



[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

## What's New at TILL?

### TILL Games 2012

The 18th Annual TILL Games was held on September 15, 2012 at the Reggie Lewis Athletic Center in Roxbury. TILL Games is a track event open to athletes of all ages and all abilities. The 180+ participants came together to challenge themselves and their peers in many events including running, walking, power and manual wheelchair race events. Many family and friends of the individuals we serve were on hand to cheer on the racers.

TILL wishes to thank all who helped to make the day a success and all who encourage the athletes to challenge themselves and celebrate their victories. Everyone is truly a winner.



### Staff Recognition at TILL

Awareness Days or Months present an opportunity to recognize our employees in their specialized roles.

**National Physical Therapy Month** is celebrated each October and TILL recognizes Alfred Petriello and Pamela Erikson, Physical Therapists, and Elizabeth Anderson, Physical Therapy Assistant, all of whom provide PT services in our Day Habilitation programs

October 10th is **World Mental Health Day** and focuses on raising public awareness of mental health issues. TILL takes this opportunity to recognize Ann Cotter-Mack, Director of Behavioral Services; Sharon Kreder, Director of STRATTUS Mental Health Clinic; Kim Tamaren, Assistant Clinic Director and the Mental Health Practitioners who provide services both in the STRATTUS clinic and at outreach locations throughout eastern Massachusetts.

**National Family Caregivers Month**, observed every November, seeks to draw attention to the many challenges facing family caregivers, advocate for stronger public policy to address family caregiving issues, and raise awareness about community programs that support family caregivers.

TILL is proud to recognize the staff of the Support Services and Residential Alternatives Departments and Springboard Social Club and to celebrate their contribution to the quality of life of individuals we serve and the support they provide to those caregivers who support them!

TILL is honored to recognize the dedication of our Specialized Home Care Providers in Massachusetts and New Hampshire and appreciate their commitment to the individuals with whom they share their homes and lives!

**International Accounting Day** is celebrated on November 10th and TILL thanks the dedicated staff of our Financial



Department who balance the books, oversee the budgets, manage payroll and pay the bills!

### **TWI – TILL's Wellness Initiative**

TILL's Wellness Initiative encourages everyone to focus on health and wellness in their everyday lives.

The first phase of TILL's Wellness Initiative (TWI) has been a big success. Participants tracked their exercise with 1 point tallied each minute of low intensity exercise, such as walking, and 2 points tallied for each minute of high intensity exercise such as running or tennis. **Beginning August 5th and coming to a close November 3rd, 271 individuals and staff tracked an incredible total of 328,152 activity points as miles on a virtual Rt. 6 map.**

Although the goal was to reach the West Coast by 11/3, it is not too surprising to find that many people reached the left coast and returned back home. However, a number of participants travelled round trip on Rt. 6 for a second time and began the journey once more.

For each 100 points submitted, participants' names were entered on a raffle ticket for weekly drawings and the names of the TWI participants who placed in the TOP 20 were entered into the Final TWI Drawing. TWI Winners were announced on November 9th at the TWI Health Screening Event.



**With 12,720 TWI points, Laura Molla, PCA Manager from the Support Services Department, took 1st Place and won a weekend getaway!** TILL's Wellness Initiative Committee has more in store as they remind everyone - **"You can lead a healthy lifestyle, if you TWI"**.

### **Toward Independent Living and Learning, Inc. awarded Three-Year CARF Accreditation**

TILL, Inc. has been awarded the highest level of accreditation by CARF International for Day Habilitation programs in Billerica, Chelsea, Hudson and Watertown, Massachusetts. By pursuing and achieving accreditation, Toward Independent Living and Learning, Inc. has demonstrated that it meets international standards for quality and is committed to pursuing excellence.



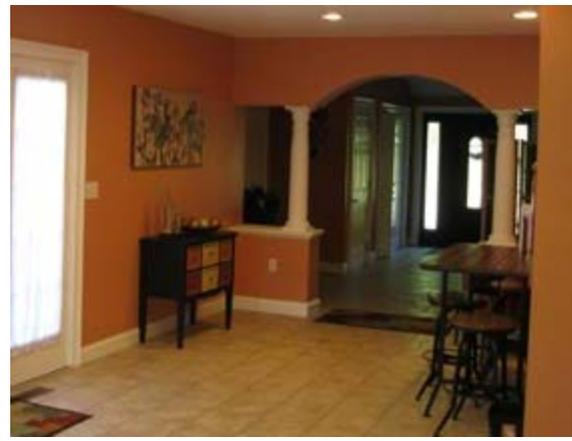
*TILL's Day Habilitation Program Team: (L-R) Diane Liias, Day Habilitation Manager; Stella Reis, Director of Day Habilitation Services, Stacy Golden, Day Habilitation Manager; Linda Naclerio, TILL Vice President of Program Services; Marilyn Kuhn, TILL Central Site Manager; Lynn Dignan, Day Habilitation Manager; Tim Foley, TILL Central Site Manager.*



CARF accreditation is a public seal of trust and commitment to quality based on internationally accepted standards. Achieving this accreditation demonstrates Toward Independent Living and Learning's commitment to exceptional, personalized care. An organization receiving the highest level of CARF accreditation has undergone a detailed peer review process and has demonstrated to a team of surveyors, during an on-site visit, its commitment to providing programs and services of the highest quality.

### **TILL Celebrates Opening of New Home in Danvers**

Meridith, Vicki and Johna celebrated their new home in Danvers with an Open House on October 17, 2012, attended by many family members, friends and supporters. The spacious home offers newly renovated, state of the art accessibility with a warm decor. In her remarks, Dafna Krouk-Gordon thanked all who helped to make this lovely house a home. Family and friends raised a glass of sparkling apple juice to toast their beautiful home.



### TILL's FALL BALL 2012

TILL's Fall Ball was held on Sunday November 11th at the Hudson Elks Hall. It was a special night; socializing with friends while dancing to the tunes of our DJ, Mike Marcolongo. In attendance were individuals, families and staff from twenty of our residential programs!



### TRASE: TILL's Recreation After School Experience

Located on River Street in Hyde Park, TRASE offers an exciting afterschool program for up to 35 students who receive special education service through the Boston Public Schools. TRASE shares the space with TILL's ETC, Essence of Thyme Café and Gift Shop. Taking full advantage of their proximity to Hyde Park's community resources, the teens participate in a reading group at the library, a gym group at the Municipal Building, and swimming and fitness programs at the YMCA as well as the many imaginative activities developed by the very creative staff. Music group with John Stevens as well as the weekly TRASE Talent Show are popular with the students and showcase their interests and abilities.

TRASE welcomes new Manager, Emma Deese-Owens, who comes to the position with a rich background of developing activities for all ages and abilities. Emma said she is energized by the enthusiasm of the students and is looking forward to their holiday celebrations, and the new groups and activities being developed.

**NEWS ARCHIVES: To read past articles, click the links below.**  
**2012**