YOUR GENTLE TEACHING AND CARE.
THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME OUR BOYS WERE ABLE TO
GO OUT INTO THE WORLD AND COMMUNITY.
**WE AS PARENTS WERE SO
MOVED BY THIS MOMENT.”**

The following submissions were placed in the *Holding Tank*, to be shared here so that attendees at the competition could pursue or learn more about them by contacting the lead applicant.

Accessible Literacy for All

The Accessible Literacy for All: Adapting School and Public Libraries project will create adapted and accessible libraries within school and community settings for individuals with developmental disabilities (DD). We aim to adapt school and public libraries to the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities in order to promote literacy, language, social skills, and adaptive functioning. For those with disabilities, the development of reading is sometimes neglected in favor of other types of language skills. Through our literacy initiative, school and public libraries would be transformed to include adapted books (e.g., printed books, customized books, electronic books, interactive books) and additional environmental supports (e.g., comment boards, book reviews, cataloging system, visual supports) in order to make libraries more inclusive. School and public libraries from across the globe will have access to our toolkit to use to improve the accessibility of their libraries.

CONTACT:
Sarah Connolly

May Institute
giving@mayinstitute.org

Accessing Excellence

The Accessing Excellence project will provide the best services possible to learners in an underserved New England school district. The Accessing Excellence Project aims to build a sustainable ABA program from the ground up through a combination of technology, staff training, and ongoing support for up to 50 learners within an identified district. NECC's Autism Curriculum Encyclopedia provides everything school districts need to effectively implement ASD services. This web-based tool kit brings evidence-based teaching technology to teachers and direct care staff to maximize progress. The ACE System will lay the foundation for a fully functioning program within the district, benefiting learners, staff, and faculty and providing opportunities to grow over time to serve a greater number of individuals with ASD. Each learner benefiting from ACE System will have the opportunity to become fully actualized, independent, and contributing adults in the community.

CONTACT:
Nicole Gardenier, MS, BCBA

New England Center for Children
ngardenier@necc.org

All Terrain Buggies

Stepping Stones for Stella was inspired by a girl with cerebral palsy who is in a wheelchair when her parents realized it was challenging to get her on and off the beach. We have created a buggy that has now turned into an all-terrain buggy. All of our buggies are 100% donated to families with children with all different types of disabilities. These buggies can be used to go for walks in the snow, during field day at school, and at water parks/splash pads. The buggies have helped families with children struggling with severe physical limitations, assist families who struggle with limitations such as sensory issues of touching sand, and, most important, it has given families the option for ALL family members to join on beach days, hikes and more. Our current buggy design requires independent head and trunk control. Our buggies have a chest and waist strap with a pommel in the seat giving the child extra support so he or she cannot slide down off the seat. This totally new opportunity would allow individuals to decide for themselves the directions and areas they would like to go on all types of terrain.

CONTACT:
Nicole Puzzo

Stepping Stones for Stella
steppingstonesforstella@gmail.com

The ANCHOR Program (Autism Network Culture Healthy Outcomes Resilience)

The concept of the Family Navigator (FN) and early identification and services for young children at risk for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) has informed practice over the last several years in some areas of Massachusetts, specifically with children from diverse cultures. This underserved population is often diagnosed after age 3 years, missing the early intensive services and transition to preschool. FN are often grant-funded, unavailable in needed areas and hard to sustain without funding. The overall goal of this project is to develop capacity in Worcester, building on strong community partnerships and an established early autism screening program to identify and train FN within existing community programs. FN will improve access to diagnosis and services for young children from diverse cultures.

CONTACT: University of Massachusetts Medical School and Children's Medical Center
Roula Choueiri
roula.choueiri@umassmemorial.org

Autism Assets @ Work

Autism Assets @ Work (AA@W) targets tech sector growth to make neurodiversity integral to the workforce. The majority of adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are either unemployed or underemployed, with estimates ranging as high as 90%. Many people on the autism spectrum struggle with the social aspects of a traditional job interview so we disrupt the process, inviting candidates to actively showcase their skills. AA@W disrupts the typical interview process which is one of the biggest employment barriers for people with ASD. A partnership with Dell Technologies (Dell) and Neurodiversity in the Workplace launched the AA@W pilot program in April 2019, culminating in six highly skilled individuals with ASD selected for Dell's competitive, paid, 12-week internship. Five of the six converted to full-time employment signing offer letters this September. This innovative program transforms the hiring process from a subjective, social skills process to a skills-based hiring system, while providing participants with an introduction or refresher to navigating the corporate world.

