



LEAGUE
SCHOOL
FOR
AUTISM

LEAGUE SCHOOL news

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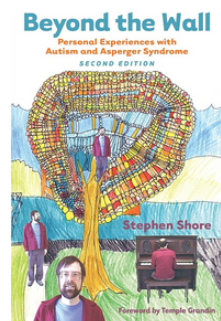
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EVENT SPOTLIGHT

Night of Champions Will Honor Dr. Stephen Shore

"If you've met one person with Autism, you've met one person with Autism," is the quote made famous by Dr. Stephen Shore, an internationally renown neurodiverse author, professor, TEDx presenter, Autism Speaks Board Member, and former head of the Asperger's Association of New England (AANE). Stephen's books include *Understanding Autism for Dummies*, *Beyond the Wall*, *Ask and Tell*, and *College for Students with Disabilities*.



Dr. Shore's widely seen TEDx Talk, *The Superpower of Autism*, has been viewed over 324k times. He's been interviewed by Autism Today, Different Brains, Internat'l Ctr for Autism Research

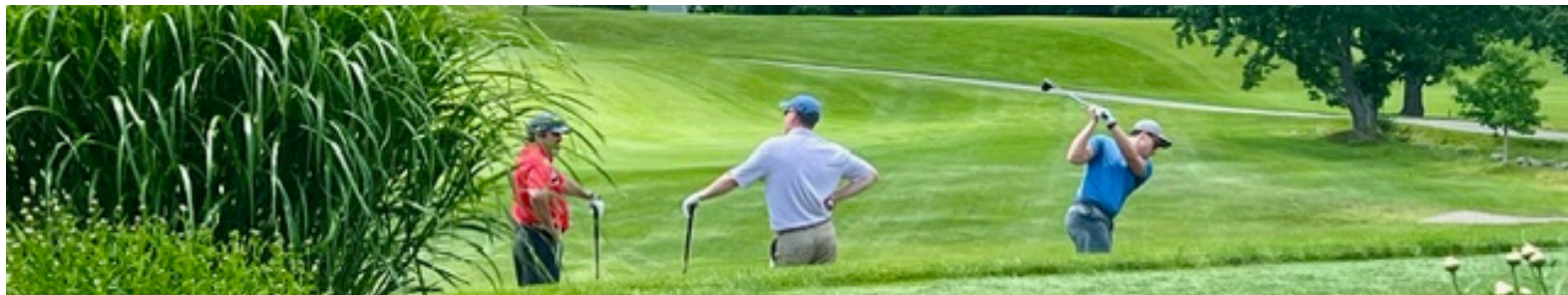
and Education, Global Autism Project, and the Autism Research Institute. Stephen spends his time as a Special Education Professor at Adelphi University and remains focused on aligning best practices that support neurodiverse individuals in leading fulfilling and productive lives.

Did you know that Dr. Shore worked as a music teacher at League School in the late 80's? "I believe my connection to music mirrors why many of us are involved in the arts: to give those on the autism spectrum, as well as persons viewing or enjoying their art, a greater appreciation for what it is to be human," declared Stephen in *The Importance of Art and Music for Autistic People* from *The Art of Autism*.

On September 19th, during our Night of Champions at the Four Points by Sheraton Norwood, we have the honor

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LEAGUE SCHOOL FOR AUTISM
Night Of
CHAMPIONS
Thursday, September 19, 2024



EMPOWERING EVENTS

FORE Autism Golf Classic Hits a Hole in One

It was a beautiful day for the League School FORE Autism Golf Classic on Monday, June 10th at the Franklin Country Club. Green fairways, blue skies, white puffy clouds, and multi-colored blooms were visible in every direction. The event helped to raise nearly \$90,000 for the League's Autism Empowerment Fund.

