

# THE TILL WAVE GALLERY

Summer 2017

Toward Independent Living and Learning, Inc.

## TILL Wave Gallery

*T*he TILL Wave Gallery is an inclusive gallery promoting **Art for All and Art by All**. The gallery kicked off its Fall season with the opening of its Metamorphosis exhibit on Thursday, September 29th, featuring the work of 27 local artists. On Saturday, October 1st, the Wave Gallery hosted an **ArtWeek Boston** event which featured the installation of the Wave Mobile Sculpture by TILL artist-in-residence, Roscoe Lamontagne. Visitors to the gallery assisted Roscoe with binding and twisting wire onto sea glass that was “woven” into the three dimensional exhibit.



**The Wave Gallery's Spring Exhibit: The Elements** featured the work of 17 local artists on display followed by the **TILL Wave Paint Festival on Saturday, April 29, 2017**. The event, in coordination with ArtWeek Boston, featured interactive art activities including roller painting as well as air brush tattoos.



This summer's **Band of Gypsies Tiny Art Exhibit** features art inspired by a quest from TILL's April Madness. TILL's Day and Residential programs were challenged to gather with friends and create tiny art together. The results were anything but small!

Visit [www.tillinc.org/TILLWAVE.html](http://www.tillinc.org/TILLWAVE.html) for news and calls for art.



## TILL GAMES

Join us for **TILL Games XXIII**  
on **September 9th** at the **Reggie Lewis Athletic Center**  
in **Roxbury** to participate or cheer on the athletes!

## From the President



*Dafna tries out the seat of the Lord Mayor of Belfast*

Dear Friends, Families, and Colleagues,

Fiscal year 2017 which ended on June 30, 2017, was an interesting and productive year for TILL. There were many new program openings as well as expansion and improvements to our existing services. It culminated with an excellent Survey and Certification review in which our unique and extensive community connections were evident in all of our services. The survey highlighted our commitment to professional growth and career development as evidenced by our longevity of so many direct care and administrative staff, our internal promotions and our service recognition awards.

It takes everyone's cooperation and belief in the power they possess to make a difference in another person's life. Together we accomplished the goals and high standards we set for our agency. Thank you to the many staff and consultants who share their talents in making new opportunities possible for the individuals we support. We could not be in the forefront of developing innovative services without the participation of our families and guardians and our many funders and community business partners.

Together we make a formidable team. Thank you for making a difference in so many people's lives; one day at a time, one person at a time.

Sincerely,  
**Dafna Krouk-Gordon**  
 Founder and President  
 TILL, Inc.



## News Briefs

TILL's ongoing Internal Evaluation Survey provides an opportunity for valuable feedback to spotlight successes and identify areas where improvement is recommended. Thank you to all who took the time to respond to our Spring survey with comments and suggestions.

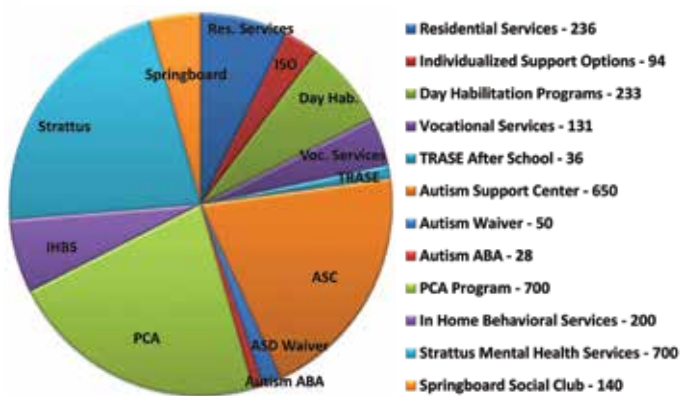
### Survey and Certification Review Results

TILL recently completed our agency-wide Survey and Certification in June 2017 and received a two-year license and certification. We are proud to share a few highlights here:

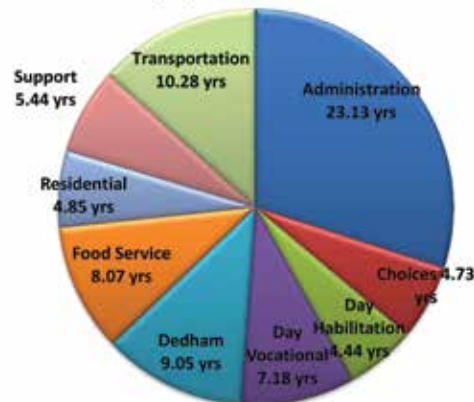
- TILL's commitment to growth and service enhancement since the last survey was highly evident.
- TILL recruits, hires and retains highly talented staff, and provides them with comprehensive trainings including Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS).
- TILL remains committed to creating and maintaining inclusion and community participation opportunities for the people it supports, and their families and staff.
- TILL continues to make great strides as it expands its Residential and Employment/Day Services and increases people's opportunities for meaningful participation in the communities in which they live or work. People in CBDS participated in vocational, volunteering and community activities of their choice.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Number of People Served in TILL Programs and Services