CONTACT: The Arc of the Capital Area
Allison Abramo
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Autism Supportive Community App

Autism families are often unable to enjoy the same community access as everyone else. Businesses want to serve this community but do not know how to reach them. There is a gap between families wanting services and businesses offering them. This app is reciprocal and gives autism-valuable information to identify businesses that meet their needs and allows information sharing between autism families via customer reviews. It also brings more clients and recognition to businesses for the special services they provide. The individual with autism and their loved ones will find new opportunities and improved quality of life through richer community engagement. Businesses will find a natural business case for those who want to engage with the autism community and an easy tool to do so. There exists an app for this service, but it includes no mechanism to encourage businesses to use their own resources to reach customers via advertising. In contrast, our app offers businesses opportunities to advertise on the platform, providing revenue for the project and assisting businesses to reach new customers. The goal is to help the autism community find resources and share experiences and for businesses to recognize the value of engaging this community via advertising.

CONTACT: Anderson Center for Autism
Christine Wolcott
cwolcott@andersoncares.org

Building Alliances to end the Autism Wars: Co-creating a new diagnosis guide

The media is riddled with evidence of the autism wars and while this conflict is pervasive within the autism community, until now there have been no solutions. We aim to create a unified alliance of autistics, autism parents, and autism professionals who write and publish a mutually beneficial New Diagnosis Guide (NDG) for those new to the autism community nationwide. Perhaps more important, we will also develop and document the steps required to unify opposing members of the community. As a result, we will create both the NDG and a set of best practices that will guide others throughout the country in alliance building to unify our shared voice. The New Diagnosis Guide will frame autism and associated considerations in a way that recognizes and bridges the unique needs of autistics, parents, and professionals. The NDG will promote alliance-building and inclusivity allowing new members of the community to establish a foundation of mutual understanding and collaboration from the start. The NDG will be available electronically nationwide to the more than 64,000 individuals/families diagnosed with autism each year, and a minimum of 1,000 printed copies distributed across Washington state and New England.

CONTACT: The Arc of King County & Parent to Parent
Robin Tatsuda, MSW
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Care(giver) Navigator

With 15% of children in the U.S. diagnosed with at least one developmental disability, the onus falls on caregivers to navigate and manage an increasingly overwhelmed and overwhelming system of care. The families of the more than 6 million CDD vary in socioeconomic background, access to care, and family structure, with additional challenges stemming from poverty, lack of education, discrimination, and lack of social support. This app is an innovative, caregiver-centered solution designed to help CDD caregivers navigate the multiple, fragmented systems they encounter. While this app will not address every aspect of the complex challenges faced by CDD caregivers, it is designed to equip caregivers with the information, tools, and resources they need to better advocate for, identify, and track services for their children, as well as to care for themselves. Our app provides intersecting navigation tools for meeting with a provider, IEPs, and finding circles of social support. Informational components provide references and resources such as glossaries defining common terms used in the health and education settings in simple, jargon-free language. Tools include trackers, reminders, and note-taking and checklist templates. Each of these is customizable and designed to meet caregivers where they are based on their needs and understanding the system process.

CONTACT: Education Development Center
Sarah Jerome
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CathWear

Typical catheters have many possible complications such as: the bag sliding up and down the leg due to weight, etc., plastic to skin makes sweat pint which can irritate the skin, over-tightening of the straps causes: reduced blood flow, skin irritations/ rashes, blood clots and increases the patients' risk of infection and injury. The tubing can get pulled out and then patients have to go back to the operating room to have it replaced, increasing treatment and recovery times as well as medical costs. CathWear removes the use of the velcro straps and restores dignity and privacy during treatment and recovery. We help increase the patient's quality of life when wearing a leg bag and remove the embarrassing moments and lower risk of infection and injury. CathWear is washable, breathable and replaces the patient's normal underwear. There are 1.1 million new drains placed every year and currently 3 million patients wearing a drain/leg bag. The total market size is \$176 million per year and we are planning to carve about 25% of this market at \$44 million to help patients easily manage their leg bag. This will be helpful for patients with mental disabilities because CathWear keeps the leg bag secure for them and helps when a caregiver is not available at the moment.

