



**PATH - WAY**  
*Providing Access To Happiness*



DECEMBER 2016

ISSUE 3

PATH-WAY hosted a Bocce Tournament at the Victory Grille in Dedham. Proceeds from the tournament will go toward PATH-WAY's Scholarship Fund. A \$1000 scholarship will be awarded in May of 2017 to an individual with physical disabilities pursuing a post secondary education. Details about and application for the scholarship can be found on our website [www.path-way.org](http://www.path-way.org)



Congratulations to Team Oliver-  
The DeRoche Family  
PATH-WAY 2016 Bocce Champs

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Hello Everyone,

Happy Holidays from all of us at PATH-WAY. We are so thankful for all of you and your generous support. We continue to have increased participation at our events as we spread our mission to provide inclusive accessible social opportunities for individuals of varying abilities.

As a way to give back to our own community PATH-WAY is excited to announce our scholarship program. We will be awarding a \$1000 scholarship to an individual with a physical disability who is pursuing a post secondary education.

We look forward to the New Year and invite you to join us at any and all of our events. Our annual fundraiser will be May 6<sup>th</sup> 2017 at the Four Points Sheraton in Norwood. It will be a great night with dinner, raffles, auction items, and a guest comedy performance by Adam Grabowski. Tickets will go on sale in early February so mark your calendars and reserve your spot.

Please contact me personally if you wish to sponsor this event or provide a raffle or auction item. Be sure to check out our webpage [www.path-way.org](http://www.path-way.org) and follow us on Facebook.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy holiday season,

*Steph*



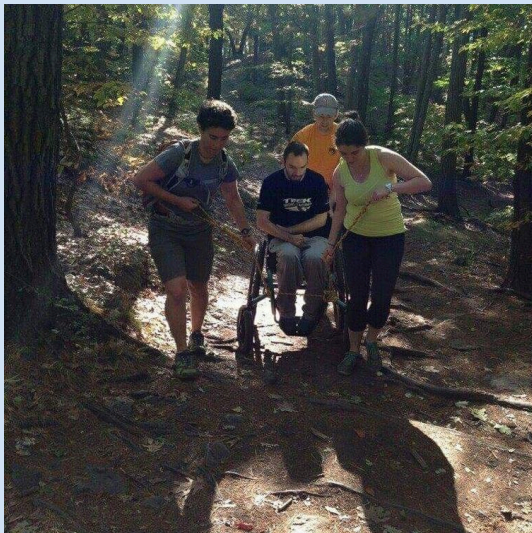
PATH-WAY Bocce Fundraiser Tournament to help support scholarship program.

PATH-WAY is proud of its participants' involvement in the disability community. Our guests include members and employees of multiple organizations working to provide support for individuals with disabilities. Our participants represent organizations to include Easter Seals, Boston Center of Independent Living, Boston Chapter of the National Spinal Cord Association, and ADAPT to name a few.

In this issue PATH-WAY is excited to spotlight one of our first members, Ryan DeRoche. Ryan is a peer mentor for the organization Rise Above Paralysis based out of the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston. His involvement at the hospital arose from his personal experiences dealing with a life altering spinal cord injury. In March of 2011, Ryan was working for Trek Travel as their global logistics manager. It was his dream job allowing him to travel the globe while working in the field of "biking". He was riding his mountain bike to where he was staying from his job at the warehouse in Girona Spain when he hit an unseen object and was launched over the handlebars. Ryan landed directly on his neck suffering spinal cord compression at the C4 level. Through years of intensive therapy and perseverance Ryan has valuable life experiences to share. As a peer mentor Ryan visits newly injured patients at Spaulding Rehab Hospital and attends their weekly support group. "For me," Ryan quotes, "mentoring has been a way to help others, in the same way that I was helped when first injured."

Ryan also has a webpage **Finding Your Passion Again** and **Changing the Idea of Disability**. (ryanderoche.com)

Thank you Ryan for your support of PATH-WAY, and for allowing us to share your story.



Ryan 2014  
Back on the trail with assistance.



Ryan 2016  
On his **Boma 7**-Enjoying his passion.

December 17, 2016 - PATH-WAY Holiday Trivia Party

February 25, 2017 - Hockey BU vs. Notre Dame -

March - Adaptive Gaming and Technology Night - Date and time TBA



### SAVE THE DATE

PATH-WAY Annual Fundraiser  
May 6<sup>th</sup> 2017  
6pm-10pm  
Four Points Sheraton  
With a performance by Comedian  
Adam Grabowski

#### ***PATH-WAY Providing Access To Happiness***

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