



Our Mission:

Venture Community Services provides support to individuals facing diverse challenges through a compassionate and dedicated workforce using innovative practices that encourage independence, empowerment and opportunity.

SAVE THE DATE

October 19, 2015
Providers Council Expo,
Boston

Venture is a Gold Sponsor

April 14th, 2016
Bridgewell Autism
Conference, Framingham

Venture is a
"Leading the Way" Sponsor

Friday, June 17, 2016
Venture Charity
Golf Classic

Our popular golf tournament is
back at Blissful Meadows
in Uxbridge

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Sturbridge, MA 01566
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508-347-8181



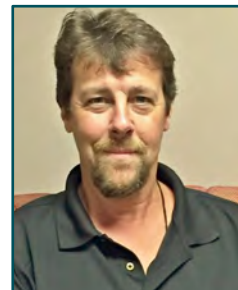
FALL 2015

As we move into autumn, things continue to be busy here at Venture. In addition to the usual great work happening in our group homes and day programs, the agency continues to look for new ways to expand our services and provide more help to people who need it. We have broken ground in Rutland on what will be the agency's **44th** group home and we are actively looking to acquire property in Uxbridge so that we can open another Community Day Program. This program will be our first location in that area of the state, a true sign of our potential to grow and provide new supports. Along with these additions to our programs, our transportation department has grown into a \$3 million entity and is transporting more people than ever before. It's gratifying to know that funders in the state consider Venture to be a provider of choice when needs arise and when supports need to be created.

We also continue to look for ways to create and deliver innovative and cutting edge autism services for adults and children. Venture is currently arranging meetings with school systems and government officials in an effort to more fully understand what the need is in

several local communities. We already know that over the next ten years there will be a dramatic increase in the number of people diagnosed with autism and needing services. It is crucial that this agency be prepared to meet this need, both for our own growth and because of our obligation to build safety nets and opportunities for inclusion for the people who need a variety of supports. I look forward to continuing to update everyone on the progress that we make in this exciting period of expansion at Venture.

As always, I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the many men and women who work so hard to keep everyone who receives services at this agency safe. I hope to see many of you as the leaves continue to change and I also hope everyone has a safe and happy ending to 2015.



Mike Hyland
President & CEO

Mike

Venture's Visit with the Lt. Governor

We had a great visit last month with Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, State Senator Anne Gobi, and State Representative Todd Smola. We had the opportunity to introduce them to our Sturbridge Day Program, our dedicated staff members, and our administrative offices. We are always grateful for the chance to talk about the incredible work being done by our staff members every day of the year.

We also enjoyed exchanging thoughts and ideas about the future of autism services, life skills training for transitional populations, foster care for both children and adults, and our plans to build a new facility to expand community support in Central Mass.



SERVICE UPDATES & EXPANSION

Venture Partners with Wayside Youth & Family Support Network

Partnership brings Youth & Family Supports to Southern Worcester County



Venture is happy to announce that we have partnered with Wayside Youth & Family Support Network of Framingham to provide home-based services for children and families in need of support.

"We are very excited about having the opportunity to partner with such an accomplished provider of family and children's services," said Venture President & CEO Mike Hyland. "Through community based programming, this collaboration with Wayside extends a vital safety net for families in need of supports in South Central Worcester County."

The home based services will be provided through The Child Behavior Health Initiative (CBHI), Department of Mental Health (DMH) and Department of Children and Families (DCF). This collaboration increases the availability of high quality community connected mental health and child welfare services for children and families of Southern Worcester County.

"We are thrilled to be able to partner with Venture Community Services who has such long-standing ties to this community," said Eric Masi, President and CEO of Wayside. "Enhancing and fostering community connections for youth and their families is a key component in effective community-based clinical services. We look forward to continuing to build this partnership."