CONTACT: CathWear
Brian Mohika
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The Arc Tank^{3.0}

HOLDING TANK

Clinicianless Training in Autism Treatment: An Adaptive Online Parent Training Application

This study would develop an adaptive smartphone app (with self-recording and performance review functionality) as a way to train parents of young children with ASD in a highly effective autism treatment model known as Pivotal Response Treatment (PRT). Pivotal Response Treatment (PRT) is a well-established, scientifically supported early intervention that focuses on using child motivation, play-based lessons, and parent involvement to target the language skills and social engagement of children with autism. To address this concern, our idea is to create an innovative smartphone app that combines engaging PRT lessons with built-in performance self-monitoring functionality. Parents will actually be taught to watch their own videos and score their own performance through question prompts built into the app. When they are finished, the app will offer tailored feedback and follow-up lessons based on the skills they still need to learn. We estimate that tens of thousands of people will be able to access high quality autism intervention training from the convenience of their own smartphone.

CONTACT:
Ty Vernon
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Disrupting Social Isolation and Exclusion: “Completing the Community Northeastern Project”

One in three people with autism are socially isolated and 45% of people with disabilities in the U.S. suffer from loneliness due to isolating factors. “Combating Social Isolation: Completing the Community,” will disrupt social isolation. We will look within and at surrounding communities to impact programming and increase social capital to expand community, evaluating what works through a series of forums using micro/macro change strategies. We will pilot our methods with two NYS providers. Our project will include the mentoring of three service providers from the northeast and become “Completing the Community Northeastern Project.” This will enable our agency the opportunity to infuse micro and macro change within our organizational culture and programming to positively impact the lives of the 2,200 people we are currently supporting. Organizations trained will mentor another and pay it forward to disrupt social isolation. We will offer training via webinar to all 600+ Arc members and others.

CONTACT:
Bridget Cariello
AHRC Nassau
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Disrupting the Status Quo of Segregation: Massachusetts Storytellers for Inclusion

The Massachusetts Storytellers for Inclusion Project’s goal is to collect and publicize stories of at least 50 Massachusetts residents with significant disabilities and/or their families who demonstrate that inclusion is indeed possible for all. Storytelling is a universal method to remind us of our failed efforts but, more important, to share positive visions of a more inclusive and just society. TASH New England knows and works with individuals of all ages with extensive support needs who are successfully included in their communities. Telling their stories is essential to combat the narrative that some are too disabled to be engaged in, and benefit from, full inclusion in all aspects of daily living. The Massachusetts Storytellers for Inclusion Project would directly impact at least 50 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Data suggest that minimally 10,000 adults and 40,000 school children with disabilities, including autism, who are currently receiving services in Massachusetts could be positively affected through affirmation of their own successes or by learning about possibilities from others. TASH New England is committed to full inclusion throughout the lifespan.

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Dina Traniello
New England TASH
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The Arc Tank^{3.0}

HOLDING TANK

EnvisionSMART: Systems Management for Autism Services and Related Technologies

EnvisionSMART is the culmination of 20 years of work by Melmark New England’s leadership team. It is a proprietary software incorporating organizational behavior management systems of Applied Behavior Analytic services built on scalable solutions to assist in delivering high quality workforce development through professional development, training, skill development and behavioral services to individuals with autism, intellectual and developmental disabilities. EnvisionSMART is the innovative hub where professional development, training and supervision, clinical services, skill building, adult day/vocational services, residential services, admissions, home-based consultation and outreach, related therapies, healthcare, and technology coalesce and work together. This branded performance training and software platform is an all-encompassing array of well-researched, documented tools that enable other providers to utilize the Melmark Model for Program Development, elevating the standard of services, while addressing every aspect of the critical educational, clinical and administrative functions that are vital to evidence-based, human service programs.

CONTACT:
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Families at the Center of a Connected Community

This project mentors families on community connecting and inclusion through projects led by families with support from unpaid community members. Projects included a community garden, quilting project, pop-up arts event, block party, and more. What results is an innovative model of connecting people with ID/DD to local resources and people, and the transformation of the culture that excludes them. We will work with three family advocacy organizations in the Northeastern ARC influence area including one each from Boston/New England/Connecticut. We will mentor 30 people with ID/DD and their families (10 in each region) through in-person and remote training on community building techniques, practices, and approaches. Each family will receive a micro-grant to support their project with citizens. The project will affect three regions and nearly 300 people: 30 people with ID/DD directly, 90+ family members, 150+ citizens, and staff of the family advocacy organizations partnering with us. Many of those impacted by our approach—parents, family, and community members and neighbors – do not have an ID/DD and play an instrumental role as they step into and sustain inclusion.

