

CARDINAL CUSHING
CENTERS, INC.

**SPONSORED
PROGRAMS:**

Cardinal Cushing
School

Braintree St.
Coletta Day School

Adult Services
South Shore Indus-
tries

Life
Opportunities
Unlimited

Cushing Residence

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Cushing Today

QUARTERLY

JULY 2009

Springtime gala honors Cushing couple

It was a rainy evening in June, but inside the festive tent—warmed by the smiles of student greeters and the melodies provided by the volunteer jazz duo—it truly felt like *Springtime*.

“[We] feel lucky to have come to this school. It changed our lives.”

Kathy Yudis, Honoree

For the 45th year, Cardinal Cushing Centers celebrated the accomplishments of its students while recognizing the support of benefactors at the annual gala.

“Kathy and Eric have achieved many things in their

lives: successful employment, full and happy social lives, a place within the community, and a strong love and commitment to one another,” said



**Kathy & Eric Yudis
Personal Achievement
Award Recipients**

president and CEO Jo Ann Simons, speaking of this year’s honorees, Kathy and Eric Yudis.

The couple met while

Kathy was a student and Eric, who had already graduated, was living in an apartment within Cushing Residence, located on upper campus. They dated for several years and became engaged on the night of a Cushing homecoming dance.

“Eric and I feel lucky to have come to this school. It changed our lives,” Kathy said. The Yudises just celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary.

“Their achievements are, in large part, the result of donors like you,” Jo Ann informed the audience of 300. The couple works at the school, Kathy in food services and Eric in housekeeping,

Springtime continued on page 2

What’s in a name?

This question was most famously asked by Juliet in Shakespeare’s lyric tale *Romeo and Juliet*: “What’s in a name? That which we could call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.”

Cardinal Cushing Centers has undergone name variations over the years, all the while maintaining the same high standards and dedication to the original mission of the Sisters of Saint Francis. (Shakespeare presumably would not have objected.)



Cardinal Cushing Centers

Yet, in consideration of the history and name recognition of OSF sponsored programs in Massachusetts, we have returned as of July 1st to the Cardinal Cushing School and Braintree St. Coletta Day School.

The parent organization

name is Cardinal Cushing Centers, Inc. Adult Services and Life Opportunities Unlimited fall under the umbrella of Cardinal Cushing Centers.



Letter from the President



Students Michael B.,
Michela Z., and
Daniel V.

*“Cardinal
Cushing School
has afforded
Brent a true high
school experience
that he never
would have seen
from home.”*

Kim Yoshida
Parent

Vocational
students,
Melissa B.
and Brittany
D., on break
at *Springtime*
2009



Dear Friends,
Welcome to the Summer 2009 issue of *Cushing Today*. It has been a remarkable year for the organization, and I want to express my appreciation of your continued interest and generosity. In these extraordinary economic times, you have joined with hundreds of supporters, families and friends to reaffirm the value of what we do.

With so many new worthwhile initiatives, the two campuses are humming with energy and

productivity. For instance, students are being better prepared for their adult lives after their formal school years by participating in programs like ACHIEVE. Life Opportunities Unlimited offers new options for those over the age of 22. You will read more about these and other innovative endeavors on the following pages.

Cardinal Cushing Centers is unlike other special education providers. Many of our students qualify for a free lunch, which means that these young

people come from families living at or below poverty level. We provide hope for disability and poverty, truly embodying our Franciscan values and meeting the needs of the most vulnerable among us.

Thank you for helping children and adults find possibility, opportunity, and hope!

Sincerely,

Heart pins say a lot

Healthy plants—herbs, perennials, annuals, and tomatoes—are reasonably priced at Cardinal Cushing Centers’ Greenhouse and Potting Shed, winner of a Community Newspaper 2009 Readers Choice Award. But that’s not all students are selling at the horticultural retail site on the Hanover campus.

In addition to honing gardening and customer service skills, students are learning to put their creative

energy to good use. They make baskets, dried flower arrangements, greeting cards, pottery, and ceramic heart pins.

Earlier this year, students made pins to donate to the Medical Mission Group—volunteer medical professionals who bring surgical intervention to those in need in Third World countries—as they embarked on a trip to the Dominican Republic. The pins were distributed to

volunteers and patients.

Visit the Potting Shed Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., where customers are welcomed with eager assistance.



**The Medical Mission Group
wearing their
Cushing heart pins**

Springtime gala—Continued from page 1

where they are valued by supervisors and co-workers alike.

For parent Steve Morse, who was the evening’s featured speaker, and his son Nick,

a residential student, Cushing Centers “has been a Godsend.

