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### A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO



Growth and giving. As we continue to focus on targeted growth in areas that can have the most impact on children, adults, and families with special needs, we are reminded time and again of the generosity of our community.

As times change, so do the needs of the most vulnerable and at-risk individuals. In order for May Institute to move successfully into our seventh decade, we must juggle today's needs with tomorrow's opportunities. We must remain fully present, anticipate needs, stay grounded in the research, and embrace advances in technology to ensure the best possible life outcomes for each person in our care.

This issue of @May includes stories of new services we are proud to announce alongside news of generous gifts that allow us to thrive. I am grateful to lead an organization that has the staff and community support to do both so well.

*Lauren C. Solotar*  
Lauren C. Solotar, Ph.D., ABPP

## Investing in our future

### *The Janet Charlton O'Connor Endowment Fund*

Thanks to a bequest of nearly \$900,000 from the estate of the late Janet Wright Charlton O'Connor, May Institute has established its first endowment fund to support educational and adult services as well as our National Autism Center.



Three generations of Mrs. O'Connor's family — stepdaughter Julia Charlton, great-grandson Joshua, and grandson Gideon Gray.

The bequest is the largest gift of its kind ever received by May Institute.

A 1947 graduate of Cornell University, Mrs. O'Connor was a homemaker. Her great-grandson **Joshua** has autism, and was a student at the May Center School for Autism and Developmental Disabilities in Randolph, Mass., at the time of her death.

Through the years, Mrs. O'Connor watched as Joshua made significant progress as a result of the instruction, support, and guidance provided by the May staff and teachers who worked with him. Now 22, Joshua continues to receive services from May through our Adult Services division.

## Dr. Solotar honored as “A Woman of Influence” and outstanding nonprofit leader



Dr. Solotar addresses more than 200 attendees at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel.

May Institute President and CEO, **Lauren C. Solotar**, Ph.D., ABPP, was one of 23 members of the Boston business community named a “2015 Woman of Influence” by the *Boston Business Journal*.

An article in the *Journal* announcing the honor noted that Dr. Solotar has had a major influence in the field of psychology in Massachusetts and across the country for more than 30 years.

She was also one of five finalists for the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network’s (MNN) 2016 Nonprofit Excellence Awards, in the leadership category. MNN received hundreds of

nominations from across the state and from every nonprofit sub-sector. The Excellence Awards were presented at the State House during Nonprofit Awareness Day, June 27.

“Lauren is highly effective in leading May Institute,” said **Stephen S. Young**, J.D., Chair of May’s Board of Trustees. “Her clinical expertise; solid understanding of the issues important to staff, families, and individuals served; and her bold management style make her uniquely qualified for facing the challenges of guiding this large and complex organization.”

Congratulations, Lauren! ■■■

## Governing body welcomes new members

### *Fatalo and Yang join May’s Board of Trustees*

**Lee Ann Fatalo**, CFP, a Financial Services Representative for Baystate Financial, is the newest member of May Institute’s Board of Trustees. Headquartered in Boston, Mass., Baystate Financial is one of New England’s oldest and largest financial services firms.

“In addition to being a proven leader in financial services, Lee Ann has also demonstrated an impressive commitment to encouraging and supporting women and minorities in their business endeavors,” said **Stephen S. Young**, J.D., Chair of May’s Board of Trustees.

A licensed insurance broker in 18 states, Ms. Fatalo has been a financial planning professional for more than 15 years. In 2004, she formed The Minority Business Resource Network, which is dedicated to meeting the professional business needs of minority and women-owned enterprises.

**Q. Sophie Yang**, M.B.A., a Senior Portfolio Manager and Managing Director at State Street Corporation in Boston, Mass., also joined our Board of Trustees. State Street is one of the world’s leading providers of financial services to institutional investors.

“We are delighted to welcome Sophie to our Board of Trustees,” said **Dr. Lauren C. Solotar**, May Institute President and CEO. “Her professional expertise and personal commitment will be a tremendous asset for the organization.”

