PATH - WAY
Providing Access To Happiness

August 2016

Issue 2

Summer breeze makes me feel fine

Thanks to the Adaptive Sailing Program at Piers Park Sailing in East Boston, *PATH-WAY* participants enjoyed a delightful afternoon on the Boston Harbor.

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Hi Everyone,

It has been a busy few months for PATH-WAY. Thanks to your generous support we continue to provide numerous accessible activities. We have cheered on the marathon participants, hosted a comedy night, sailed on Boston Harbor, and watched the Red Sox beat the Tampa Rays 4 to 1.

In June, we hosted our first annual Picnic & Lawn Games at Thomas Menino Park in Charlestown. It was a great time made possible with the help of some very special sponsors. I want to extend thanks to Northeast Passage, Piers Park Sailing, and the Greater Boston Chapter of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association for providing some adaptive activities. Thank you Cameron Foryrs from Northeast Passage who came down from Durham, NH and brought adaptive golf and adaptive bocce activities. Another shout out to the DeRoche Family from the Greater Boston Chapter of the NE Spinal Cord Injury Association for providing the Cornhole Activity. Thank you to our volunteers Catherine Ozyurt and her daughter Fiona, and to the Millis Berkfield Band who provided the music for our event.

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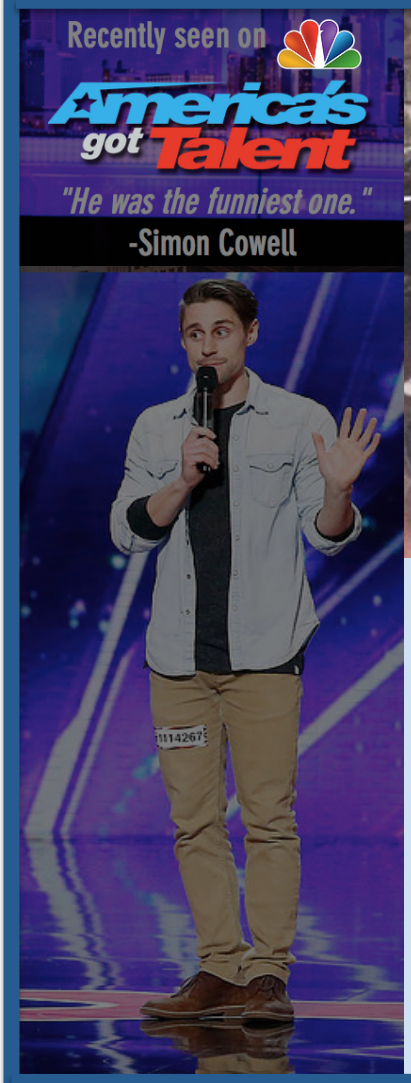
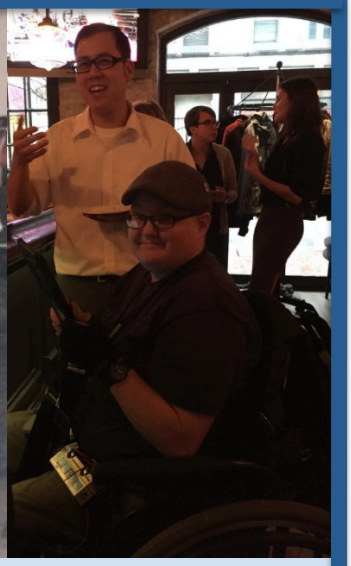
In September we will, again, be one of the many exhibitors at The Boston Abilities Expo at the Boston Convention Center. The Expo is a three day long event where over 100 exhibitors from around the US display products and services to the disability community. Come check out the latest power chairs, try some adaptive gaming, watch live demonstrations, and stop by PATH-WAY's booth. For more information on exhibitors, demonstrations and activities, and to register for FREE go to the website www.abilities.com/boston/. This is an amazing event and is so worth attending.

As always, we welcome your participation and opinions as we continue our mission to provide accessible inclusive events. Check out our webpage www.path-way.org, follow us on Facebook, and join us at our events.