CONTACT:
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FireGuide, the personal trainer for fire safety

Current home fire alarms alert occupants to a fire, but don’t guide them to safety. People with ID need more support than a regular alarm provides. Our first product, FireGuide, is a personal fire safety training app that prepares adults with ID to get out of the house quickly by using a trusted person’s voice to guide them to safety. FireGuide, addresses critical gaps in home fire systems that are barriers to people with disabilities who want to live independently, and could with this training and support. FireGuide is a unique home fire safety system that provides specific instructions on how to get out of the house, does so in the voice of a trusted adult, automates drills so the caregiver doesn’t need to, provides consistent, repetitive drills that improve retention and increase confidence, and delivers feedback to improve evacuation performance. FireGuide will benefit 15 million+ caregivers and adults with an intellectual disability who are currently not living at their desired level of independence. We are changing the dynamic for families from that of providing care for people with ID, to one of supporting their independence and their ability to make their own choices in how they want to live.

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HEARTHS Innovation Lab (Healthy, Effective, Affordable, Realistic, and Tangible Housing Solutions)

There is an urgent need to create innovative approaches for housing models and service navigation that is responsive to those with I/DD and/or ASD. The HEARTHS (Healthy, Effective, Affordable, Realistic, and Tangible Housing Solutions) project identifies and addresses systemic cultural, economic, and geographic barriers embedded in current disability supports, develops culturally inclusive, flexible tools for generating innovative, integrated housing solutions, and establishes a responsive, open platform for addressing ever-changing housing needs. HEARTHS creates a space which engages and mobilizes families within their communities to generate and implement new configurations of support models — centered within the geographic, economic, and cultural space in which the person with a disability lives day-to-day. IDD/ASD individuals, families, and agencies work together with an integrated approach to transform system-wide supports to respond to family-driven, culturally competent solutions.

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Innovation 4 Inclusion Makeathon

The Innovation 4 Inclusion Makeathon for middle school students integrates inclusion awareness with engineering and real-world problem solving. Students work with a “Need Knower” (a person with a disability), using an iterative design process to develop solutions to real challenges faced by the Need Knower. Students develop empathy through the experience of applying inclusive design principles. They learn to value people for who they are, seeing beyond their disability. Student-designed products are shared in an online forum, allowing their inventions to be further developed and used by anyone in the world. At our first event, 40 students at one school participated. Last year, 200 students from eight schools participated in the first regional Boston Jewish Day School Innovation 4 Inclusion Makeathon. This year we are expecting participation from 12 schools across the Greater Boston area and we expanded our reach to Rhode Island. For the academic year 2020-2021, our goal is to include more than 20 schools, with participation from at least 500 students. The goal is to empower students to view themselves as agents of change, laying the foundation for future engineers and entrepreneurs for social good and inclusion.

CONTACT:
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Innovative Curriculum to Address Intellectual Disabilities in Nursing Education

Few of today’s three million nurses, the largest group of health professionals, know how to care for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID). Their lack of knowledge, skill and comfort related to ID results in poor health care. Our project will use existing and innovative strategies to develop, test and disseminate a model curriculum to improve knowledge, skills and comfort of nursing students to provide quality health care to those with ID. The training materials currently available have not found their way into traditional provider education and are largely unfamiliar to faculty teaching medical and nursing students. The materials could be used to create a model curriculum to improve health care of individuals with ID. Our model curriculum will involve development of innovative teaching strategies and materials (virtual patients – avatars – created specifically for the project), standardized patients with ID, and identification of points in curricula for use of the model without major curriculum revision.

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LOLA – Laugh Out Loud App: A Funny Digital Tool That Trains Your Brain with Social and Daily Living Skills

LOLA (Laugh Out Loud App) is a digital tool that sends the user with autism funny reminders to help with social and daily living skills. The app “trains the brain” to help remember really important things such as brushing teeth, wearing deodorant and saying hello to people. The concept for the app was developed by a student with autism while attending TechKidsUnlimited.org. It won the 2015 AT&T Connectability Hackathon in honor of the 25th anniversary of the ADA. It is currently in the IOS and Google Play Store. LOLA version 2.0 needs to be developed so educators, parents and therapists can use LOLA as a teaching tool. LOLA 2.0 will feature an additional user so the educator can help the student in a more direct way by picking out the social and emotional skills that need to be worked on.

