

Dear Friends,

What an amazing year; the last of my 18 years as CEO of MAB Community Services. I'm so proud of what we've accomplished together and even prouder of where we're going. I've always said, we're not the biggest provider of services in our field, but we're the most innovative, the boldest. To all our friends, volunteers, board members, donors, supporters, policy leaders, and staff, thank you so much for all you do for MAB. Your support allows us to improve and expand our efforts so people with disabilities can enjoy greater independence and live on their own terms.

Adult Disability Services

Adult Disability Services, MAB's largest division, comprises two-thirds of our annual operating budget. MAB started these programs in 1973 in partnership with the MA Department of Developmental Services, providing community-based homes so people with intellectual disabilities could move out of state institutions and live in neighborhoods like everyone else.

While moving people out of institutions was an incredible change, when I came to MAB in 2006, it was clear that the vision of deinstitutionalization hadn't yet been fully realized. People who'd spent years living in institutions weren't ready to assume full agency over their lives.

Together, we've come a long way since 2006. In the last few years, MAB has developed a combination of programs that allow participants to develop the skills to become more independent and build the lives they want. And while we've aspired to achieve this for years, we're finally seeing the outcomes we've always wanted.

Embedding occupational therapists into the staff in our communitybased homes moved the focus away from doing things for participants to supporting them in learning how to do it themselves. The Training and Rehabilitation Center (TRC), which has provided the ideal venue for participants to work on their rehabilitation while participating in stimulating workshops and making friends, has been a critical step in their journey of rebuilding after life altering injuries and institutional living. And at that point, participants are ready to work with MABVoc, our 1:1 vocational program that will help them get them a job and feel like they're back in the game.

Becoming independent is different for everyone. Some participants love the sociability and support of living in a community-based home. And as long as they're in the driver's seat, that's fine. Others, however, find 24/7 staffing stifling and are eager to live on their own. Combining MAB's Individual Supports Program, which provides case management to participants who can live with less than 24 hour care, with ADS' Assistive Technology Program, which uses high- and low-tech devices to support self-sufficiency, makes independent living achievable. In this Annual Report, we share stories about participants who've made big strides towards independence and the satisfaction it's brought them.

Ivy Street

The Ivy Street School has made major progress in its mission to support students on the autism spectrum, who have behavioral health challenges and/or and brain injuries. The therapeutic model, which is the foundation of the school, allows students to become ready to learn new strategies that support their successful transition to adulthood. All of our 2024 graduates passed the MCAS requirements, and more than half of Ivy Street's students volunteered and/or worked last year. The new peer mentoring program called Community for Life matches alumni with students preparing to graduate to provide the social support new graduates need to gain confidence and move forward.

I am also proud of the important work we're doing with three young adults who need more clinical support and skills training to thrive in adulthood. Anyone who has children knows that they're not ready to fully launch on their 22nd birthday. And young adults with serious medical and behavioral challenges may experience a series of hospitalizations when supports are removed that early. In partnership with the MA Departments of Developmental Services and Mental Health, Ivy Street and the Adult Disability Services division are piloting the Turning 22 (T22) program, which offers integrated healthcare, housing, and clinical support to help these young women succeed.

Skills for Life, Ivy Street's home- and community-based program for young adults, continues to grow. With 70 clients and more than 10 contracts with local school districts, Skills for Life serves more clients than the Ivy Street School's population of 52 students. By positively impacting more young people, Skills for Life continues to help them achieve greater independence.

MABVI

At MABVI we continue to lead in new and important ways, despite a series of losses, including the untimely deaths of Kim Thibault and Edith Esterene, and the retirement of Amy Ruell and Sassy Outwater Wright, all amazing leaders with impressive records of achievement. With the hiring of Jen Harnish as Director of Social Services and other staff with the lived experience of blindness, we continue to expand our focus on services that will allow adults to be full participants in society, despite their loss of vision. MABVI's team of licensed clinicians provides the therapy that individuals need to adapt to this life altering change and become ready to learn the skills that will allow them to stay in the game, preventing them from feeling helpless and socially isolated. And you can't be a full participant in society today without being able to use the internet. We continue to strengthen and expand our Access Technology sites throughout the state, providing one-toone training on hardware and software designed for blind and visually impaired users. Our work with Age Friendly Networks in Massachusetts allows MABVI to collaborate with organizations serving older adults in five Gateway Cities to insure that adults who are visually impaired are effectively supported.