Founded in 1977, Wayside Youth & Family Support Network is a non-profit, nationally accredited human services agency dedicated to Building Strength, Hope and Resiliency through its family-based outreach services, residential treatment programs, and community-based counseling services to more than 5,000 children, youth and families throughout Eastern and Central Massachusetts. Wayside's mission: Empowering children, young adults and families to achieve greater independence and emotional well-being.

New Residential Program Coming Soon to Rutland

Over the next few months, Venture will open a program that has been custom-built for the population it will support. Despite the development being partially funded by state contracts, which has been a successful model for Venture in the past, there are further upgrades and additions that will improve the quality of life for residents. Although the state contracts fund necessities like cookware, couches, and a microwave, there are still many items that cannot be accommodated. Items such as a Smart Board, Wii gaming system, sound system with headphones, basketball hoop, exercise equipment and swing can provide recreational opportunities while meeting the sensory needs of the individuals. It is our goal to provide an environment in which these individuals will thrive. Therefore, during the process of completing this new home, Venture will be working to secure funding from private sources that will assist in making this facility the best environment possible for these individuals.

Venture has identified four young men who will be moving into the new program and exploring their independence for the first time. Our multidisciplinary team of medical professionals and clinicians work together with the individual, their guardians, physicians, and service coordinator to develop an individualized plan for each person based

upon their unique needs and interests. Venture is looking forward to offering these young men the opportunity to have a home they can call their own. Like many people in their early twenties, they are eager to start their lives independently of their parents and families, begin to explore the world around them, make decisions about their own lives and discover who they are.

If you are interested in helping Venture to prepare the home for its new residents with either a monetary or in-kind donation, please contact Paige Mador at (774) 922-1135 or pmador@venturecs.org.



DAY PROGRAM NEWS & EVENTS



Sensory Room Under Construction

Our new sensory room remodel is underway thanks to a generous donation from the Hoyt Foundation. The updated sensory room is located in our Sturbridge Day Program and will be a great addition for the people who attend each day. We will keep you updated as the construction moves along and equipment is installed..

More info on sensory rooms and their benefit can be found here:

www.sensory-processing-disorder.com/sensory-room.html

A sensory room is a special room designed and equipped to stimulate the senses of hearing, sight, touch and smell. It is a place where people with sensory integration disorder can explore and develop their sensory skills, but also where they can relax and relieve stress and anxiety.

VENTURE 11TH ANNUAL WINE, BEER & FOOD FESTIVAL

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the overwhelming success of our 11th Annual Wine, Beer, and Food Festival that was held on September 17th at Old Sturbridge Village. We are so grateful for the support of the many generous members of our community.

The support provided for our fundraising events allows us to enhance the quality of life for individuals with disabilities and

other challenges in our community. With many new projects on the way, the generosity of all helps us to expand our services.

We recognize that the work we do would not be possible without considerable support from local businesses and individuals. We appreciate your dedication to assisting people with disabilities live independent, fulfilling lives.

A big thanks to all who supported the event and to our presenting sponsors and vendors:

**Ted's Package Store, Southbridge Savings Bank, Forensic Risk Alliance, TD Bank
Interior Resources, Wayside Youth & Family Support Network, Ogletree & Deakins, Oliver Wight Tavern,
Sturbridge Cheese & Chocolate, Paoletti's of Charlton, Publick House Historic Inn**



The winner of our giant wine tower raffle—enjoy!



Happy supporters of the silent auction.

Additional photos from the event can be viewed through the Venture Flickr page



The Venture photo booth was the fun stop of the night.

Venture Community Services
1 Picker Road
Sturbridge MA 01566



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Our Core Values: Honesty, Respect, Integrity, Compassion, Innovation
We believe EVERYONE deserves opportunity!

Venture's Board of Directors and Corporate Donors are made up of people from all walks of life: small business owners, lawyers, carpenters, police officers, teachers—active people like you who want to be involved and make a difference in the lives of others. Contact Mike Hyland at ext. 1144 or mhyland@venturecs.org for more information.

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SERVICES

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| Autism Supports | Youth & Family Supports |

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