“Unbeknownst to the person who approached me about joining May’s Board, I am the parent of a child with autism who received services from May Institute,” said Ms. Yang. “I am so pleased now to be able to support May Institute and its talented staff by serving on the Board.” ■■■



Lee Ann Fatalo, CFP



Q. Sophie Yang, M.B.A.

## Shared Living offers new options for adults

May Institute is actively recruiting families, couples, and individuals to share their homes with a person who has a disability. Our new "Shared Living" program, funded through Massachusetts' Department of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS), is an innovative housing option for adults with autism, intellectual disabilities, or acquired brain injury.

In exchange for opening their homes to an individual with different abilities and allowing him or her to become part of the family, caregivers receive a generous, tax-free stipend, training, respite, and on-call support.

"Shared living is an important addition to our continuum of services," says **Ralph B. Sperry**, Ph.D., ABPP, Chief Operating Officer of May Institute. "In a successful shared living situation, adults can often live more independently than they thought was possible. We are pleased to offer these opportunities to both the individuals served

and the host families who will benefit in countless ways."

Overseeing the program is **Keith Duclos** (shown below), M.M.H.S., May's Director of Shared Living. Duclos has devoted his 25-year career to creating and managing innovative solutions that support adults with different abilities to live healthy, happy, and productive lives. He carries his passion to help people into his personal life. For the past 20 years, he has been a shared living provider.



To learn more, visit [www.mayinstitute.org/sharedliving](http://www.mayinstitute.org/sharedliving). ■■■

The May Center School for Autism and Developmental Disabilities in Randolph, Mass., held an Adult Service Provider Fair that brought together families and dozens of vendors from across the state. Attendees learned about options for students transitioning to adult services, the various adult service models, and about adult day and residential programs. The event, which was at capacity, was held in April and was free and open to the public. ■■■



## PARTNERSHIP EXPANDS ADULT SERVICES

May Institute and Work Inc., have teamed up to open the Center for Integrated Adult Autism Services to provide clinical, employment, and housing services for adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) across Massachusetts.



The Center was developed to respond to the needs of individuals with a dual diagnosis of ASD and a co-occurring disorder.

"Today, we face an overwhelming number of individuals with autism who are aging out of federally funded educational programs but still in need of continuing services and supports," says **Dr. Lauren C. Solotar**, May's President and CEO. "These young adults are often confronted with daunting challenges as they transition into adulthood—challenges such as finding appropriate housing and clinical services, securing meaningful employment opportunities, and building a full and integrated life."

The Center's goal is to provide its clients with the skills, resources, and supports they need to live and work successfully in their communities. Designed as a "center without walls," its services are provided at the point of need.

Services are funded by the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and through third-party insurance. The Center is now accepting referrals for adults on the autism spectrum who are in need of a combination of clinical and therapeutic supports, employment and supported education services, and housing options that include independent and shared living.

To learn more, visit [www.mayinstitute.org](http://www.mayinstitute.org). ■■■

# Giving@MAY

"Where Hope and Possibility Blossom" was the theme of May's spring fundraising event, held in April at the Downtown Harvard Club in Boston, Mass. The festive cocktail reception raised \$159,000 for technology enhancements such as tablets and other adaptive and assistive communication technology to support individuals in our programs for children and adults.

Keynote speaker Michael Emmi shared his son Matthew's story, telling of his autism diagnosis, describing the reasons he and his wife Suzanne

"Although Matthew's bar mitzvah was our first foray into using an iPad for communication, it has become an integral aspect of his daily communication," Mr. Emmi said. "At the May Center School, we have seen how this technology has been far-reaching, assisting many other students in addition to our son. Such technology has opened so many doors for these kids and is sure to expand their opportunities beyond the walls of the school and into the community."

## WHERE HOPE AND POSSIBILITY BLOSSOM: Spring event raises \$159,000

selected our May Center School for Autism and Developmental Disabilities in Woburn, Mass., for Matthew, and how Executive Director **Jaimie Hoover** and her teachers helped prepare Matthew for his bar mitzvah.

The May Center School team worked collaboratively with the Emmis' rabbi to identify pictures that represented the various aspects of this important rite of passage. Jaimie prepared templates on the iPad and worked with Matthew so he could be an active participant in the ceremony.

May's President and CEO **Dr. Lauren C. Solotar**, and Philanthropy Committee Chair and Board member **Neal Todrys** were also on hand to greet attendees who enjoyed signature cocktails, a "mystery box" raffle, and a silent auction.