A HUGE shout out to our Platinum and Gold Sponsors, Shawmut, Cox Engineering and Leggat McCall Properties. Our Silver, Bronze, and Tee Sponsors included Atlantic Contracting, Bowdoin Construction, CDSI, Central Auto, Certainteed, the Christopher Cantanese Children's Foundation, CTS, Direct Federal, Essex Builders, Intelligent Network Sales, MGM The Law Firm, Middlesex

Savings Bank, O'Lyn Roofing, Turner Construction, Axion, Gaston Electrical, OneDigital, Dedham Savings, IQHQ, and William J. Masiello Architect. A special thanks to our Event Chair, Bob Walsh, of Shawmut.

We are very grateful for the the help of great volunteers like Direct Federal; Geoff Ellis; Sharon Blair; Linda Bush; Students Dylan & Omar; and Job Coach Jody; under the amazing event coordination of Michelle Melanson and leadership of Tim McCabe.

Golfers walked away with some fun memories, a golf toolkit and flight of golf balls, silent auction winnings for the lucky few, plus knowing that their generous support contributed to the empowerment of our students.

Upcoming Events

League School for Autism continues its event season with some amazing events. Join us as we cheer on #TeamLeague during the Falmouth Road Race -- help runners reach their fundraising goals. Our Night of Champions dinner auction is our largest fundraiser of the year and a great night to celebrate our accomplishments!

- **52nd Annual Falmouth Road Race** on Sunday, August, 18th in Downtown Falmouth, MA - visit our Team page at <https://raceroster.com/events/2024/83188/the-2024-asics-falmouth-road-race/pledge/team/608635>
- **League School for Autism Night of Champions** on Thursday, September 19th from 6-9 PM at the Four Points by Sheraton Norwood located on Boston Providence Turnpike in Norwood, MA





SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Prom, Pie-in-the-Face, and Flag Day Festivities for Students

League School for Autism students, were treated to an incredible Prom thanks to the coordination of League School for Autism Assistant Director of Education, Michaela Fanelli, and her band of Prom planners. The Prom took place on Friday, June 7th at Four Points by Sheraton Norwood.

Donning a Hollywood movie theme, students walked the red carpet, were photographed by paparazzi, danced with Star Wars characters, and enjoyed all of their favorite foods. DJ's John and Kyle rocked the tunes and a Conga line rocked the dance floor.

June and July also witnessed the graduation of a few longtime League School students, including Alex M., Jimmy D., and Joey C. They will be greatly missed, but we know they're

going to do great things.

Students created a delicious flag display with Culinary Arts Teacher, Marie, for the June 14th Flag Day. Then on Friday, June 21st, the last day before Summer Break, students were treated to a Friday Dance Party in the Auditorium. The tunes played, the students and staff danced, and everyone had a marvelous time.

Raffle winners from Prom had the opportunity to smash a pie in the face of League School educational administrators. Patrick Fuller, Chrissy Bunnell, Michaela Fanelli, and Tara Faiella assisted students in filling a whip cream pie tin before having it thrust in their face. Everyone enjoyed a good laugh -- especially the students.

Hawk's Nest League Gear

Newly commissioned League Gear is *now available* at the Hawk's Nest store, both online and in-store. Visit our Shopify store under League Gear on the League School website. It offers easy ordering with ship-to or pick-up options. Vocational students help fulfill orders and package items.

Shop at <https://leagueschool.org/school-happenings/league-gear/>



VETSTEIN AWARD HONOREE

DR. STEPHEN SHORE,
NATIONALLY RENOWNED AUTISM ADVOCATE,
NEURODIVERSE AUTHOR, AND TEDx TALKS PRESENTER

DIRECTOR'S AWARD HONOREE

DR. CLARE O'CALLAGHAN,
30+ YEAR BOARD MEMBER &
CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGIST

**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP
AWARD HONOREE**

DCU FOR KIDS,
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

**LETTERS FROM LARRY**

Honoring Champions Who Make An Impact

Each year, we take time to honor the those who have helped "champion" the exceptional work done at League School for Autism during our Night of Champions event happening on September 19th. Champions come in all forms -- staff who have a strong commitment to our school's mission; supporters who advance our goals; organizations who partner with us in impactful ways; and individuals who empower others to break through barriers for our students and the neurodivergent community.

