



[Home](#) | [Contact Us](#)

[About Us](#)

[Autism Services](#)

[Clinical Services](#)

[Day/Vocational Programs](#)

[Residential Services](#)

[Support Services](#)

[Community Connections](#)

[Springboard Social Club](#)

[ETC Food Service Training](#)

[Career Opportunities](#)

[Donations](#)

[News](#)



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20 Eastbrook Road, Suite 201
Dedham, MA 02026-2056
Tel 781-302-4600 | Fax 781-329-4254
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What's New at TILL?

TILL, Inc. Attends ADDP's Legislative Luncheon at State House

On January 29, 2014, individuals and staff from TILL attended the Annual Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers (ADDP) Legislative Luncheon honoring the 2014 Legislators of the Year, Representative David Linsky and Senator Cynthia Creem.

This annual event brings together legislators and aides, self-advocates, provider staff and family members members of the disability community to celebrate and advocate for the disability services community.

Representatives from TILL's Hudson Day Program as well as TILL Central Programs in Billerica, Chelsea and Watertown took the opportunity to visit the offices of several Massachusetts Senators and Representatives including Sonia Chang-Diaz, Senator, D-Boston, Cynthia S. Creem, Senator, D-Newton and Marc T. Lombardo, Representative, R-Billerica, where they were received with a warm welcome.



TILL Receives Grant from Belmont Savings Bank for New Inclusive Fitness Center



TILL In-Fit: Inclusive Fitness Center for Children and Adults

Toward Independent Living and Learning announces the opening of TILL's new Inclusive Fitness (In-Fit) Center, located on the 2nd floor of the TILL Watertown Program Center.

Through the generous support of the Belmont Savings Bank Foundation, TILL In-Fit will provide a welcoming fitness space for people of all abilities to engage in interactive and engaging activities in a safe and fully accessible environment.

TILL's Inclusive Fitness Center will benefit from TILL's resources and experience in the development of this new and innovative service. Adapted exercise and fitness activities will provide opportunities for learning and participation through activities such as yoga, Pilates, and Tai Kwon Do, taught by professionally trained instructors with experience working with people with physical disabilities, behavioral issues and other challenges.

TILL In-Fit's first course offering is "Karate Fundamentals". Experts in adaptive fitness agree that exercise programs are of the most under-utilized, yet effective, treatments for children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Regular exercise benefits everyone but can have many therapeutic benefits for the person with ASD including improvement in motor planning, increased attention span and decreased self-stimulation.

TILL In-Fit's opening celebration invites families to "Move, Groove, and Meet New Friends" with a sample fitness session followed by healthful refreshments.



Seth Lopes, Vice President of Belmont Savings Bank (right) presents check to Kevin Stock, Vice President of Finance at TILL, Inc.

New Projects on the Horizon for TILL

TILL is an organization that continues to grow and offer new opportunities to meet the needs of the individuals we serve.

TILL recently opened a new residence on Marrett Road in Lowell, offering supportive housing for young adults transitioning into adult services.

In Charlestown, TILL is working to develop new affordable housing units through the Bridgeview Center project. This mixed-use development will consist of 61 affordable, family rental units with approximately 22% of the units in the building to provide housing to low-income and/or special needs individuals. A section of the building will also house a five bedroom group residence managed by TILL services to meet the needs of each client. The Bridgeview Center will be completed in early fall of 2015.

Living Legacy Project Pilot Screening



TILL's Living Legacy Project's Oral Historian, Nicki Pombier Berger, provided a preview screening on February 1, 2014 to individuals, families, staff involved in the exciting pilot of this innovative project. Initially conceived as a training tool for staff to ensure that important personal information is stored in a format which can be easily shared with all care providers, now and in the future, TILL's Living Legacy Project takes this vision to new heights with the creation of vibrant, compelling stories of four families' journeys. Blending interviews with digitized family memorabilia, these edited life stories create a holistic view of the individual and their place within the family's story.

Nicki Pombier Berger, writer, nonprofit professional and oral historian, has honed her skills coordinating life history projects at StoryCorps, the national nonprofit oral history project, where she led a large scale interview collection and broadcast initiative, and currently manages and produces content recorded by students participating in StoryCorps' college readiness curriculum.

TILL's Living Legacy Project has been funded by a generous donation from our business partners at HUB International.

Moving Out Athors Featured on Local Cable Series

Dafna Krouk-Gordon, President and founder of TILL, Inc., and Barbara Jackins, Special Needs Attorney and parent recently appeared on the Woburn Public Media Cable Series, You Are Not Alone, hosted by Susan Cauley. The co-authors discussed points highlighted in their book, "Moving Out: A Family Guide to Residential Planning for Adults with Disabilities" and advice for families beginning the transition to adult disability services.



(L to R) Barbara Jackins, Dafna Krouk-Gordon and Susan Cauley

Moving Out: A Family Guide to Residential Planning for Adults with Disabilities, by Dafna Krouk-Gordon and Barbara Jackins is published by Woodbine Press, and available through the publisher and online booksellers. The full interview can be viewed on YouTube at [You're Not Alone. Surviving Your Child's Disability-Transitioning](#)

NEWS ARCHIVES: To read past articles, click the links below.

2013

[April 2013](#) [Summer 2013 TILLegram](#) [September 2013](#) [December 2013](#)

2012

[December 2012](#) [Summer 2012 TILLegram](#) [September 2012](#) [July 2012](#) [April 2012](#)

2011

[December 2011](#) [September 2011](#) [July 2011](#)

Support Services 

Food Services 

Residential 