TILL Employee Retention Per Division



## Fogg Road Honored by DDS

On March 22, 2017, TILL's Fogg Road, Weymouth residents Jean, Stacy, Amy and Brook, and staff led by Residence Manager Emily Amezquita, were recognized by DDS Commissioner Elin Howe, for the ways they demonstrate social inclusion through their daily lives at the annual **Promoting Inclusive Communities through Partnerships and Social Inclusions** celebration. The group was nominated by their Service Coordinator Brian Seppala, and Colleen Mulligan, Area Director for DDS' South Coastal Area Office.



**TILL's Living Legacy Project expanded with "Legacy DIY"**, offering the tools and support for TILL staff to create their own Living Legacy oral histories with individuals and families we support. Brookline's Living Legacy Project created 5 vignettes highlighting each of the men's family histories in their own words.

## HarborOne Bank Recognizes Brockton Neighbors

As part of their 100 Year Anniversary, HarborOne Bank asked 100 of their employees to give \$100 to people who are making a difference in their community. Bob Coletta, Vice President, visited Brockton neighbors Craig, Chris, and Carl, and presented the men and staff with \$500, in recognition of their involvement in the community. Thank you to Bob and his colleagues at HarborOne Bank!



**Essence of Thyme and Cravings (ETC) Food Service** set records once again this year; our 3 very busy commercial kitchens prepared and delivered 652,028 nutritious school lunches and breakfasts during the 2016-17 academic year, while providing employment for 17 people through their food service training!



## TILL Travel: Boston to Belfast June 2017

TILL Travel is a unique travel opportunity for people with learning differences, Asperger's syndrome or high functioning autism. While exploring the world through a supported travel experience, participants build self-esteem, independence and develop life skills as they become global citizens, and make international friendships.

On June 7th 2017, TILL Travelers left Boston for an amazing adventure to Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The group, led by Dale Belcher, TILL Travel Manager, Dafna Krouk-Gordon, TILL Founder and President, and Christina Gravina, Residential Coordinator, was comprised of TILL service users, LABBB Collaborative students and faculty member, a Middlesex Community College student and our ACIS tour manager.

At the invitation of Grainne Close, National Director of the Autism

Initiatives of Northern Ireland, TILL travelers participated in an inspiring conference at Queens University, Belfast, titled *"Your Journey, Your Life,"* with dignitaries, professionals and service users from England, Scotland and Ireland, showcasing the journeys of people with all abilities, varied interests and skills. Joining the speakers were three members of the TILL group; each spoke of challenges overcome and their pride in their accomplishments. The travelers were warmly welcomed by Lord Mayor Nuala McAllister with a Civic Reception at the historic Belfast City Hall and a personalized tour.

Exploring the Belfast area with our new friends from AINI, we were awestruck by the Titanic Museum, the Giants Causeway, and Dunluce Castle; we relaxed at the local markets and pubs, and explored a beautiful park inspired by C.S. Lewis' *"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe"*, before heading to the Mourne Mountains



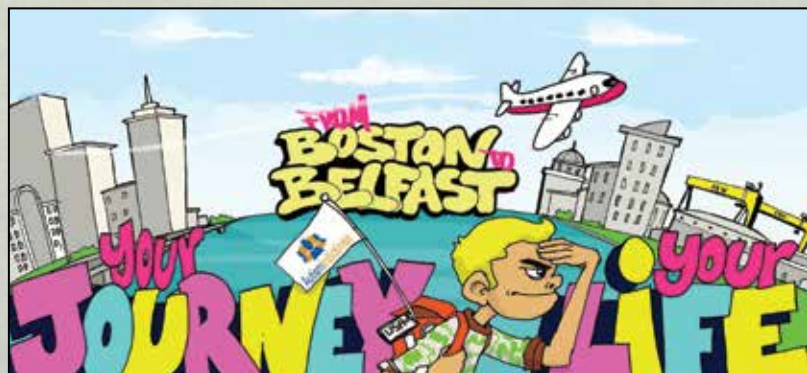


and Carlingford Lough for an evening of glamping (glamorous camping), hiking, archery and zip lining.