A special thank you to Board member **Lee Ann Fatalo** for sponsoring May Institute's use of the Club, and to the more than 200 guests.

See a photo album of the event at [www.mayinstitute.org/2016event](http://www.mayinstitute.org/2016event). ■■■

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Gansler  
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Q. Sophie Yang  
Weymouth Bank



L-R: Chief Operating Officer Ralph Sperry, President and CEO Lauren Soltar, Elaine Glass, and May parents Suzanne and Michael Emmi



L-R: Anita Lichtblau of Casner & Edwards, Jason Solomon of Telamon Insurance and Financial Network, and Carla McCall of Alexander, Aronson, Finning & Co.



Barry Sloane of Century Bank



L-R: Jim Cassetta of WORK Inc., and Steve Peck of Brown and Brown of Massachusetts

L-R: Chief Clinical Officer Deidre Donaldson, Philanthropy Committee member Sheila Finnerty, and May Trustee Martha Sloan Felch



## GRATFUL BEYOND MEASURE

The May Center School for Autism and Developmental Disabilities in Randolph, Mass., extends special thanks to Bailey's Team for Autism, which raises funds and awareness in support of individuals living with autism and their families. The organization's Board believes that iPad products greatly enhance the learning and communication abilities of individuals with autism, and they contribute iPads to organizations who support children and adults with autism. We were delighted to have been selected for this year's gift of 10 iPad minis and cases for use in the school's library and classrooms.

We were happy to welcome Bailey's Team for Autism President, Sammi Robertson, to our school. During her visit, she toured the school and presented staff with the iPad minis. Ms. Robertson (right) is pictured here with **Ethan Kichura**, Education Technology Specialist at the school, and **Dr. Beth Jerskey**, Vice President of Professional Training and Research at May. ■■■



### COVER STORY CONTINUED: *Endowment Fund*

"We are extremely grateful to the Charlton O'Connor family for the opportunity to further plan for our future, and to know that the vital services we offer children and adults with autism and developmental disabilities will be secured for years to come," said May Institute President and CEO

**Dr. Lauren C. Solotar.**

To honor Mrs. O'Connor's legacy, many members of May Institute's Board of Trustees

and staff joined three generations of Mrs. O'Connor's family—her stepdaughter Julia Charlton, grandson Gideon Gray, and great-grandson Joshua—to dedicate the Janet

Charlton O'Connor Foyer at May's corporate headquarters in Randolph last fall.

"Every day, May Institute changes people's lives in profound ways. Receiving a bequest such as this serves to affirm our work," said **Stephen S. Young**, J.D., Chair of May

Institute's Board of Trustees. "This gift allows for future growth, ensuring we remain at the forefront of providing services to children, ado-

lescents, and adults, based on best research practices and compassionate care."

"I have the deepest admiration for the

work done by the staff and teachers at May Institute," said Julia Charlton. "I have seen Joshua make significant progress over the years, and I hope that in the future May can continue doing what it's been doing and do more of it."

Planned gifts are one way to support May Institute's mission. Gifts such as life income gifts and bequests can provide you with lifetime income and tax advantages, and may make it possible for you to make a larger gift to May than you originally thought possible. Learn more at [www.mayinstitute.org/giving](http://www.mayinstitute.org/giving).

View a video about the family and Mrs. O'Connor's gift at [www.mayinstitute.org/bequest](http://www.mayinstitute.org/bequest). ■■■

# Climbing to new heights!

Two students from the May Center School for Brain Injury and Related Disorders in Brockton, Mass., have been climbing to new heights at the new Central Rock indoor climbing gym in Randolph, Mass.

Since its doors opened last fall, the new climbing gym has provided the perfect opportunity for **Will** and **Patrick** to work on physical and mental growth. With each successful climb, these young men gain confidence and feel pride in accomplishing something challenging. More importantly, the gym offers a space where Will and Patrick can simply be two guys doing what they love, just like everyone else in the gym.

