

# Annual <sup>2015</sup> Report

The Moore Center  
Creating opportunities for a good life.™

## AMIR IS LEARNING TO MAKE GOOD CHOICES AND ENJOY LIFE

### GOAL OF INCREASED INDEPENDENCE IS BEING ACHIEVED

Apples rather than cookies. Exercise instead of television and video games. Socialization versus isolation.

Change. It's difficult for everyone, but for Amir Barakat, who has Down syndrome, it is even more challenging. However, as he has learned (thanks to his home care providers) challenges can be overcome.

When Amir, 25, came to live with Hema Ghale and Keating Tufts, he weighed 266 pounds. Today, a year later, he has lost nearly 110 pounds, and gained a true understanding of healthy eating and the need to exercise. The proof is not only the pounds he has shed, but in an overheard conversation where Amir was educating his little sister about sugar and fat. Offered an apple or a muffin, Amir is choosing the apple nearly every time. And despite newly installed cable in his room, he very rarely turns on the television.

"Amir always had the potential to be successful. We simply recognized his skills and provided him with the right supports," said Hema.

Keating has been a Special Olympics basketball coach for years, and Amir has not only joined him in playing basketball, but is also a Special Olympics Global Messenger and enjoys numerous public speaking opportunities. He frequents the gym and plays baseball. He also enjoys playing games with Keating and his friends, and is quick to point out that he often wins.

"Amir has done a wonderful job with growing and focusing on himself. He has changed so much since I began working with him two years ago," said Andrea Gagnon, Amir's Moore Center Case Manager. She said when Amir first moved in with Hema and Keating,

he was secluding himself in his room, always on the computer, not socializing with anyone and not participating in activities outside of his day program. "Amir's providers have put in a lot of work to teach him important skills that allow him to really thrive and be successful in life," she said.

His home care providers' efforts have not gone unnoticed by Amir. "This guy and gal are a great part of the team. I think they are doing such a great job for me," said Amir of Hema and Keating. "Any challenges I face, Keating helps me to gain knowledge so that I can achieve my goals."

One of those goals was to obtain a job. Amir now works at Goodwill in the fitting rooms and sorting books.

"I like work. There are no excuses. I just do my job," said Amir, causing Keating to smile as Amir repeats the words so often said to him. Amir has even been recognized for his hard work on the Board of Excellence at Goodwill and he has used money from his own paychecks to pay for horseback riding lessons.

According to Keating, who is studying organization leadership at Southern New Hampshire University, the main goal when they took Amir in was to establish as much independence for him as possible. That has at times meant teaching him not to share personal information with everyone and that calling people at all hours of the night is probably not a good idea. It has meant working with him on his speech and teaching him about personal care. Hema is quick to point out that they have not done it alone, however. "We have great communication with his team at The Moore Center and with his other service providers. They have been a really great help to us," said Hema, who is so very proud of Amir. "Talking about Amir makes me happy," she said.

Said Keating, "My goal is to allow Amir to give back to the community that has given so much to him. I'd like to see Amir have a real sense of happiness. I'd like to see him have a life for himself. That means a lot to me."

And Amir's home care providers mean a lot to him. "I appreciate you for all your hard work. You do your part as my team to best support me and I'll do my part," said Amir, adding with a smile, "I think I'm doing very well keeping my end of the bargain."



## MICHAEL F. REED CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



As my term as Chairman of the Board of The Moore Center comes to a close, I look back to when I first became acquainted with the agency. Many years ago, the organization moved from its home on Titus Avenue to its current location at Mill West. I was engaged as a commercial real estate broker to assist in that transition. From that moment, I was drawn to the mission of The Moore Center. That was over 10 years ago. I was honored to then be asked to join the Board and it has been tremendously rewarding for me and bittersweet as I now hand the gavel to Dan Cronin, our incoming Chair. I know Dan will carry on the great work of the Board.

The Moore Center staff, volunteers and the Board have been and continue to be engaged and motivated, and because of them, much has been accomplished. Our Garden Party has grown tremendously to become one of the premiere non-profit events designed to not only honor those who have significantly impacted our community in a positive way, but to provide an opportunity for our clients, like Nick Hebert who spoke at this year's event, to tell their stories of how the agency has assisted them in their lives.

When Nick finished speaking, I did not see a gentleman with a disability, but a young entrepreneur willing to make his own way in society regardless of his personal challenges. What a perfect example of what The Moore Center does! Nick encompasses the vision that we all have for our clients, that despite their challenges, they are fully engaged in their community and living a good life. It is this vision that will keep me engaged with the agency as long as possible. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

## PAUL S. BOYNTON PRESIDENT & CEO



I am not a sports fan. I know to admit such is probably blaspheme in New England, but my passion is just not there. So it might surprise you to know that one of my favorite Moore Center memories from this year involves the sport of baseball, but it's true. Joseph is a client who receives Participant Directed and Managed Services (PDMS) from The Moore Center, allowing for him to live independently while at the same time receive the supports that he needs. He and his family work collaboratively with The Moore Center to develop and manage his services to ensure that his unique needs are being met. As we all know, however, there are wants and needs, and this year, Joseph was fortunate enough to have both met. Joseph had the opportunity to sing "God Bless America" at Fenway this season during the 7th inning stretch. The pride he felt in doing so was only matched by the pride all of us felt for him. While The Moore Center is an award-winning leader recognized for providing high-quality, cost-effective services to enhance each person's quality of life, the agency is perhaps best known for doing so with a personal, compassionate touch, and a true sense that we are all one big family. Joseph's fan club at The Moore Center couldn't have been happier for him, not only because of his singing – though it was amazing – but also because Joseph was living a good life.

Certainly in anyone's book, that's a home run!

### Financials for the 2015 Fiscal Year

	FY 15	FY 14
Total Revenue	\$44,965,511	\$41,875,785
Total Expense	\$44,797,193	\$41,612,541

**Change in Net Assets before Interest Rate SWAP**  
\$168,318      \$263,244

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