Autism Initiatives of Northern Ireland graciously invited us to be their special guests at Newcastle, a picturesque beach community, for the launch of Northern Ireland's first autism friendly city and a full day of festivities in this spectacular area.

Our journey brought us back to Dublin, Republic of Ireland, a city steeped in hundreds of years of history. We visited St. Patrick's Cathedral and Phoenix Park; viewed the Book of Kells at the stunning library at Trinity College; and were fascinated by the amazing Bog Bodies at the National Museum, mummified in peat bogs in 8000 BCE.

TILL Travelers returned to Boston with a lifetime of memories, new friends on two continents, self-confidence, and the knowledge that in life's journeys all things are possible when you push yourself beyond your comfort zone.



# Visionaries

Toward Independent Living and Learning, Inc. will be profiled on the Visionaries Public Television Series' Season 22! The Visionaries is an acclaimed public television series that has produced more than 200 documentaries all over the world. TILL was chosen for a 15-minute documentary airing this fall. The Visionaries series is supported by underwriting, and we thank our business partners, families and friends who believe in the value of this project and provided their support. We look forward to sharing the finished project throughout the agency and with our families, friends and supporters.

### TILL's Visionaries Documentary Underwriters:

- |                                    |                           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Citizens Bank                      | Sally O'Malley            |
| Christine and James Connor         | Steve and Victoria Dillon |
| Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation | Insight Performance, Inc. |
| John Campbell and Susanna Peyton   | Stephen Fay               |
| Howard and Deborah Reef            | Randolph Savings Bank     |
| Goodman Advisory Group, LLC        |                           |

## Strattus @ TILL Welcomes Walpole Clinic Staff & Clients

With the closing of the May Counseling Center in Walpole, the Center's services were transitioned to TILL's Strattus Mental Health clinic as of April 1st. The two agencies worked together to ensure continuity of excellent services during this move and we are thrilled to welcome this highly experienced group to our Strattus @ TILL Mental Health Services team.

## TILL Walks to Stamp Out Hunger

**Team TILL joined the 35,000 walkers and volunteers at the annual 2017 Project Bread Walk and 5K Run for Hunger on May 7, 2017.**

Over 50 TILL residences supported the 2017 Walk, many participating by walking, volunteering, or cheerleading for their team and other participants. Team TILL, comprised of employees and service users, contributed over \$31,000 to Project Bread's Walk for Hunger by raising funds through multiple creative campaigns and participation in the Walk for Hunger in support of Project Bread's mission to end hunger in Massachusetts.



## Carlisle Nomination

**TILL's new homes in Carlisle, Massachusetts have been nominated for the 2017 International Union of Architects' (UIA) "Friendly and Inclusive Spaces" Award.**

The awards have been established to promote inspiring examples of friendly and inclusive buildings and spaces that have created socially sustainable environments through high quality architectural design. Our entry will be on display at the September 2017 UIA Conference in Seoul, South Korea. Notifications of awards are anticipated in early fall 2017.

## Transition Planning

Navigating the transition from school to adult services can be confusing but TILL can help. Autism Support Center Coordinator, Lisa Connor and Alan White, Director of Individual Support Options have teamed up to offer Transition Planning and Information sessions for families of children 14 and up with specialized needs. For more information, contact Lisa at [autism.services@tillinc.org](mailto:autism.services@tillinc.org).

## TILL's Recognition of Excellence

Each year TILL nominates exceptional employees for recognition at the Association of Developmental Disability Providers (ADDP) Conference, the NH Gateways Community Services Award Celebration, and the Providers' Council Convention & Expo. Though not every nominee can receive acknowledgment at these state-wide conferences, TILL is very proud to recognize their dedication and commitment to excellence!

**Amy Williams, LPN** was nominated for the **2017 ADDP Direct Support Professional Award**, recognizing her kind, nurturing manner, excellent clinical and teaching skills, and her tireless advocacy.

**Shaw's Supermarket, Braintree** was nominated by TILL and GROW Associates for the **2017 ADDP Community Partner Award**, in recognition of their support for one of their employees during a series of recent challenges.

**Gina Shulimson, Program Manager and Chef** at TILL's Essence of Thyme Café and Catering in Hyde Park demonstrated easy and nutritious recipes in a workshop at ADDP's LEAD! Conference and Expo 2017.



**Theresa Robinson, TILL Support Services Coordinator and NH Enhanced Family Care Provider**, was nominated by Ellen Connor and received the **Direct Support Professional Award** at the annual **Gateways Community Services Award Breakfast** on June 6, 2017.