Administration

Investing in making our programs more effective has always been MAB's priority. But in the past few years, we've also made impressive investments in Finance, Human Resources, IT, Facilities, and Advancement that are significantly improving how these departments support our programs.

- We've switched to an improved Finance and Accounting system that will streamline operations and allow us to better manage our programs.
- · We've automated many HR processes, resulting in streamlined operations, the elimination of paper, and improved efficiency, data transparency and accuracy, while increasing the high-touch support we provide to our staff and new hires to help them succeed.
- We've developed electronic systems to strategically maximize savings and revenue.
- We've developed a robust capital maintenance planning and reporting system.
- We've increased annual fundraising by more than 200% during the past decade to provide the resources our programs need to increase effectiveness.

While there will always be much more to be done, I'm proud of what we've accomplished and grateful that I've had the opportunity to be part of accomplishing it. We couldn't have done it without you!

All the best.



Barbara Salisbury Chief Executive Officer



Stephanie Fide **Board President**

YEAR IN REVIEW



3rd Annual Maxo Joseph Awards In July 2023, MAB and the awards selection committee recognized 12 Maxo Joseph Excellence in Direct Care Award winners with a total of \$52,000. Many thanks to our ADS division award winners and nominees for their exceptional dedication and care!



Turning 22 Program (T22) Launched! At Ivy Street, turning 22 means transitioning into adult services. Graduates with high medical needs have even fewer options for support. MAB has partnered with the state to pilot T22. Integrated healthcare, housing, and clinical support help three young people transition to adulthood.



Ivy Street Extravaganza
In September 2023, we enjoyed
Extravaganza, the Ivy Street School's
annual showcase of students' artistic
expression. It was wonderful to see
our students shining!



120 Years of Disability Inclusion
October 2023 marked MAB's 120th
year of supporting people with
disabilities. Our 2023 Annual
Meeting recognized our funders,
donors, volunteers, board members,
and staff for providing the resources
needed for people with disabilities to
live full and satisfying lives.



ADS Thanksgiving Celebration
Tasty food and great company made
the ADS division's Thanksgiving party
fun and festive! Staff and volunteers
cooked and served meals, joining
participants in celebrating another
great year.



MAB Donors Made a Difference! In December 2023 and throughout the year, donors including the Pratt Family made a difference for the people who MAB Community Services supports. Your partnership and generosity matter. We can't do it without you!



United in Stride 2.0 Launched! Founded in 2015 by Richard Hunter, www.unitedinstride.com matches visually impaired athletes and guides to achieve athletic goals. In January 2024, MAB and MABVI launched a new, accessible, and interactive website!



Volunteer Appreciation Week
MABVI celebrated Volunteer
Appreciation Week in February
2024. Hundreds of volunteers
provide 1:1 support to blind or low
vision participants so they can live
with greater satisfaction and
independence. Many volunteers and
participants form strong friendships.



Lydia X.Z. Brown Visits Ivy Street In March 2024, Ivy Street welcomed Lydia X.Z. Brown. During the Pratt Lecture and visit to the school, Lydia shared insights that positively impacted Ivy Street students, staff, families, and supporters.



Team With A Vision Celebrates!
Our international Boston Marathon team raised more than \$270,000 for MABVI while showing that with the right support, anything is possible. Ellen Goldberg, a longtime team member, joined us in celebrating TWAV's 31 years of impact.



TRC Supports Independence In May 2024, the ADS division's Training and Rehabilitation Center in Westborough celebrated its first anniversary. The TRC offers an array of services and support for qualified participants with brain injuries to help them regain independence.



Ivy Street Students Celebrate!
Ivy Street School students enjoyed a trifecta of special events in June 2024: their annual Pride celebration, the Ivy Street Prom, and the Ivy Street Graduation. Our welcoming and inclusive community makes space for all students to be who they are and prepare for bright futures.

IS IVY STREET

At Ivy Street, we support neurodivergent youth through a person-centered model that is driven by collaboration, a willingness to think big, and a commitment to really knowing the young people we serve. Across our educational, residential, and community-based programs, we support adolescents and young adults with disabilities by creating the therapeutic conditions that allow them to thrive. Our approach is evidence-based, trauma-informed, and laser-focused on strengthening healing, deepening community, building skills and accelerating motivation for a successful adulthood. Visit www.ivystreetschool.org to learn more.

27 students worked, interned, or volunteered in the community.

100% of our 2024 graduates passed their MCAS requirements.

