Be Our Guest: Program Visits A Great Way to Share in the Bay Cove Experience

At Bay Cove, we’re fortunate to have a dedicated group of supporters who do so much to help ensure that our agency is able to pursue its mission of helping people overcome challenges and realize their personal potential. One of the best ways that our community of supporters can assist in that mission is to be vocal advocates for the agency, spreading the word about Bay Cove to family, friends and colleagues. However, we’re aware that it can sometimes be a challenge to eloquently convey all the things that an agency as large and diverse as Bay Cove does on a daily basis.

That’s why we recommend that fans of Bay Cove treat themselves—as well as anyone unfamiliar with our agency—to something that explains our work better than any well-rehearsed speech or written material ever could: a Bay Cove Program Visit, where you can experience it for yourself!

Visits to many of the agency’s more than 170 programs, led by Vice President of Development David Hirschberg, happen at regularly scheduled intervals and can also be scheduled by appointment.

Joe Ailinger, a longtime supporter of the agency and co-chair of this year’s Changing Lives Gala (see story, p.3), recently was part of a group that toured two Bay Cove residences for individuals with mental illness, and walked away with a greater personal perspective on the agency’s mission. “If a picture is worth a thousand words, then being there in person must be worth a million,” he remarks. “I’m certainly not a mental health expert after a 90-minute visit, but the next time the topic comes up, I’m going to see the faces of the staff and residents I met at these houses. And that’s a good thing.”

“Over the years, I have visited eight Bay Cove programs,” adds longtime agency supporter and board member Sally Thompson. “Each program visit is an impressive, eye-opening, heartwarming experience, and a reminder of a remarkably big-hearted organization with committed employees.”

If you would like to visit a Bay Cove program, meet our dedicated staff members and some of the truly amazing individuals that we’re privileged to serve, please contact David at 617-371-3167 or dhirschberg@baycove.org.

Melbourne Henry, of Bay Cove’s Bradston Street day program for individuals with developmental disabilities, pictured at the program’s annual summer barbecue. Bradston Street is one of many agency programs that have welcomed members of the Bay Cove community for site visits.

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Most of the time, when I'm writing these messages for Bay Cove News, I'm writing to tell you about something new and exciting that's happening here within the agency—something about our programs, our services, our staff or the remarkable people we serve everyday. But, today, I wanted to change speed a bit and write something about you and your fellow supporters.

You are a critical part of the Bay Cove Community. Perhaps you've attended one of our special events—like our Changing Lives Gala, coming up once again on June 14 (see page 3 for more information); made a donation to the agency, perhaps through your support of Team Bay Cove’s annual running of the Boston Marathon (again, see page 3 to learn more); or you've volunteered your time and energy in support of our work.

However you've come to be a part of the Bay Cove Community, your involvement with our mission and your support of the people we serve is vital to our success, and a key reason why Bay Cove has been able to grow, thrive and succeed throughout our 40+ years of existence. It may be a well-worn cliche, in this day and age, to say that "it takes a village" to do the sort of life-changing, 24/7/365 work that Bay Cove does, and to make the impact our agency makes on the lives of men, women and children faced with the greatest challenges, but it's also the truth. While the "nuts-and-bolts" of our programs and services are largely funded by public agencies, the ability we have to create the kind of individualized services and innovative, outside-the-box programming that treats each person as an individual comes largely from your generosity, and that of others who share your commitment to helping our most vulnerable neighbors.

There are all sorts of ways to further engage as a member of our community. On page 1, you'll read about the importance Bay Cove places on encouraging visits to our many programs. I cannot recommend strongly enough taking advantage of the opportunity to come out and meet us, meet the people we serve, and see the work that we do firsthand. It's an experience that makes a real impact, and gives you a tangible sense of how your support of Bay Cove truly affects those in our care.

