



On April 8, 2014, our nation entered into the first statewide settlement agreement vindicating the civil rights of individuals with disabilities who are unnecessarily segregated in sheltered workshops and facility-based day programs. The settlement agreement with the State of Rhode Island resolves the Civil Rights Division's January 6, 2014 findings, as part of an ADA Olmstead investigation that the State's day activity service system over-relies on segregated settings to the exclusion of integrated alternatives, such as supported employment and integrated day services. According to the Consent Decree, *"the Parties intend that the goal of community integration will be achieved for individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities served in, identified for referral to, or at risk of entering sheltered workshops and facility-based day programs throughout Rhode Island."*

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts could see the writing on the wall and proactively sought to increase integrated employment opportunities for adults served by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). The Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers (ADDP), The Arc of Massachusetts, and DDS worked collaboratively to develop "Creating Conditions for Success" a Blueprint for employing individuals with Intellectual Disabilities in Massachusetts. According to the plan *"The foundation of the plan or employment initiative emphasizes the importance of and benefits received by all when individuals with disabilities work in the community. To achieve integrated employment, the Blueprint's architects constructed a plan to close sheltered workshops by June 30, 2016. Contingent on additional funding, participants in sheltered workshops would transition to individual or group employment and/or Community Based Day Services (CBDS) once sheltered workshops closed."*

Fortunately, **The Nemasket Group** is and has always been ahead of the bell curve. Thanks to the vision of our founding Executive Director, Louis Nisenbaum and the Graves family, in 1984 **The Nemasket Group** was founded and the **Job Paths Project** was launched as a vehicle to support individuals in community based employment in the Greater New Bedford area. Last year we celebrated our 30th Anniversary. After three decades of service provision, **Job Paths** continues to support participants to work towards employment and careers resulting in increased self-esteem, valued social roles, and community membership. As with all of the services offered by **The Nemasket Group**, the services of **Job Paths** are community (non-site) based.

Our **Job Paths** program currently supports 44 individuals to work. As you will see on the reverse of this newsletter, individuals have longevity at their jobs and offer employers something very rare, loyalty! Following are a couple of examples of our work and the accomplishments of the individuals we support.

Matt has been with **Job Paths** for more than 25 years and has had a variety of jobs during that time as his interests have changed. He has slowed down a bit as he has gotten older but he works 2 jobs every week! One of his jobs is at *Safeguard Transmission* in Dartmouth. Matt has been there for 11 years. His second job is at *Fairhaven News* where he has worked for 9 years delivering newspapers to area businesses every week. Matt is very social and enjoys greeting his delivery customers every week. In addition to his paid jobs, Matt also delivers meals to elderly folks through his volunteer job at Meals on Wheels.



Matt at Safeguard Transmission

Another individual we support graduated from High School a couple of years ago. He is young and very energetic and is working 3 different jobs!!! David is employed by *T.J. Maxx* in Wareham, the *YMCA* in New Bedford and *Enos Oxygen Supply* in New Bedford. David is highly regarded in each job setting and gives his all to his employers. We look forward to supporting David as he further develops his career path.



David at TJ Maxx

The Nemasket Group's vision is that individuals lead successful lives that are rich with meaningful roles. We know that, in our society, work is a meaningful and highly valued role. In social settings, one of the first questions we ask each other is often, "what do you do for work?" Employment for individuals with disabilities leads to so much...income and spending capacity, relationships, learning, positive self-esteem and an answer to that time honored question. All reasons why employment has been and will always be a priority for individuals served by **The Nemasket Group!**

Written by Dustin Green & Emily Murgo Nisenbaum

Our "VISION for the future"

The Nemasket Group envisions individuals leading successful lives that are rich with meaningful roles

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People who fill roles that are valued by others (example: employee, co-worker, voter, musician, college student) will be granted the good things of life.

Since its inception, The Nemasket Group has supported individuals to work in their communities. The following is a list of individuals who deserve to be recognized for their longevity!

Kristie P.	Oaks Nursing Home	23 years
Evelyn C.	Stop and Shop	23 years
John W.	McDonald's	22 years
Kathy B.	Remax Realty	21 years
Cheryl R.	ARC	21 years
	Naughty Dawgs	20 years
Cathy C.	The Nemasket Group	20 years
Ric L.	Upper Deck Ltd.	19 years
MaryAnn T.	N.B. Child and Family	19 years
Heather Y.	Friendly's Pizza	13 years
William B.	McDonald's	12 years
Tracy L.	The Wamsutta Club	12 years
Matt B.	Safeguard Transmission	11 years
Miriam C.	Stop and Shop	10 years
Shawn L.	Sylvia's Insurance	10 years
Richard R.	Stop and Shop	10 years
Luis O.	Stop and Shop	10 years
Kim S.	Stop and Shop	10 years
Bill F.	Kohl's	9 years
Matt B.	Fairhaven News	9 years
Angela M.	Stop and Shop	9 years
Amy R.	Christmas Tree Shop	9 years
Karen R.	Kohl's	9 years
Stephen Y.	Mahoney's Hardware	9 years
Debra K.	Stop and Shop	8 years
Hector C.	St. Anthony's Church	7 years
Carlos P.	McDonald's	7 years
Catherine M.	Big Value Outlet	7 years
Jackie B.	Centre Church	6 years
Tom O.	Auto Glass Center	6 years
Carolyn S.	Big Value Outlet	6 years
David S.	T.J. Maxx	5 years
Patrick T.	Atlantic Boats Inc.	5 years
Maggie O.	Kool Kone Creamery	5 years



The 5K Walk/Run is a fun inclusive event that brings together families, friends, supporters, businesses and community members. This event is a great way to show your support for a great cause.

Pre-Race Registration and Packet Pickup

Saturday, May 2nd 2:00 p.m. -- 4:00 p.m.

Day of Race Registration 7:45 –8:45 AM

Runners Start 9:00 AM

Walkers Start 9:05 AM

Awards and Refreshments to follow
Chip timing by RaceWire

For more information and to register online please go to:
www.NemasketGroup.org