- 16 Ivy Street students performed in the Extravaganza talent show.
- college or vocational classes taken by Ivy Street students.
 - 3 Ivy Street Hawks teams played in basketball, softball, and flag football Special Olympics leagues.



Photos:

- 1. Ivy Street students had a great time at the prom.
- 2. Everyone is welcome at Ivy Street!
- 3. Ivy Street's partnership with Green City Growers continues! This year, our students grew radishes, bok choi, Kakurei turnips, kale, mixed lettuce, chard, mustard greens, peas, spinach, beans, and a wide variety of herbs.
- 4. Ivy Street's annual Extravaganza showcased students' artistic passion.
- 5. The Ivy Street Hawks excelled in basketball, softball, and flag football through Special Olympics leagues.
- 6. Jaz Kermode accepted this year's Ivy Street Pratt Teaching Fellowship.
- 7. Namrod Girmai, Ivy Street's physical education teacher and Pratt Teaching Fellowship recipient, graduated from Boston University in June 2024.
- 8. At the March 2024 Pratt Lecture at WBUR CitySpace, Lydia X.Z. Brown shared insights on disability justice, advocacy, and activism with Ivy Street families, staff, MAB Board members, and supporters.

















How Does Ivy Street

SKILLS to FOR LIFE

Since launching eight years ago, Skills for Life has supported more than 200 neurodivergent youth and young adults within and beyond Ivy Street.

This unique program works because our occupational therapists serve clients in the spaces that matter most: their homes and communities.

91% of SFL participants reported increased success in achieving their goals.

Ben, age 26, wanted to live independently. With support from a Skills for Life occupational therapist, he established and achieved short- and long-term goals. He learned to take public transportation, cook, clean, and budget. Now Ben lives independently and is enrolled in college.

"I honestly don't think it would have happened [without] all the support from [Skills for Life]," Ben said. "I'm so fortunate."





Ivy Street Helps Ryley Get Ready for Adulthood

Ryley and his mother Karen found the right fit at Ivy Street, his ninth program. His "firsts" at Ivy Street included: earning a paycheck, performing at Extravaganza, serving on the Student Council, representing the Ivy Street Hawks, going to the prom, and speaking at graduation.

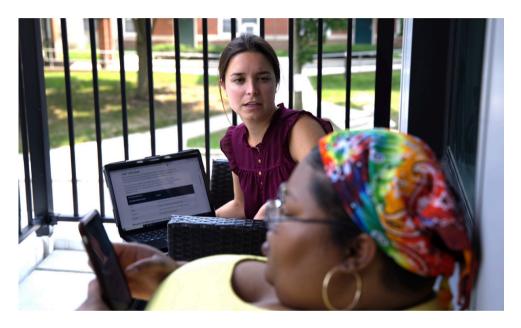
After graduation, Ryley moved into specialized housing and enrolled at MassBay College. He continues to work and compete on Special Olympics teams.

Ryley and Karen co-founded Oak Hill Coffee with the goal to provide people with disabilities job training and employment. Ryley also shared, "I'd like to join the National Guard."

He thanks his teachers and clinicians for his successful transition to adulthood. As Ryley's favorite poster at Ivy Street said, "Real heroes don't wear capes. They teach."

Prepare Students for Success?

Starting with students' strengths, Ivy Street faculty and staff help students establish and achieve their goals. From Career Development to project-based learning, music to math, and the Skills for Life program, Ivy Street helps students believe in themselves, express themselves artistically, self-advocate, explore careers, and prepare for the transition to adulthood.





When Ivy Street students turn 22, they age out of school services and transition to adult services. Young adults with high medical needs have very few housing, healthcare other other service options. Removing support too early can lead to a series of hospitalizations and greater difficulty transitioning to adulthood.

MAB is grateful that the state has partnered with MAB's Ivy Street and Adult Disability Services divisions to pilot a new Turning 22 (T22) program. We are proud of the important work we're doing with three young adults with high medical needs. Integrated and enhanced healthcare, housing, clinical support, and skills training are helping these young adults achieve independence.





Ivy Street Students Explore Satisfying Careers

Ivy Street's Career Development team works with students to explore careers and gain job experience. Hands-on learning and supportive feedback make a big difference. Ivy Street offers volunteer opportunities, internships, campus-based employment including the vegetable garden, competitive community-based employment, and opportunities for post-secondary learning.

"Ivy Street partners with students to find the right fit at the right moment," Ivy Street Executive Director Brooke Howard explained. "It's an evolution of skill, interest, and access that is student-led and team-supported."

