



Cardinal Cushing Centers

All ages. All abilities. All together.

When I meet people, they often ask me about Bob Dylan, Bono, Mick Jagger, or any number of the legendary musicians I covered in my 30-year career as the music critic for the Boston Globe. I would love to regale you with some wonderful stories about my fascinating career, but I have a much more important story; it is about my son, Nick.

Upon hearing that I have a 20-year-old son, I am often asked where he goes to college. I am as proud to say that Nick is a student at Cardinal Cushing School as I would be if he were at Harvard. This school, its teachers, clinicians, specialists, support staff, and the other very special students—who face daily challenges that to most of us seem insurmountable—have changed our lives. **For Nick, this means he has a future filled with hope: the hope to lead a fulfilling life.**

I am writing to ask you to help Cardinal Cushing Centers' Annual Fund to give this same hope to other families.

Let me share my family's story with you. Nick enrolled at Cardinal Cushing School at an especially difficult time for our family. That same year Nick's mother passed away. I began to wonder if we would ever find a school where he would have the support, guidance, and opportunities to find and develop his inner strengths. Despite his intellectual disabilities Nick had something to offer, we just needed others to recognize what we knew to be true.

At Cushing, Nick found acceptance. He made friends, participated in activities in and outside of the classroom. As important, Nick's natural affinity for and ability to create art were not only recognized but nurtured. He was exposed to different mediums and found his creative voice, which is filled with vivid colors. His artwork garnered the interest of other students and he began to make friends. Gradually Nick's self-esteem improved as did his behavior and willingness to not only try new things, but to excel.

Nick's experience is not unusual. If you ask the many families who have entrusted their children, brothers, and sisters to this organization, you will hear similar stories: stories of isolation, frustration, and lost hope. You will also hear about changes that far exceeded expectations after individuals came to Cushing. Our family members deserve the best chance to enjoy meaningful and happy lives. Please help us to make Nick's story of success a similar experience for the many children and adults who continue to turn to Cushing.

Your support this year will go toward enhancing the organization's ability to help people with diverse needs, including intergeneration programs for those of all ages within our communities. Cushing offers expertise, dedication, respect, and dignity to all whom it serves. I hope you will join me by making a donation.

Sincerely,

Steve Morse
Parent

P.S. Your contribution to the Annual Fund will help create opportunities, hope, and success for those in our communities who deserve the chance to discover their potential!