Another way to support our work is by taking part in advocacy activities. A huge part of our responsibility as human service providers, above and beyond the care and supports we offer our clients, is to be a voice for those who have difficulty making their voices heard. This manifests itself in letting our local legislators know about the issues that are of vital importance to those we serve, and those who serve them. Below, you'll see a photo of myself and a contingent of Bay Cove staff and clients that attended the sixth annual Caring Force Rally at the State House in April. At the rally, dozens of us joined hundreds of representatives from human service providers across the state to lobby Beacon Hill legislators for bills that offered financial relief to hard-working care providers, and allow us all to provide even better service to those who need us.

As residents of the Commonwealth, you can help us in such efforts by responding to Legislative Alerts that we send out to our constituents when key pieces of legislation concerning state budgets come up. A phone call or letter from you can help us show our elected officials the significant support that exists for human services.

Whichever way you choose to engage with Bay Cove, please know that your loyal support of our agency is something we appreciate and never take for granted. On behalf of everyone here, I thank you, and I hope you'll continue to be members of the Bay Cove Community for many years to come.
Join Us for The 2017 Changing Lives Gala on June 14!

On June 14, Bay Cove’s biggest celebration of the year—the annual Changing Lives Gala—returns to the Seaport Hotel Boston, bringing together agency staff, supporters and other honored guests for an evening of fun and inspiration.

This year, Bay Cove is thrilled to honor Alma Wahlberg—matriarch of one of Boston’s best-known families—with its 2017 Changing Lives Award. Alma and her children have tirelessly supported organizations that serve the most vulnerable people in and around Greater Boston. In doing so, and by sharing their family’s own story of struggles and triumphs, they have inspired hope and combated the stigma often associated with significant personal challenges.

The event at the Seaport Hotel’s Plaza Ballroom will feature a dinner menu specially designed by Paul Wahlberg, owner and executive chef of Alma Nove and Wahlburgers (pictured, with Gala co-chair Joe Ailinger). The gala also includes a cocktail reception, live music and a silent auction, as well as a live auction hosted by celebrity auctioneer Susan Wornick, where attendees can bid on an array of unique items and experiences.

Individual tickets to the gala are $250. To reserve seats for the event, please call 617-371-3184, or visit www.baycove.org/gala. We hope you’ll join us for this always exceptional evening of celebration!

Team Bay Cove Finishes Strong!

Bay Cove went the distance on April 17, as all eight members of Team Bay Cove completed the 121st Boston Marathon, raising more than $100,000 to benefit Bay Cove programs in the process!

Please join all of us at Bay Cove in saluting Leanne Bragdon, Allison Cleary, Charles Hollins (pictured approaching the home stretch), Erik Mancyak, Heather Santymire, Caitlin Shanley, Caryn Metzger Smith and Lauren Spinelli, who underwent months of grueling training, while tirelessly raising funds for our agency. They are true heroes, and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts for this amazing effort!

Our thanks, also, to all the donors who generously supported Team Bay Cove and helped us exceed our fundraising goal. One of the special things about each year’s Marathon fundraiser is that it is always a true team effort—not just for the runners, but for all of the individuals, inside and outside the agency, who show their support.

Finally, we thank our friends at John Hancock, who once again made the Marathon fundraiser possible through their Non-Profit Bib Program, allowing our eight team members to participate in the world’s most prestigious marathon!
A picture is worth a thousand words... and now you can check out the newest photos of Bay Cove programs and activities on our new Instagram account. Give us a follow on IG at baycovehumanservices today!

And don’t forget: you can always stay informed about the latest Bay Cove news and events by following us on your other favorite social media channels. Check out Bay Cove on Facebook at baycovehumanservicesinc, and on Twitter @BayCoveMA; follow Kit Clark on Facebook at kitclarkseniorservices and on Twitter @KitClarkSenior; and learn the latest about CASPAR on Facebook at CasparIncNonprofit and on Twitter @CASPARCamSom.

MISSION:
Bay Cove Human Services partners with people to overcome challenges and realize personal potential.

Staff from Bay Cove’s newest program, the Andrew House Stoughton Detoxification Center. Andrew House provides medically monitored services to men and women (age 18 and older) seeking detox from alcohol, heroin and other substances.

Publication Manager: Josh Wardrop
Telephone: 617.371.3047
E-mail: jwardrop@baycove.org
www.baycove.org

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