Ellen wrote: "Theresa Robinson is the home provider for my son David and has been for more than ten years. She gives him self-confidence, a voice in decisions, and supervision with companionship. And she makes it look easy. He is happy, secure and has matured so much with her attention. She is the kind of caring person, who as head of the local TILL, not only looks out for Dave, but will jump into emergency situations with her employees and clients. All without fanfare. She does it all. I am so lucky to have Theresa... I think she must be the best provider in the state!"

**Congratulations to Teri for this well-deserved recognition!**



L-R: Linda Carter, RN; Sandy Vadenais, Res. Support Manager; Theresa Robinson; Melia McIntyre; Dawn Lemay-Dube, Cravings Program Manager



**Kingsley Brown, Residence Manager**, has been nominated for the Providers' Council Supervisor/Manager Award of Excellence. A dynamic and dedicated person, Kingsley has had a tremendous impact on the lives of the people whom he supports with outstanding creativity. Kingsley has assisted by overseeing residential programs in transition, mentoring new managers

and staff, and providing training through TILL's Leaders program. This past year, Kingsley piloted a new TILL initiative to capture families' oral histories through an expansion of TILL's Living Legacy Project. Kingsley interviewed family members with sensitivity and respect, and their trust and comfort level with him shone through in the warm and poignant stories they shared of their sons as they grew to be the men they are today.

**Tanya Amato, Respite Manager** has been nominated for the Providers' Council Supervisor/Manager Award of Excellence. TILL's Respite Center in Chelsea has flourished under Tanya's leadership. The in-house art studio, filled with inspiring and inviting materials, has become a gathering point for the center and an opportunity for social connections.



Tanya Amato and Sandy Cummins, Dir. of Residential Services

Tanya has promoted recreational and volunteer activities for the women to participate in and help build confidence. The feeling of being needed and important to others is a powerful healing experience which Tanya has been able to provide for these women whose lives have been disrupted in some way and has made a difference in the lives of the women who have stayed at the Center.

**TILL Wave Gallery has been nominated for Providers' Council Innovator of the Year Award of Excellence. TILL Wave Gallery in Watertown is an inclusive art gallery committed to building**



community through art, encouraging art for all and art by all. The gallery opened in 2016 under the direction of Paula Aiesi, Director of Community Connections, hosting themed exhibits throughout the year (Art for All, Metamorphosis, Animals, and The Elements), "Artist Talks" inviting community members to join selected artists for discussion about their work, and inclusive participatory events in partnership with ArtWeek Boston for its Spring 2016, Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 weeks, welcoming the general public.

# April Madness is On the Road Again

TILL's April Madness is an annual contest which challenges our day and residential program teams to creatively complete a series of quests focused on interactive experiences and team work, challenging participation and connections.

This annual event has sparked incredible ingenuity and enthusiasm, and has become an integral part of who we are all year long. This year's theme, "On the Road Again", provided challenging opportunities for adventure.

Each year volunteerism and the dedication to make a difference in the local community are showcased within the quests, though each groups' involvement continues and expands all year long. Some notable examples: serving meals at local transition centers and stocking food pantries, as well as blending volunteer efforts with creative fundraising projects to support organizations like the American Cancer Society or Dig Deep's Navajo Water Project, and of course, being a part of Team TILL at Project Bread's Walk for Hunger.

April Madness accomplishments are recognized at the annual Cultural Festivals; residential and CLO teams celebrated on June 4th at the Burlington Marriott and day program teams celebrated on June 23rd at the Tewksbury/Wilmington Elks Lodge. Both events feature a grand pot luck buffet of international dishes, music with John Stevens, and an opportunity to share cultures and traditions with the group. Congratulations to Muzzy Street, Residential/CLO Best in Show; Day Program Award Winner Hudson Day Program; Cluster Award Winner, Hudson Cluster 3; and TILL Central Winner, TILL Central Billerica!



Residential/Creative Living Options (CLO) Team:  
Muzzy Street! (top)  
Day Program Award: Hudson Day Program (below)



*Thanks for  
making this  
year yet again...  
The Best April  
Madness Ever!!!*



## Remembering Friends

A life that touches others goes on forever.



**John Bazykowski**  
**Roland Caldwell**  
**Irene Foreman**

**Bernadette Gillis**  
**Guy Gove**  
**Andrew Johnson**

**Charles MacDonald**  
**Emily Perlmutter**  
**Leslie Pickering**

**Polly Roberts**  
**Lois Wilcon**



# TILL Annual Fund Donations

We sincerely appreciate the generous donations made by our families, friends and supporters over the past year. Gifts made in memory of loved ones, for specific purposes or programs and grants help to further TILL's mission and provide necessary support for our innovative programs.