MABADULT DISABILITY SERVICES

MAB Adult Disability Services (ADS) supports people with intellectual disabilities and brain injuries in living full and satisfying lives with agency and independence. MAB ADS operates 30 community-based residential homes in Greater Boston and Central MA. MABWorks helps participants with intellectual disabilities develop volunteer and job skills. MABVoc provides vocational services to participants with brain injuries. Individual Supports helps participants transition from 24/7 care to more independent living. The Training and Rehabilitation Center provides an array of services and support for participants with brain injuries. Visit www.mabcommunity.org/adult-disability-services to learn more.

of Adult Disability Services direct care staff have worked for MAB for more than five years.

- Adult Disability Services opened three new community-based homes in Newton and Shrewsbury.
- 15 new participants moved into ADS homes.
- participants enrolled in MAB's new Training and Rehabilitation Center in Westborough.
- MABWorks participants took turns volunteering for Meals on Wheels and delivered up to 20 meals per week.
- 45 MABWorks participants attended Spaulding Rehabilitation's JobLab training suite to practice vocational skills.
- new Individual Supports program participants transitioned from 24/7 care to greater independence.
 - 5 Funding for a five-year assistive technology program helped participants with intellectual disabilities achieve greater independence.



Occupational therapy is one of many services provided at MAB's Training and Rehabilitation Center.



Vince O'Connell, left, helped Joe Kelsey, Curtis Gould, and Richard Roberts move out of a desolate existence the Fernald School in Waltham. Vince reunited with them at a MAB residence, where the three longtime friends enjoyed full lives on their own terms until they passed away. (Photo by Suzanne Kreiter/The Boston Globe via Getty Images)

Photos:

- 1. ADS provides accessible transportation to day programs and communitybased activities so participants enjoy their lives on their own terms.
- 2. At ADS residences, occupational therapists work with participants and train staff to support participants in achieving their goals.
- 3. Participants enjoy attending community events throughout the year.
- 4. Smart ovens and other assistive technology help residents cook, set alarms, take medication, and more.
- 5. MABWorks participants love making and delivering desserts to the Allston Brighton Food Pantry every week!
- 6. MAB and ADS staff honored Melissa Anderson Donahue and her family during the inaugural gardening event. (Photo by Allan Dines)
- 7. ADS participants had a great time at a Worcester Red Sox (Woo Sox) game.
- 8. Participants and staff enjoyed a nature outing and catered picnic through a generous gift from an ADS family.

















Training & Rehabilitation Center WESTBOROUGH

(Below) MAB's Training and Rehabilitation Center (TRC) in Westborough just turned one! This unique program offers an array of services and support to help qualified people with brain injuries regain independence, all under one roof. From occupational therapy to career exploration, cooking classes, and flower arranging, one-on-one services and group classes help participants set and achieve their goals.

TRC Program Specialist **Patrick Parker** received a \$10,000 Maxo Joseph Excellence in Direct Care Award in July. He was recently promoted to Assistant Director. Congratulations, Patrick!













MAB WORKS

(Above) MABWorks is a communitybased day program that helps people with intellectual disabilities develop the skills they need to pursue their interests and become active participants in their own lives.

Whether a participant wants to learn how to use public transportation, go shopping, develop meaningful friendships, learn how to budget, work, or volunteer, MABWorks helps them do it.







MABVoc

MABVoc Employment Specialist **Stefani Kennedy** sees the difference that getting a job can make in someone's life after a lifechanging injury and long rehabilitation process. Some clients get jobs right away. Others take months of hard work and dedication to find the right fit. Current employers include CVS, Lowe's, and a public library.

Stefani and other MABVoc staff support qualified Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Waiver Program clients with essential services. Personalized job searches and job coaching help clients secure community-based volunteer jobs or paid employment.

In July, Stefani received a \$10,000 Maxo Joseph Excellence in Direct Care Award for her outstanding work with clients including Pierre, pictured above. Congratulations, Stefani!

Achieving Independence

Robbie came to the Ivy Street School at age 7. Thirteen years ago, he turned 22 and joined MAB's residential and day programs for adults with intellectual disabilities. A gifted artist who loves to build things, he used to need constant supervision. Last year, Robbie set a big goal: to live in his own apartment without 24/7 support.

Case Manager Lily MacNamee (pictured with Robbie below) helped Robbie achieve independence. Today, Robbie is calmer and more focused on his goals. He's learning to use assistive technology to take his medication. He also budgets, shops, cooks, does his laundry, cleans, and decorates his apartment.