“When people hear I have a 20-year-old son, they ask me where he goes to college. I am as proud to say he attends Cardinal Cushing School as I would be if he were at Harvard.”

The evening included performances by a chorus of seven individuals who receive residential and/or working support from Cushing’s Adult Services and a student dance group.

Funds raised from the event will go toward the development of student programming.

Congratulations, graduates!



Photos courtesy of *The Patriot Ledger*

Graduation ceremonies in May and June, on the Braintree and Hanover campuses, brought families and friends, classmates and advo-

cates, staff and members of the community together to mark the special occasions.

Jo Ann Simons, Cardinal Cushing's President and CEO, spoke at both events. "Graduation is only a concept," she said. "In real life every day you graduate; it's a process that goes on until the last day of your life."

Donning traditional caps and gowns, the graduates joyously accepted their diplomas, reminisced about their years as students, and graciously accepted the heart-felt admiration of their supporters.

"Today is a celebration of the courage and tenacity of our graduates who face challenges none of us can ever truly appreciate," Jo Ann said, recognizing the out-



standing personal achievements of each of the graduates.

"I have had many struggles and have worked on many issues...I am proud of the accomplishments I have achieved."

Melissa C. Graduate

New programs offer enriching opportunities

Cardinal Cushing Centers has two new programs, each with the goal of building greater personal fulfillment for participants.

Life Opportunities Unlimited offers adults with disabilities an innovative approach to ensuring meaningful and productive days. Small groups, based on interests, needs, and age, allow participants to enjoy meaningful and varied experiences in areas such as nutrition and cooking, fitness, independent living, community and social skills, art and music, technology, and volunteerism.

Based on the campus of Braintree St. Coletta Day School, the program fosters community integration and independence.

ACHIEVE (which stands for advocacy, community, healthy lifestyle, independence, educational experience, vocational development, and esteem building), utilizes the community as a classroom. Designed for those between 17 and 23 years old, this program facilitates a smooth transition for individuals with special needs as they



ACHIEVE students visit Boston prepare for life following their formal school years. It is located on the Hanover campus.

"ACHIEVE fills a gap in the lives of young adults in a way that families know makes a difference."

Deb Lunetta
VP, Program Development

Admissions Outreach extends around the world...

While continuing to build relationships throughout New England, hosting open houses, participating in resource fairs and conferences, Cardinal Cushing Centers is working to diversify referral sources.

Michelle Markowitz, director of admissions, represented the organization at the annual Schools 2 Know Conference held earlier this year in Hamil-

ton, Bermuda.

She took part in an information swap during the Therapeutic Boarding School's Session of the Independent Education Consultants Assn. in San Francisco during the spring.

Additionally, Cushing Centers participated in the Independent Educational Consultant's Tour, which welcomed representatives from Arizona,

Bermuda, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Mexico, and Wisconsin to the Hanover campus for an overnight visit.

These initiatives help to exhibit our programs, allow for networking with other providers, inform us of marketing trends, and facilitate new partnerships.



Students Hanah M. and Julie E. take a stroll on the Hanover campus.

College bound

Cardinal Cushing School students to enroll in Cape Cod Community College next fall.

"I feel happy and excited that I got accepted. My older brother says it's okay, that he was a little nervous too [about going to college], but it got better."

Student Greg R.

"I was excited on the plane...The rides were so fun. On the Twister ride I said 'whoa!' the whole time."

Student Katie N.

"The first time I saw the Sisters, I knew what I wanted to do with my life."

Sr. Odilia Li, OSF



Twelve Cardinal Cushing School students were accepted to Cape Cod Community College's Project Forward. It is the first time that our students have applied and the acceptance rate was 100%.

"It's very exciting," said Larry Sauer, Cushing Centers VP, student programs & services. "Some of the students have said they will be the first in their families to attend college. They are very proud."

The program is designed for students with significant learning difficulties, and has received national, state, and local recognition. Students are provided with career assessment including courses in Food Preparation, Child Care, Office Technology, Retail, Institutional Maintenance and Landscaping, and Work-Life Skills.

"The students will have a unique chance to further vocational pursuits begun here at Cushing in a college

setting," Larry said.

In addition to one of the vocational concentrations, second-year students participate in a cooperative work-study experience connecting work-based learning at a local job site with instruction at the College. Enrichment activities, including art, chorus, and 4H activities coordinated with Barnstable County 4H/UMass Extension, are also available. Students will begin in the fall.