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NeuroVee: A Brain-Recording Rehabilitation Device

We aim to create a headset capable of recording brain activity and interfacing with existing Augmented Reality (AR) technologies to enhance upper body rehabilitation through neurofeedback training. We plan to create an easy-to-use headset that can be utilized for optimal motor rehabilitation at home as ongoing changes in insurance policies would allow us to provide these at-home training schedules at no additional cost to any person in need of rehabilitation. Existing AR headsets (eg. HoloLens 2) are capable of tracking the position of the hand, individual fingers and displaying interactive environments. Our proposed custom-designed brain-recording device will be able to optimize activities for motor learning through an established technique called neurofeedback training. We believe that rehabilitation will be primarily guided by brain activity in the future through a process called neurofeedback training. It allows a user to unconsciously shape the way his or her brain learns something new. Refined technologies, such as Electroencephalography (EEG), allow us to record activity about intended or even imagined movements. These technologies allow rehabilitation to focus on using important areas of the brain instead of focusing on improving specific actions.

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Noesis ASD

Over the past two years, EmotiFACT has been developing and testing software to improve social skills through recognition of facial expressions by children with autism. Most autistic children are emotionally blind when entering social situations. This mobile platform software will enable them to recognize emotions in others in real-time situations, as well as their own faces. The software will be able to do the following: present age-appropriate models displaying facial expressions of the seven major emotions and the sub-expressions that make up each emotion; allow these children to mimic the facial expressions while capturing their face and scoring their success, as this is the first to market mobile app with recording and retrieval capability; provide games that support identification of expressions in others; and the log file will allow measurement and comparison of results for automated export to caregivers reports such as Catalyst, saving an enormous amount of reporting time. Our preliminary clinical trials indicate a 35% improvement in emotion recognition. This will change the lives of spectrum kids in every aspect of their social behavior, from peer-to-peer engagements, transitions to new schools and surroundings, and most notably, improve their likelihood of getting a job in the marketplace. The identified target market in the U.S. is 1.3 million children.

CONTACT:
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N.O.T.E.S. (Neural Optimization to Empower Success) of the Neural Tango

The key to meaningful community inclusion is positive and harmonious behavior. Without this behavior, “inclusion” reverts to “tolerance.” This is not what we want for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities such as autism or Down syndrome. Attention-control issues are common with these populations; the inability to focus on a task or a person impedes the development of relationship-building skills for living in community. Musical Attention Control Training (MACT) is a research-based therapeutic protocol designed to utilize music to improve attention focus. Improving attention focus increases inclusion appropriate behavior to be better suited for living, working, and playing in community. We seek to automate MACT into a software app for a smartphone or computer.

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Oak Hill – Smart Home Group Home Integration

Smart home technology to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities is an emerging field, and Oak Hill’s Assistive Technology Center is at the forefront. Oak Hill is also the state’s largest group home provider. Our expertise in both housing and smart technology present a unique opportunity to weave these elements together to incorporate smart home and healthcare technology into the supported housing services we provide for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and autism. This has the potential to completely change community living for individuals with IDD as we know it; offering new levels of independence, addressing the acute staffing shortage the industry faces, and providing new opportunities for energy efficiency. Our goal with this project is to start with three group homes in addition to the one funded by DDS, implementing a person-centered technology enhancement plan for each house. This will allow us to provide life-changing technology supports that will impact at least 15 individuals with IDD/autism. The information gleaned from this pilot will then be utilized to scale up these services and apply them across Oak Hill’s programming, with the ability to replicate the program across the sector.

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Out of the Shadows: Connecting Parents of Children with Developmental Disabilities in CARICOM

Many negative attitudes, prejudices and superstitions in the Caribbean islands prevent children with IDD from participating fully in society. Families seek emotional and informational support, however the feeling of shame in having a child with a disability, as a result of the society’s negative attitudes towards disabilities in the Caribbean, can prevent them from reaching out for help. Evidence-based practices, such as parent to parent in the U.S., a grassroots self-help movement, show positive outcomes when a parent is connected to another trained support parent with similar experiences. This project will establish an international Parent Connection Program beginning in Jamaica and Dominica – both middle-income countries with established disabled persons organizations.

