

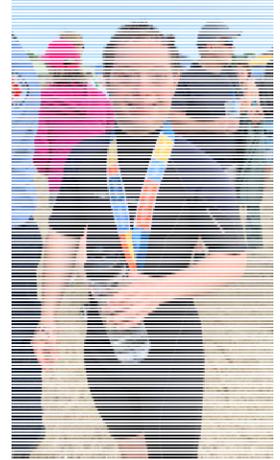


A STAR IS BORN

People are often defined by the “roles” they have in society and how others view those roles. One of the goals of the Building Futures Project is to support students to find their place in the community as they prepare to enter adulthood. The team helps students identify their strengths and interests and then use those to find people, places and ‘roles’ in which they are welcomed, appreciated and valued.

When you first meet Colin you quickly realize how friendly and charming he is. He has many interests but his passion really is in the arts. Colin has taken several classes over the past couple of years at Bristol Community College including digital photography and drawing. He tried out an acting class for a short time but felt the class “talked too much.”

Colin became involved with the New Bedford youth arts program “Dream Out Loud”. One project he worked on was making a promotional video for the group that premiered at a local community arts event. For the promo, Colin appeared in front of the camera and helped edit the video footage. This interest in videography opened the door for other opportunities in the media field.



Colin’s relationship with Fun 107 radio station started in January through a contact his mentor, (Brandon) had. Colin’s love of food and in particular buffalo chicken led him and Brandon to survey the local chicken joints in town and to write a blog about it for the station. “Colin’s Guide to Everything Buffalo on the South Coast” can now be found on the Fun 107 website.

Shortly after completing this project a friend introduced him to a local public access cable station where he learned more about operating a camera. His interest in Portuguese food and cooking led him to starring in his own cooking show. With the help of the cable station staff Colin, together with his fellow chef Brandon, have now produced two episodes that feature the preparation of some of their favorite dishes. Colin is at his best in front of the camera - engaging and entertaining. In fact you could even say he is quite “the ham”.



Colin’s love of dancing led him to joining the local YMCA where he takes a Zumba class 1-2 times per week as well as swimming laps in the pool. Last summer, with the encouragement of his mentor, he participated in the Buzzards Bay Swim, a 1.2 mile open swim across New Bedford Harbor that raised money for the Buzzards Bay Coalition. As Colin came out of the water at the end, the FUN 107 DJ booth went wild. “Congratulations Colin! Great job!” could be heard through the loud speakers. Colin thanked the crowd for their cheers and support!

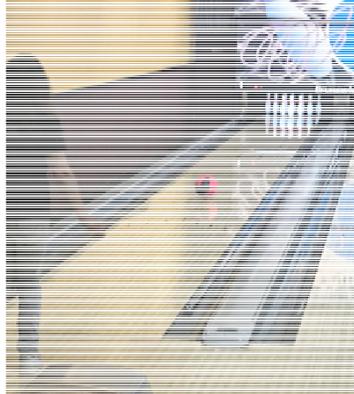
In the middle of all this Colin obtained his “dream job” working in a movie theatre. He worked part time at the Flagship Cinema in Wareham as a crew member making popcorn, cleaning theatres and carrying out other behind the scenes duties. Unfortunately several weeks ago he was laid off and is now back pounding the pavement with his impressive resume looking for paid work.

Colin is a college student, videographer, intern, blogger, TV personality, chef, gym member, athlete, employee and lifelong learner just to name a few of the valued roles he now has. He leads an interesting life made all the better by the connections and relationships that he has created for himself. We can’t wait to see what the future will bring for him.

Written by Pat Charyk & Ross Hooley

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

The second week of September is recognized as *Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week*. It is a weeklong celebration of the accomplishments of Direct Support Professionals not only across the country, but also right here in Massachusetts. *The Nemasket Group* is fortunate to have so many caring and dedicated professionals working for the organization, continuously committed to enhancing the lives of those we support. In honor of *Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week - 2019*, *The Nemasket Group* arranged a variety of activities/events for our direct care workforce.



The Nemasket Group's 2019 golf tournament was held on August 26th at the Bay Club in Mattapoisett. This is the organizations single largest fundraising event of the year, and it is held in memory of the founding Executive Director, Louis Nisenbaum. We want to thank our golf committee members and volunteers, our generous donors and sponsors, the Bay Club, and the golfers for helping us to ensure the golf tournament was a great success!



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Saturday, December 7th — 10am to 4pm
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109 Fairhaven Road in Mattapoisett

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