Senior trip to Disney

Thanks to the South Shore Savings Bank, sponsors of the St. Patrick's Day Dinner, the graduating classes of both Cardinal Cushing School and Braintree St. Coletta Day School were invited to enjoy "a trip of a lifetime" to Disney World in May.

"It was great! I went on all the big rides, and Goofy and Donald Duck sat with

us at the character breakfast. They were so funny," said student Emily B.



Creating memories: Dustin D. and Brendan C. pose with Donald Duck, while Anthony R. salutes alongside a soldier.

In memory of Sister Odelia

To all that knew her, Sr. Odelia was a wise, kind, and contagiously optimistic bundle of energy.

"The words that come to mind when I think of Sister are courageous...fun...loving...unique," offered Francine Starck, who manages The Portiunucla Thift & Gift Shop, where Sr. Odelia worked for over ten years.

Born to a Catholic Chinese family in 1918, Sister joined the convent at 20 and began teaching. She left China shortly before the Communists invaded and spent the next 15 years in Jefferson, WI teaching children with special needs. She then came to work with students on the Hanover campus and later in Braintree. She made several visits to her home in China

over the years. Sister retired in 2003 and moved to Milwaukee's St. Francis community.

It was with great sadness that news of Sr. Odelia's passing reached Cardinal Cushing Centers. She will be fondly remembered by her fellow staff, students and the many customers whom she befriended during her years at the thrift shop.

A message from President Obama



Students Tyler M. and Shianne A. proudly display letter to President Obama and photograph they received in response.

photograph of President Barack Obama and his letter thanking the class for their interest.

As part of their social studies curriculum, Katie’s class of six, 10 to 14-year-olds, followed the

election. The unit extended into vocabulary, reading and writing, math, and different aspects of society. Students learned about the election process, the responsibilities of the office, and even held a school-wide election.

“Discussions extended beyond school,” said Katie. “One student in particular would share his families opinions with the class.”

For most, it was the first big election they will remember. Students wrote individual letters and also one letter as a group.

“I encourage you to work hard and dedicate your energy, talent, and creativity to improving your community and our country.”

President Barack Obama

Hanging on the wall of teacher Katie O’Brien’s classroom is a framed

Signs of spring

The collection of flowers blooming about the Braintree campus are the results of a planting party in which all students enthusiastically participated.

“We wanted all the students to feel ownership for their plants,” said Vocational Instructor Nancy Kirika. “Each student chose seeds, planted them, decorated their plastic containers with colored crepe paper and

when the plants matured, they moved them from the greenhouse to outdoors.”



Student Anthony A. and Nick Santacroce, teacher assistant, planting on Braintree campus.



Student Kaleigh P. planting seeds with Eliza Perez, teacher assistant.

Bon voyage

The folks that receive living and/or working support through Adult Services chose a five-day cruise in the Western Caribbean for their next excursion. Thirty-nine individuals, which include those from Adult Services as well as some family members, will depart on September 12th to visit Cozumel, Mexico, and the Grand Cayman Islands on vacation.

Traveling together is not unusual for this group, according to Leslie Kelly, work supports coordinator at South Shore Industries. Previous trips include Las Vegas, Florida, Foxwoods and Pennsylvania.



“The joy that comes from watching one of the kids smile because he was able to sink a shot or catch a pass for a touchdown really confirms for me that volunteering is something more people should be experiencing.”

*Cushing School Volunteer, Tom Dodge
B.C. High Student*

Cardinal Cushing Centers, Inc.

- **BJ's Wholesale Club Charitable Foundation Golf Tournament**, Pinehills Golf Club, Plymouth, September 9
- **23rd Annual St. Coletta Classic**, co-sponsored by Rockland Trust and Braintree Cooperative Bank, Marshfield Country Club, September 28
- **Ball Field Dedication**, Cardinal Cushing School, date in September to be announced
- **Sisters of Saint Francis Annual Corporations Meeting**, Cardinal Cushing Centers, October 7 through 9
- **Cardinal Cushing Centers Classic**, co-sponsored by Bob's Furniture and Hill Holliday, Black Rock Country Club, Hingham, October 13

Opportunities for support

Volunteer—individual and corporate volunteer programs range from a one-time commitment to a long-term relationship with our community and its people. Share your skills and talents or the expertise of your Business and make a difference.

Memorial Tribute Programs—commemorate a special occasion or pay tribute to an individual with a card or an engraved brick on the *Path of Hope* while contributing in a meaningful way.

Wills & Bequests—consider making a gift to children with special needs as part of your legacy.

General Support—financial contributions in any amount are greatly appreciated.

Please visit our website or call the Office of External Affairs for more information.

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