This year, we have the privilege of awarding Dr. Stephen Shore with the Vetstein Award, given in honor of our League School founders, the Vetstein Family. Stephen, who was declared "too sick" for outpatient treatment by doctors and recommended for

institutionalization as a young boy, is an internationally renown advocate for those on the Autism Spectrum. Dr. Shore's goal of making fulfilling and productive lives for neurodiverse individuals the rule rather than the exception has had a tremendous impact on programs, opportunities, and public policy for Autism.

Similarly, Dr. Clare O'Callaghan, DCU for Kids, and Nicole Depina have championed Board counsel, funding support, and residential oversight with incomparable dedication and a desire to impact positive outcomes for our students. They, too, will be honored for their commitments at the Night of Champions. We hope you'll join us to pay tribute to all of them.

Larry Sauer, CEO,
League School for Autism

Welcome New Staff

Give a warm welcome to our newest League School employees hired since June of this year.

- Jennifer Caramanica, Teacher Assistant
- Jeffred Correia, Direct Support
- Brandon Davis, Teacher Assistant
- Tyler Deming, Teacher Assistant
- Emily Doherty, Teacher Assistant
- Kayla Drummond, Clinician
- Joeri Fernandes, Direct Support
- Daniel Higginbotham, Maintenance
- Julia Hunter, Direct Support
- Lucas Monteiro, Direct Support
- Jessica Morton, Teacher Assistant
- Allison Priest, Residential Nurse
- Kattia Toussaint, Direct Support
- *Summer Interns: Helen (Grace) Cirimele, Ashley Clavette, Catherine Kelly, Catherine Krabey, Ester Levin, Kelly Pineda, Michael Randall, and Grace Smeltstor*

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH**JUNE**

ANDREA ARAUJO
Direct Care Support Staff

JULY

CHERYL CUTTER
Head Teacher - Classroom 210



STAFF SPOTLIGHT - NICOLE DEPINA

Excellence in Managing Residential Operations

"In the past 12 years of working with this organization, I have walked in every day ready to make a difference in someone's child's life," commented Nicole Depina when asked about the most rewarding part of her job. Nicole is the Operations Manager for League's Residential Education program, ensuring that residential students have the supports and advocacy they require at all times. Her excellence in her role has led to her upcoming receipt of the Dr. Frank A. Gagliardi Award at next month's League School Night of Champions event.

"Each day is not always easy, but it is so rewarding to know that I can help impact someone's life in a positive way. I am so grateful for the relationships I have fostered with my team, with the families, but most importantly with the children that have entered the League School doors. I have encountered many challenging behaviors that have turned into successful stories that I am so proud of. I have witnessed several students graduate and it warms my heart to know they have accomplished so much, including mastering life skills that they will need to navigate the world in the future."

When not at work, Nicole enjoys spending time with her children and her "other half" poolside or on a sandy beach somewhere around the world. That sounds like a great way to relax while on vacation!

Deborah Pacheco, Director of Residential Education, nominated Nicole for this year's Gagliardi Award and gushed about her impact on the residential program. "Nicole has been an invaluable part of League School for Autism for 12 years, demonstrating unwavering dedication and a genuine passion for helping students and their families. Her commitment to our mission and her exceptional care for everyone involved make her an integral and cherished member of the residential team."

We're so grateful to have Nicole Depina as a member of the League School Residential Education team and thank her for her dedication to residential students, families, and her team! Join us on September 19th as we present her with the Gagliardi Award for her excellence in managing residential operations.

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Night of Champions to Honor Dr. Stephen Shore

of presenting Dr. Stephen Shore with the Vetstein Award for his advocacy for individuals with Autism.