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Polaris Mobility: A health care transportation platform for moving people in the aging and disabled communities and for Non-Emergency Medical Transport (NEMT) needs

We have been building a healthcare transportation platform to improve patient-rider outcomes and address the social determinants of health through improved trip management for patient-riders, ride requestors, payers and transportation-service providers. We’re initially focused on the aging adult community, physically and intellectually disabled adults and NEMT needs. 1) It’s a network marketplace that connects n-number of trip payers, ride requestors, brokers and transportation service providers on behalf of patient/riders and caregivers. 2) Our platform supports a white-labeled brokerage model, enabling any managed services provider or third-party broker to manage the complete eco-system (Powered by Polaris Mobility). 3) Our technology serves as a single pane of glass (or aggregation platform) for all levels of service, including rideshare (Lyft and Uber). We have open RESTful APIs to integrate to dispatch point solutions and we have our own native dispatch capabilities (and driver apps) directly available as well. 4) We are initially partnering with charitable organizations to create a high quality nationwide charitable transportation service network. When deployed nationwide, millions of lives will be improved for the better. Transportation addresses the five social determinants of health.

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Popcorn for the People

Less than 20% of people with autism and other developmental disabilities (DD) are employed. While well intentioned, the same old approach of trying to create jobs through government agencies & local businesses is not succeeding on a large scale. Popcorn for the People (PFTP) is succeeding, becoming the largest New Jersey employer of workers with ASD/DD by combining two innovative methods: 1) Developing a business which creates sustainable employment that can be replicated on a large scale for workers with ASD/DD. 2) Using observation & AI to collect/analyze data on employees’ work habits, abilities and supports needed in order to improve job skills without sacrificing profitability. PFTP succeeds by using data to improve workers’ skills and by running the nonprofit like a for-profit business.

CONTACT: Popcorn for the People
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Room for Autism

Businesses, schools, and other community establishments struggle to accommodate individuals with autism and their families due to a lack of tools and effective training opportunities. As a result, these individuals are reluctant to venture out into the world. Through the creative visual storytelling talents of animators and high quality content from our team of experts, our project will create a database of “learning modules” that are available on demand. A unique user-friendly training experience with easy-to-understand lessons that cover everything from autism basics to industry-specific strategies.

It’s time for our communities to make “room for autism.” In 2016, our project implemented a small version of our proposal in Leominster, Mass. We delivered customized training to hundreds of individuals from local establishments, helping them better accommodate the autism community. Results were overwhelmingly positive and our efforts have impacted hundreds. Once word spread, we were approached by other cities and towns across the United States for guidance. Our program will empower tens of thousands of teachers, businesses, and other establishments to confidently and effectively meet the needs of these individuals with autism and their families. It will lead to a domino effect of positive change in our schools and the community as a whole.

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SENSational Story Time with a Yoga Twist

Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) often struggle with communication and socialization — challenges that can result in learning difficulties including reading comprehension. They often do not understand what is happening in a story or the motivations and emotions of the characters, and many struggle to remain engaged. SENSational Story Time with a Yoga Twist is a unique monthly series for libraries that includes story time, the making of a sensory kit to enhance the story experience, and an interactive yoga class based upon the theme of the book. The goal is to help children with ASD become more engaged in reading by making stories interactive. These family-focused events are therapeutic and fun while fostering literacy and physical, emotional, and social wellness.

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Stand Up for People with Disabilities

The Arc of Palm Beach County plans to expand and replicate a volunteer-based mentoring program which provided more than 11,000 hours of service in the first year. Peer mentoring is a model for creating an inclusive and accepting community. High school students, college students and interns provide mentoring to children, teens, and adults with developmental disabilities. Clients, Stand Up and AmeriCorps members engage local nonprofits in projects to address food insecurity, replace invasive plants with Florida-friendly species, and clean up municipal parks. Funding would allow us to expand the program's reach in Palm Beach County and create a sustainable replicable Start Up Guide for other chapters looking to implement the program with interested Arc affiliates across the nation. With support from Arc Tank, key team members will be able to attend trainings and conferences related to best practices as well as engage a national speaker and nonprofit consultant for the mentor's leadership conference scheduled for the first week of June. Scholarships will be made available for members who cannot afford to attend. During this three-day conference, mentors not only receive education in leadership, socio-emotional protective factors and inclusion, they gain business and professional skills as they engage in strategic planning and marketing sessions to further their personal growth, ensuring that the volunteer program remains peer-led and client-centered. The Arc team and board of trustees continue the work initiated by mentors in follow-up sessions with the consultant to ensure buy-in at the highest levels.