## President's Club

\$10,000 and above

Gustav and Vibeke Christensen  
*North Shore Spring Gala, TILL Games,  
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## Benefactor

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Lisa Birkdale  
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*In Honor of Dafna Krouk-Gordon*  
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## Supporter

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Ann Butler Yos  
*For Dedham office, Autism Initiative,  
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United Way of Massachusetts Bay &  
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*For Lena Magazzu and Lyman St.*  
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Clare McGowan  
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Ann Griffin  
Evelyn Cushing  
Anne Halidy  
Lloyd and Lisa Bishop  
David and Mimi Rice

## In Memory of Kristina Dodson

Robert and Martha Allison  
Erika Dodson and family  
Theodore Murray  
Laure Porter  
Kerry Gallagher  
Marianne Iauco

## In Memory of Agnes and Dominic Padula

Jean and Joseph Padula  
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Charles Dolan  
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Diane and Martin Connolly  
Valarie and Kevin Duffley  
Richard and Mary Anne Pugsley  
Richard and Kathleen Donahue  
Jane Liberfarb

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# Above and Beyond Award

Each month, TILL's Professional Development Committee awards a Certificate of Appreciation to employees who have gone that extra step in the performance of their duties. These employees were honored during TILL's FY2017.

- ☆ **Jacqueline Maldonado**, *Senior Day Support Professional, Chelsea Day*
- ☆ **Comfort Agbortoko**, *Residence Manager, Algonquin Dr.*
- ☆ **Jane Gitatha**, *Relief Staff*
- ☆ **Fenwick Drive**, *Chelmsford Staff*
- ☆ **Aaron Kaufman**, *Speech and Language Pathologist*
- ☆ **Thien Simpson**, *Residential Support Professional Night, Gibson Ave*
- ☆ **Esther Munga**, *Relief Staff*
- ☆ **Caitlyn Plummer**, *Residence Manager, Fenwick Dr.*
- ☆ **Jennifer Polischuk**, *Residence Manager, Lynnfield (Received Two Awards in FY17)*
- ☆ **Flor Poueriet**, *Residential Coordinator*
- ☆ **Tre Guay**, *Behavioralist*
- ☆ **Alyssa Raymond**, *Site Manager, Autism Initiative*
- ☆ **Michelle Lannan**, *Residence Manager, Beaver Brook Rd*
- ☆ **Tom Nordberg**, *Director of Facilities and Transportation*
- ☆ **Tom Gates**, *Facilities Manager (Received Two Awards in FY17)*
- ☆ **Diane Dixon**, *Day Support Professional, TRASE*
- ☆ **Nicole Fortino**, *Program Manager, ETC Chelsea*
- ☆ **Nick Andolfo**, *Autism Support Center Manager*
- ☆ **Solomon Adeleke**, *Residence Manager, Glide St.*
- ☆ **Pierre Casimir**, *Residential Support Professional, Yemallo Dr.*
- ☆ **Francis Wyman**, *Burlington Staff*
- ☆ **Aphinna Guyton**, *Residential Support Professional, Brighton*
- ☆ **Alvin Madden**, *Relief Staff*
- ☆ **Mary Cunningham**, *Residential Coordinator*
- ☆ **Darleen Adams**, *Shared Living Manager*
- ☆ **Christina Gravina**, *Residential Coordinator*
- ☆ **Mychaela Owens**, *Residence Manager, Gibson Ave*
- ☆ **Danielle Devito**, *Therapeutic Assistant, Hudson Day*
- ☆ **Amy Williams**, *LPN, Westboro Residences*
- ☆ **Julienne Nicolas**, *Relief Staff*
- ☆ **Shamley Metellus**, *Residential Support Professional, Nichols St.*
- ☆ **Patrick Jean Francois**, *Day Support Professional, Chelsea Day*
- ☆ **Evans Rockefeller**, *Occupational Therapist*
- ☆ **Shahera Pace**, *Residence Manager, Glide St.*
- ☆ **Kehinde Lugo**, *Relief Staff*
- ☆ **Shawayna Santos**, *Residential Support Professional, Gibson Ave.*
- ☆ **Oghenebruche Awaritefe**, *Residential Support Professional, Alden Rd*
- ☆ **Union Street**, *Weymouth Staff*

## SMILE

Amazon Smile allows customers to select their favorite nonprofit to receive a donation each time they shop at no cost to the customer. Simply pick Toward Independent Living and Learning and Amazon donates 0.5% of your purchase to TILL. Thank you!



## Donations continued...

*Continued from other side*

### In Memory of Lois Wilcon

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