The evening will also pay tribute to Champions, Dr Clare O'Callaghan, 30+ year League School Board member and clinical neuropsychologist, and DCU for Kids, regional charitable foundation and League School supporter. There will also be a special performance by the Spectrum of Sound Choir, who recently headlined the Stars of the Spectrum Music Festival hosted by the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism. The night includes a festive reception and delicious dinner, plus Silent and Live Auctions, and a Mystery Box opportunity. To learn more, register to bid, or purchase tickets, visit the online event site at



onecau.se/leagueschoolnightofchampions

Retiring After 35+ Years



MIKE SULLIVAN

Director of Facilities

CONGRATULATIONS to League School Director of Facilities, Mike Sullivan, on his retirement after 35+ years of service. Mike's time with League School dates back to when the building was located in Newton, MA. His impeccable standards for the school facilities have kept League School looking good and operating safely for decades. He and his team are responsible for all facilities maintenance, repairs, and property enhancements. He will leave some big shoes to fill. Wish him well in his retirement.

BEST WISHES, MIKE!



STUDENT STORIES - XANDER B.

From Product Designer & Woodsman to Future Pilot

For almost 5 years, Xander B. has been a student at League School and has made a lasting impression since his arrival. "From my perspective, he is an extremely bright young man with a lot of potential. He gets along well with staff and peers and is motivated to work and succeed," said Lana Falvey, Admissions Coordinator at League School.

When asked about his favorite school activities, Xander indicated that he liked doing math and working at any of his many jobs, including recycling, gardening, Hawk's Nest, cooking, and restocking coffee in the staff lounges. His favorite League School event was this year's Prom, for which Xander was a member of the planning committee. He commented that his strengths and skills include "I can adapt easily to new environments; I am good at mathematics; I can do almost anything I want if I put the effort into it; I guess I am strong and fast." The word around school is that he knows how to fix everything.

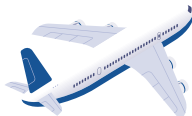
Xander's Job Coach, Laina Julier, had some wonderful things to say about him. "Xander is a pleasure to know and work with. He is a self-motivated, punctual, conscientious person who is willing to work at any job he is asked to do. Xander takes pride in what he accomplishes and is learning to enjoy the positive feedback he so frequently receives. Xander always looks for ways to improve how things are done and is persistent but respectful when debating the pros and cons of different systems.

Recently, when restocking coffee pods in the staff lounge, Xander was frustrated by how messy the bins looked and how there was no way to organize them neatly since they weren't designed for that purpose. Xander's drive to improve things led him to sketching out a few ideas for a better storage system design. Collaborating with his father, Xander created a new coffee pod storage design using a 3D Printer. In the coming months, the storage product that Xander's persistence and "can do" spirit co-created will be rolled out at League School. We can't wait!

When not in school, Xander enjoys cutting down trees in winter. "I drag them to our back yard, and cut them into segments, and then we burn them." He also enjoys playing video games with friends and throwing darts.

Xander is ever evolving and willing to take on new challenges. He sets goals for himself, has career ideas, and back up plans for his future. After Xander graduates from League School, he plans to join the Air Force for pilot training, attend college, and then get a job flying "giant" planes.

The League School staff and peers are lucky to know Xander and be part of his journey. We have no doubt that he will do great things and have a very bright future.



BOARD UPDATE

Sammi Robertson Joins BOD



Congratulations to Sammi Robertson, who recently joined the League School Board of Directors. Sammi is the founder of Bailey's Team for Autism, named after her son, Bailey.

Formerly a member of League School's Board of Ambassadors, Sammi has been instrumental in fundraising for and raising awareness about Autism across Southern New England. As the leader of Bailey's Team for Autism, she has raised over \$1.2 million dollars for Autism research, education, and programming in support of individuals living with Autism and their families. Please join us in welcoming Sammi to the Board of Directors.

Welcome

