



1000 Wilbraham Road
Springfield, MA 01109
(413) 782-2500

260 Westfield Road
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 534-3299

3 State Street
Westfield, MA 01085
(413) 562-4885

MCS FAMILY SUPPORT NEWS

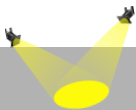
HAPPY SPRING

Congratulations on making it through the winter! Welcome to our latest edition of the MCS Family Support newsletter. Feel free to contact your navigator with information and ideas you would like included in future issues. Thank you!



FAMILY ADVISORY COUNCIL

MCS is pleased to announce that the Department of Developmental Services has renewed our contracts for our Family Support Center (FSC). One of the new requirements for the FSC is to develop a Family Advisory Council. MCS has a long history of family-directed services, so we are especially excited to create a formal Advisory Council, which we envision as a diverse leadership team of families and individuals who receive services. We hope to recruit between six and eight members who represent the cultural, linguistic, and geographic diversity of the individuals and families we support. It is our intention to facilitate a truly participatory council, so that the interests, issues, needs, and priorities of families and their loved ones remain at the forefront. If you are interested in joining the Advisory Council, please email Mary Beattie at marybeattie@mcsnet.org for more information.



HIGHLIGHT:

In this issue, we are highlighting a very talented artist who is part of our Family Support program. Amanda Marrero is a gifted artist who graciously donated a landscape portrait for us to display in the lobby of our new Family Support Center for all to enjoy. Thank you, Amanda!



Meet the Team...

Michael Romanovitch

Many of you know Michael from his 41 years here at MCS. Michael has been instrumental in the development of Family Support services, not just at MCS, but throughout Western Massachusetts. Michael will be retiring from MCS in May to enjoy time with his wife, Maura, his two daughters, and his beloved grandchildren.

On behalf of the staff and families of MCS, we are grateful for all he has done, and we wish him a well-deserved retirement full of bike rides, woodworking, and grand-kids!



Thank you for your service.

Visit our website at MCSnet.org

Like us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/MCSofthePioneerValley

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<https://instagram.com/multiculturalcommunityservices?>

Meet this issue's pet:



Meet Geni, a cocker spaniel-chihuahua mix who was rescued and brought into her forever home 15 years

ago. Pictured here at her Quinceañera, Geni has brought unconditional love and silly antics into the lives of the Torres family. Geni's mom is Carmen Torres, a Team Leader in Family Support.



EVENTS:

Grotonwood (Groton, MA)

Summer Camps for Adults with Disabilities

We are thrilled to tell you about an opportunity for a camp experience for adults 18 years and older. Grotonwood is a privately owned Christian camp in Groton, MA. They have been in existence since 1953 and offer programs ranging from mini-vacation weekends to weeks-long retreats with staffing ratios of 4:1, 2:1 and 1:1. Different camp sessions are designed to accommodate campers of all abilities including those who are medically fragile and require 1:1 hands-on assistance with all ADLs. Additionally, MCS is pleased to announce that we will be offering a limited number of scholarships to supplement and/or pay for camp attendance. Attached to this newsletter is a brief description of some of the camp sessions and website and contact information for Grotonwood. Contact Leslie DesRoberts at the MCS Family Support Center at 782-2500 ext. 325, to obtain more information about the camp and to learn about the MCS scholarships opportunities.



RESOURCES & COMMUNITY UPDATES



COVID Vaccine Clinics - MCS is pleased to have been able to offer a series of vaccine clinics over the past few months. We were able to reach over 1000 MCS staff, caregivers and consumers to provide the vaccinations. The state of Massachusetts has determined that from this point on, only pharmacies and mass vaccination locations can provide vaccines. Here is the information for those sites:

VaccineSignUp.mass.gov for the **7 mass vaccination locations**

VaxFinder.mass.gov for appointments at pharmacies, health care providers, and other community locations

For more information on Covid vaccines go to:

Mass.Gov

and

CDC.gov

