

# BFAIR BUZZ

2022 Volume 1

## Season of Giving

### Fall in Love with BFAIR Auction

This past November, we held our Fall in Love with BFAIR event. This online, week-long auction showcased over thirteen items and packages from local Berkshire County and surrounding area businesses. Raising over \$3,000, this was our first fundraising event in 2021 and was an incredible success. Thank you all who participated and 'raised your paddle' from afar!

## GIVING TUESDAY

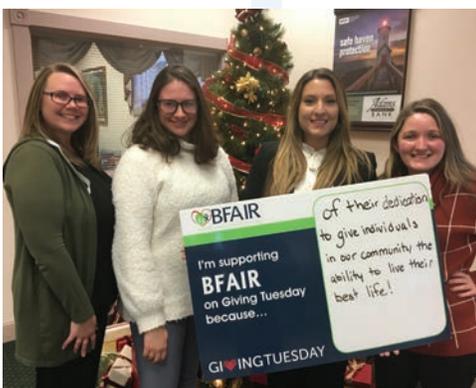
On November 30th, 2021, we launched our Heart of BFAIR Campaign with an extremely successful Giving Tuesday. Each year, the Tuesday following

Thanksgiving is a global day of giving where individuals and communities have an opportunity to support mission-driven organizations they're passionate about.

Our generous sponsor, Adams Community Bank, matched any donations made on November 30 up to \$5,000 so your donations went even further raising over \$9,000 in a single day. Supporters contributed to BFAIR's mission to provide accessible and individualized services for people with developmental disabilities, autism, and acquired brain injury. As an additional element to our Giving Tuesday, we highlighted a few of the community voices on why they choose to support BFAIR on Giving Tuesday (and every day!)



Here are a few of our favorites:



*Adams Community Bank  
North Adams Branch*



*Dick Alcombricht*



*Theresa Gelinas  
SVP of Day Services*





## Heart of BFAIR Campaign

For our end-of-year campaign, the Heart of BFAIR, we decided to showcase the story of Casey. Casey, first moved into a BFAIR Residence and became a member of our Day Habilitation program in 1997. Throughout the 24 years that Casey has received Residential and Day services, he has been

supported by the BFAIR community. The care that he receives is specific to his developmental, social, leisure and medical needs.

Through Casey's story, we highlighted all the various aspects of what makes BFAIR unique as we put individual needs, personal goals, and quality care ahead of all else. By hearing perspectives from BFAIR's Board Chair, Pete Mirante, a member of the Family Advisory Committee, Elaine Hunter, and our CEO, Rich Weisenflue, we shared how so much of our community is given by the hearts of many people.

Due to the generosity of community members and businesses, we were able to raise over \$39,500. These raised funds help us to further support BFAIR individuals by offsetting out-of-pocket expenses they might have, creating accessibility features to their homes and programs, and promoting independence. We are so lucky to have such an incredibly generous community that supports our work at BFAIR.

## Grants

With support from the Community Needs and Special Grant from the Northern Berkshire United Way, we were able to purchase 3 computers that will be used for staff onboarding, training, and development. As we continually move towards virtual platforms, it's essential that we have resources to connect our staff and programs throughout Berkshire County and the Pioneer Valley. These computers are so helpful in many ways, especially for staff orientation. Laura Baran, Recruiter, is so excited to use these Chromebook computers for new staff orientation that take place monthly!



## Brain Injury Awareness Month

March is National Brain Injury Awareness Month. In recognition of this month of awareness, we will be engaging with the community to provide healthy brain education and highlighting resources that support people of all abilities. Keep an eye out on our website and social media for more information!



## Bruce Briggs Promoted to Director of Maintenance

Bruce has been with BFAIR since 2018, where he began his career as Maintenance Worker II and then transitioned to the Assistant Director. According to Michelle Carleton, VP of Residential Services, "we are excited to promote Bruce into the position, Director of Maintenance, and feel he brings a lot of important experience maintaining our programs and administrative facilities as well as residences to the department in his new role".

## Operation Warm

For the past several years, we have participated in Operation Warm with the Northern Berkshire United Way to help supply children in the community with warm coats for the winter. Members of the BFAIR staff, individuals, and other organizations in the North Berkshire Community gathered at our Main Office and held a drive-thru event for those in need to pick up their coats.



# Employees of the Quarter

Congratulations to our Employees of the Quarter!



Theresa Cooper



Rosemary Fortin



Mark Patenaude

## Employment Services

Our Employment department welcomed Nina Benvenuto to their team in November. In her role as an Employment and Training Coordinator, Nina is primarily responsible for overseeing the Pre-Employment Transition Services program working with high school students to prepare them for entry into the workforce. Some of you may have had an opportunity to meet Nina, but for those of you who have not, here are three fun facts about her:

1. Nina is originally from a small town in upstate New York.
2. Both of her pets (a dog and a cat) are named after Harry Potter characters!
3. Her last name means "welcome" in Italian.



*It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of Jennifer Lefebvre, Employment Services Manager. Jenn worked for BFAIR for 8 years and was a caring and devoted staff who put her heart and soul into the success of everyone she worked with. Some of Jenn's greatest achievements include two promotions and helping place over 75 individuals into competitive employment positions in the community. Jenn made a lasting impression on everyone she met and will be greatly missed.*





Berkshire Family & Individual Resources

771 South Church Street | North Adams, MA 01247

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Peter Mirante, *Chairperson*
- Kim Baker, *Vice Chair*
- Patti Messina, *Clerk*
- Dana Mullen, *Treasurer*

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- Alex Figueroa
- Alex Kastrinakis
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- Karen Rowe
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#### KEEP UP WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



***New Year = New Career & Starting Rates!***

*Join a premier human services agency, serving individuals with disabilities.*

*BFAIR has enhanced starting rates including FT/PT Residential starting at \$17.00 per hour*

*APPLY NOW! [www.bfair.org](http://www.bfair.org). Valid US license required.*

*BFAIR offers an excellent benefit package, tuition assistance and generous Paid Time Off.*

AA/EOE

**BFAIR**

**JOIN US!**

**BFAIR-WAY MINI-GOLF!**

**SUMMER KICK-OFF FESTIVAL**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 11**

11 AM - 3 PM

BCC PATERSON FIELD HOUSE  
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