Best,

Steph

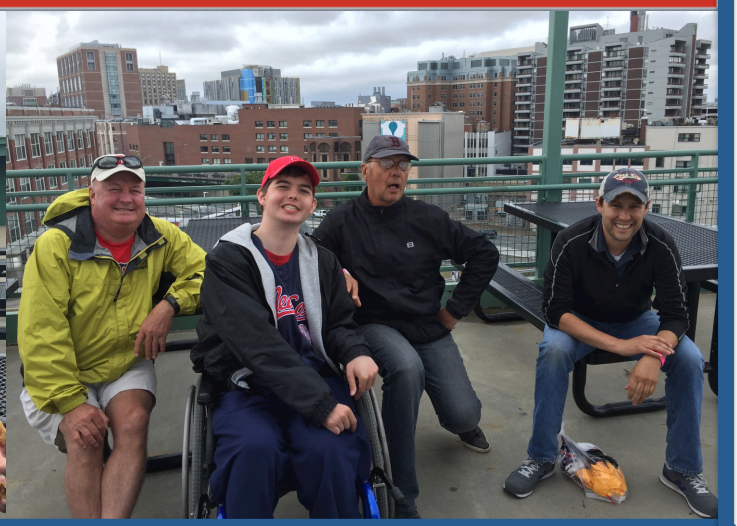




Comedian Adam Grabowski shared his talents with PATH-WAY at Central Wharf in Boston. It was a great night with lots of laughs, food, and a wonderful spirit of inclusiveness. Mark your calendars for May 6, 2017 because Adam is coming back to entertain us for our annual fundraiser. Thank you Adam for your support.

- Chilling out at PATH-WAY's First Annual Picnic and Lawn Games - Thomas Menino Park, Charlestown

PATH-WAY ATTENDS FENWAY RED SOX beat TAMPA BAY RAYS



One of PATH-WAY's Participants shares her thoughts on living with a disability in 2016, 26 years after the signing of the ADA. Thank you Olivia for permission to share this heartfelt post.

Olivia Richard celebrating the Americans with Disabilities Act anniversary.
posted July 26, 2016 on FB.

Later today, I'm going to leave my accessible public housing building, wheel down my curb-cut and APS-installed street in my accessible City of Boston neighborhood of Brighton, board the Green line at an accessible platform and ride the accessible public transit system in Boston (MBTA), which was spurred into focusing on improving its disability access by a 2006 settlement agreement from an ADA lawsuit by 19 Boston Center for Independent Living plaintiffs, to an accessible office building in downtown where my some of my fellow buddies with disabilities who can't use regular T service will have used the RIDE ADA paratransit service to get there, to play games and hang out in the community together on a gorgeous summer evening.

26 years ago today, Boston was a very different place.

Yes, we have our challenges.

-We still institutionalize large numbers of people with disabilities long-term in nursing homes and psychiatric institutions.

-There's still the "undue financial hardship/administrative burden/altering the fundamental nature of the program" clauses that anyone asked to make their program or place accessible can use to get out of making changes to improve access.

-The ADA, Fair Housing Act, Air Carrier Accessibility Act, and most state-level architectural building codes do not equate to each other in coverage, strength, enforcement mechanisms, or usefulness. The states that aren't "One-book" states (one-book means the state building and architectural code requirements are the same as the ADA) which, as of my knowledge writing this, includes the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have building inspectors that CANNOT enforce federal ADA requirements. We are left to sue through the Department of Justice later on.

...Having said all of that, why am I celebrating this? Because it's a start! It's ours, and while it doesn't cover everything we still face, it's there as a reminder that when we unite together to fight for something we will win our freedom.

Enough thinking, it's time to enjoy life.

FIND US AT THE ABILITY EXPO - SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2016

Abilities EXPO | The event for the disability community

FALL EVENTS - Exact Time and Place will be posted on webpage SOON !!!!!!!!!!

Movie Night at WEWORK - Rory O'Shea Was Here -
Hanging out and watching FOOTBALL - Patriots vs.....

-NOT TOO EARLY TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR -
- ANNUAL FUNDRAISER- MAY 6, 2017-
Saturday - 6 PM to 10 PM
Four Point Sheraton- Norwood, MA
Comedian Adam Grabowski performs

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Path-Way is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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