In July, Lily received a \$10,000 Maxo Joseph Excellence in Direct Care Award to recognize her work with Robbie. Congratulations, Lily!







MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION

for the

Blind and Visually Impaired

MABVI has been committed to supporting people living with vision loss since 1903. MABVI empowers people to continue to live full lives, whether they are experiencing vision loss or are blind. Vision rehabilitation, access technology training, volunteer support, adjustment counseling, and peer support services are comprehensive, cost-effective, high-quality services that are often transformative. Visit www.mabvi.org to learn more.

1,230 MABVI participants with visual disabilities served statewide.

participants attended peer empowerment support groups.

1,402 Adjustment Counseling sessions provided (32% increase).

Access Technology Training sessions (32% increase from last fiscal year).

Orientation and Mobility sessions for qualified participants with visual as well as development disabilities or brain injuries.

While many of MABVI's services are offered at no cost to participants, they are not free to deliver. Nearly half of MABVI's annual budget relies on donors like you. To support MABVI, please visit: www.mabvi.org/donate.



(Photo by Leonardo Borges Nuñez).

Adjustment Counseling Helps MABVI Participants Cope with Vision Loss

A MABVI participant shared, "If you could see what I see, or what I don't see, you'd understand how hard this is."

Fear of losing independence, anxiety, depression, grief, and isolation are common responses to significant vision loss. It can impact marriages, relationships, work, education, and a person's understanding of who they are.

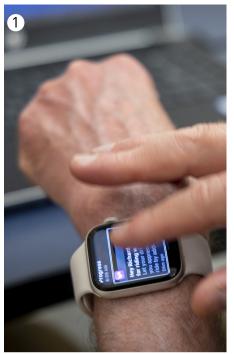
MABVI's unique Adjustment Counseling program offers phone-based therapy that helps participants move forward with greater confidence. Blind and visually impaired clinicians share coping strategies that address vision loss and teach participants new ways to accomplish daily and long-term goals.

Photos:

- 1. MABVI's Access Technology Training Program staff help older adults with visual disabilities learn to use technology to do what they used to rely on vision to accomplish.
- 2. Team With A Vision member Bitsy Waters ran her first marathon and was our Boston Marathon charity team's top fundraiser!
- 3. Our Orientation and Mobility team teaches participants navigation skills including learning to use a white cane.
- 4. MABVI donor Elaine Ellenbogen thanked Bill Cummings for MABVI's receipt of its first Cummings Foundation grant.
- 5. On site at the MABVI Access Technology site at the Brookline Senior Center
- 6. Older adults with vision loss working with MABVI's Access Technology Training Program staff
- 7. Dave met MABVI participant Ken through our 1:1 Volunteer Program. These good friends love walking together.
- 8. United in Stride Founder Richard Hunter joined Team With A Vision charity runner Alex Betolaza and Rockland Trust's Chief Commercial Banking Officer Jim Rizzo at the Team With A Vision dinner in April 2024.



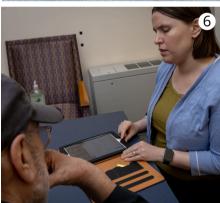
















5,000+ Registered users in the U.S. and Canada

Activities offered: running and walking

Coming soon: tandem cycling, hiking, and triathalons!

United in Stride (UIS) 2.0 is up and running strong! Founded in 2015 by Richard Hunter, the new www.unitedinstride.com launched in January 2024. Richard, who volunteers more than 20 hours per week, and MAB Community Services' Advancement team lead this unique MABVI program, which connects visually impaired athletes and guides at no cost to them and builds community.

Photos left top and clockwise: Jessica, a guide and UIS ambassador with her running partner; UIS founder Richard Hunter and his daughter Kiersten Mosbacher, who raised more than \$41,000 for UIS through the Boston Marathon; remaining photos are various United in Stride members sharing their pictures via social media.

To learn more and sign up as a United in Stride member for FREE, visit www.unitedinstride.com!