The climbing gym also offers them a place to join a community. Central Rock staff like General Manager Jack Hardy create a positive and inclusive environment where it is commonplace to talk to a fellow climber about gear, technique, and all things climbing. It didn't take long for Patrick and Will to learn everyone's names and participate in encouraging strangers up the wall. As

Patrick frequently states, "Don't say can't, you are doubting yourself." Both now certified belayers—people who stand on the ground to secure the climber—Will and Patrick can gear themselves up and take turns belaying for each other. It is an excellent exercise in teamwork, communication, support, and trust.

After one particular climb he had attempted several times, Will stated proudly, "I can tell my dad I accomplished something." Five years from now, Will and Patrick might not remember every single climb they finish, but they will *always* have the confidence of seeing a seemingly impossible 40-foot obstacle and knowing they can reach the top if they keep working at it.

Special thanks to **Meghan Elliott, B.A.**, CBIS, the Brockton May Center School's Director of Community Living, for sharing her love of climbing and her evenings with these inspiring students!

Visit [www.mayinstitute.org/climbing](http://www.mayinstitute.org/climbing) to view more photos! ■■■



Will looking pleased with his first climb of the night.



Getting past the overhang can be tricky, but Pat never slows down on his ascent.

## notable news

■ Nearly 220 online national, regional, and international media outlets picked up the press announcement from the PR Newswire entitled, "National Autism Center at May Institute Publishes New Edition of Popular Educators' Manual."

■ *Parenting Special Needs* magazine published "Starting Your Day Off Right: Making the Most of Morning Routines," an article co-authored by **Megan Joy, Ph.D.**, Regional Director of Home and School Consultation, and **Marcie Handler, Ph.D.**, BCBA-D, Senior Clinical Director, Consultation Division, PBIS Technical Assistance.

■ The *Boston Business Journal* published "Hope Springs Eternal: Lauren Solotar Readies the May Institute for Challenges to Come" (Dr. Solotar's profile for the publication's WomenUp 2015 Women of Influence Award).

■ The *Boston Sunday Globe* published "Take a Picture With Santa and Take Away the Tears" (coverage of May Institute's and Bass Pro Shops' partnership to host a "Sensitive Santa" event in December of 2015).

■ **Alan Anselmi**, a physical education teacher with the May Center School in Randolph, Mass., was spotlighted in a New England Cable News (NECN) segment titled, "Making the Grade: School Transforms Lives for Developmentally Disabled Students"; in an article published in *The Boston Sunday Globe* titled, "The Teacher is a Pushover"; and in an article published in the *Randolph Herald* and the *Bridgewater Independent* titled, "Little Victories to Unlock Potential: PE Teacher Brings Out Best in Autism Students."

■ Declan, a student at our May Center School for Brain Injury and Related Disorders, was featured in an article in the *Patriot Ledger* titled, "Braitree Student Beats Cancer, Pushes for Special Needs Education" reporting on a speech he gave at the Massachusetts State House.

■ May Institute's launch of a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) initiative in Taunton Middle Schools was cited in an article that was syndicated by the Associated Press and published in outlets in Connecticut, Maine, and Massachusetts.

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**2015 annual report now available!**

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to May Institute during our anniversary year! You may view our 2015 annual report at [www.mayinstitute.org/annualreport](http://www.mayinstitute.org/annualreport).

**May Institute & Endicott College**  
Meeting the need

A partnership between May Institute and Endicott College is addressing the growing demand for highly trained, board certified professionals who can provide applied behavior analysis (ABA) interventions for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities.

The new partnership creates three options for master's-level training in ABA. Courses are held at May's campus in Randolph, Mass. They are also available remotely, enabling on-line learning opportunities for students unable to attend classes in Randolph, Mass.

**Join our online community!**

We invite you to follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter. We'd love to connect with you!



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**ABOUT MAY INSTITUTE**

*Founded in 1955, May Institute has its roots in a family's vision of enabling children with disabilities to lead the fullest lives possible.*

*Today, May Institute provides educational, rehabilitative, and behavioral healthcare services to individuals with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities, brain injury, and behavioral health needs. The Institute also provides training and consultation services to professionals, organizations, and public school systems.*

*Our programs touch the lives of thousands of individuals and their families each year at more than 140 service locations across the country.*

*Together with the National Autism Center at May Institute, we are committed to identifying and applying universal standards for the treatment of autism and to providing care and hope to families throughout the country.*