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Using Virtual Reality to Train Adolescents with ASD How to Interact with First Responders

Responding in emergencies and interacting with first responders is critical for independence with students with (ASD) and intellectual disabilities. Challenges in communication, cognition, safety awareness, and sensory regulation hinder these individuals' ability to interact and respond to first responders. Practice opportunities in the community and with local law enforcement is hindered by scheduling conflicts, time constraints, and environmental limitations. There is a need for a teaching method that will help bridge the gap between structured learning in the classroom and the natural real-world experience. Virtual reality technology could be the bridge that allows for structured coaching experiences as well as provide additional teaching opportunities.

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zipOns[®] Adaptive Pants

Clothing is a basic human need. But for people with temporary or permanent disabilities, just getting dressed can be a daily struggle. zipOns[®] pants are designed to make dressing and undressing safer, easier and more comfortable. More than that, zipOns empower people with varying challenges to take control of a critical and necessary aspect of daily life. Perfect for those with a range of physical and intellectual disabilities, zipOns open from ankle to waist on both legs, offering maximum flexibility. zipOns are also made with attention to sensory issues, and are free of interior tags and other possible irritants. We created this innovative adaptive clothing line to improve the lives of wearers and caregivers by promoting freedom, independence and confidence.

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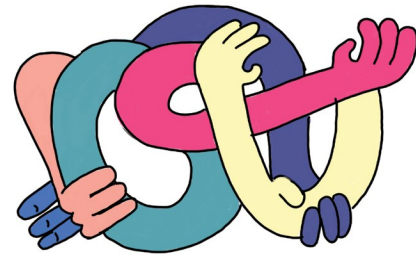
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THE STUDIO



For sharing their artistic talents and
turning today's competition into
an official *Arc Tank* 'episode.'

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FUN FEST 9:30-11:30 A.M.

NortheastArc

Northeast Arc is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering people of all abilities to reach their full potential. Founded by families who could not accept the status quo, Northeast Arc has listened to families for the past 65 years and collaborated with partners to develop services and supports that positively change lives. We do this by offering an extensive network of services and resources for individuals of all ages, starting at birth and spanning a lifetime.

Over the years, our programs have expanded to support children and adults with a broad range of disabilities, including autism and physical disabilities. Today we positively impact more than 15,000 individuals in 190 cities and towns across Massachusetts, serving as the largest Arc in Massachusetts and second-largest Arc of the 700 throughout the U.S. We provide opportunities for children and adults with disabilities to attend public schools, develop friendships, reside in the neighborhoods of their choice, and to earn a paycheck. In addition to Early Intervention, Employment Supports and Residential Services, the agency offers Autism Services, Adult Family Care, Day Habilitation, Personal Care Management, Recreation and Transition Services.

Whether providing adaptive technology that to allow more than 100 children to communicate with their families for the first time; facilitating recreation opportunities to more than 400 individuals; or serving countless families with more than 300,000 hours of direct nursing support so children with complex medical needs can stay in their homes – Northeast Arc takes great pride in *Changing Lives* and *Discovering Abilities*.

www.ne-arc.org

An affiliated
chapter of  **The Arc.**

JOHN F. KENNEDY

LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The mission of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation was first articulated by Jacqueline Kennedy, who, when describing the yet-to-be-built library, envisioned it as a “vital center of education and exchange and thought, which will grow and change with the times.”

“It will be,” she wrote, “not only a memorial to President Kennedy but a living center of study of the times in which he lived, which will inspire the ideals of democracy and freedom in young people all over the world.”

The primary mission of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation is to support the work of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. In addition to its support of the Kennedy Library, the Kennedy Foundation directly sponsors programs and activities that help people understand the major challenges facing democracy today; that inspire current and future generations to political participation and public service; and that promote debate and discussion of issues at the heart of contemporary democracy that relate to the legacy of President John F. Kennedy.

www.jfklibrary.org

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