Donors

Year End June 30, 2024

\$100,000+

Anonymous Cummings Foundation, Inc. Memorial Foundation for the Blind Jenny Netzer and Ellis Seidman

\$50.000-\$99.999

Anonymous AgeSpan Kathleen Craig and Brian Balogh The Barbara Epstein Foundation Inc. Highland Partners Charitable Fund Suzanne and Steven Kaitz Liberty Mutual Foundation Scott McGrath Ralph Muller

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\$7,500-\$9,999

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\$5,000-\$7,499

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\$2,500-\$4,999

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\$500-\$999

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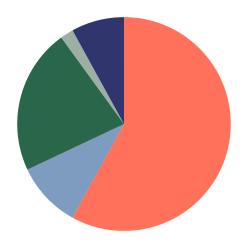
Nicola Thompson

Anne Turner and Harry Bohrs

Stephanie Wick Child

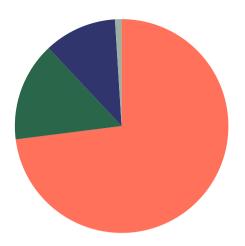
Financials

Year End June 30, 2024



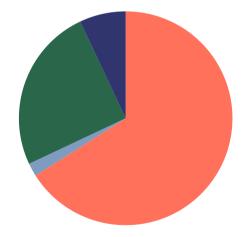
Total Expenses by Program: \$48,374,733

Adult Disability Services	58%
Ivy Street	22%
MA Assocation for the Blind	8%
Administration and Marketing	10%
Fundraising	2%



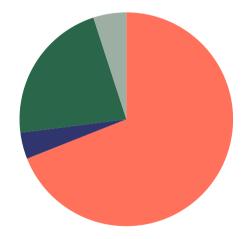
Total Expenses by Cost Center: \$48,374,733

Payroll	73%
Housing/Rent	15%
Direct Program Support	11%
Telecommunications, Training, Printing, Misc.	1%



Total Revenue by Program: \$46,940,101

 Adult Disability Services 	66%
Ivy Street	25%
MA Assocation for the Blind	7%
Unrestricted	2%



Total Revenue by Source: \$46,940,101

Government	69%
Tuition	22%
Federal Contracts/Reimbursement	4%
Contributions	5%

	ADS	ISS	MABVI
Total Expenses	\$28,251,328	\$10,745,119	\$3,504,533
Payroll	74%	79%	70%
Housing/Rent	19%	15%	2%
Direct Program Support	6%	5%	26%
Telecommunications, Training, Printing, Misc.	1%	1%	1%
Total Revenue	\$31,072,354	\$11,539,432	\$3,245,185
Federal Contracts	4%	NA	2%
State Contracts	95%	NA	21%
Tuition	NA	99%	NA
Insurance Reimbursement	NA	NA	41%
Charitable Contributions	1%	1%	37%



Senator Cynthia Creem, pictured with MAB CEO Barbara Salisbury, continues to advocate for state funding for MABVI.

MAB COMMUNITY SERVICES

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

MAB Community Services Partners

The Boston Foundation

Highland Partners Charitable Fund

Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission

Rockland Trust

Ivy Street Partners

The Barbara Epstein Foundation

Boston University

Jewish Vocational Services

Polka Dog Bakery

Special Olympics of Massachusetts

MA Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired Partners

Boston Athletic Association

The Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation

The Hearst Foundations

Liberty Mutual Foundation

Memorial Foundation for the Blind

Next50 Initiative

Point32Health Foundation

MAB Adult Disability Services Partner

The Herman and Frieda L. Miller Foundation



The Barbara Epstein Foundation has granted more than \$525,000 to Ivy Street over 14 consecutive years.

During the June 2024 Graduation ceremony, Foundation President Lewis Epstein accepted Ivy Street's Community Partner Award for his steadfast leadership and support.



Over 23 years, Memorial Foundation for the Blind has invested nearly \$2 million in MABVI's Central MA services. This summer, MABVI joined MFB and other Central MA friends during Blind Abilities and Awareness Day to watch the Worcester Red Sox vs. Buffalo Bisons at Polar Park.



The Herman and Frieda L. Miller
Foundation has generously supported
MAB's new Training and Rehabilitation
Center in Central MA. This unique
program supports the rehabilitation of
qualified participants with brain
injuries through an array of services all
offered under one roof.

MAB Community Services Leadership

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Brooke Howard, MS, OTR/L Executive Director, Ivy Street

Shaun Kinsella Director of Operations for New Business, MAB Adult Disability Services

Heller Shoop

Executive Director, MAB Adult Disability

Services





Top photo: Barbara Salisbury congratulates Stanley Ugochukwu for receiving a 2024 Maxo Joseph Award.

Bottom photo: Barbara greets a MAB Adult Disability Services participant.

Annual Report Credits

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Blind and Visually Impaired

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smartphone camera to follow us on social media! bit.ly/mabsocial

mabcommunity.org

MAB ADULT DISABILITY SERVICES

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