

Fall 2015



SBAGNE

news

Thank you TEAM SBAGNE!



L to R : Aimee Williamson; Sean Connolly; Michael Cannistraro; Matt Neal; Dave Balardini; John; Trish Chandler; Bob Bertolino; Jim Collins; Caitlin Sullivan; Jen Collins; Christian Potts; Dan Packard and Brian Packard

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Events

Regional Education Days

SBAGNE will be hosting 2 Education Days, across the service area, in March 2016. It is hoped that the 2 Education Days will give increased numbers of individuals and families the opportunity to participate. Watch your mail and visit SBAGreaterNE.org for more information.



Saturday, March 19th – Freeport, Maine

Saturday, March 26th – Springfield, Massachusetts

BLING 2016

March 4th - 6th

BLING is for young women, living with Spina Bifida, ages 12 -17

Watch for registration at SBAGreaterNE.org as the date nears.

Questions? Contact Ellen Dugan at edugan@SBAGreaterNE.org

SBA National Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota



SBA of Greater New England will be awarding Conference Scholarships. Additional information will be available in February 2016. Check your emails or visit www.SBAGreaterNE.org.

THANK YOU to Our Year Long Sponsors!

We could not accomplish all that we do, without your support.

Gold Sponsor



Silver Sponsor



Bronze Sponsors



Children's Urological Foundation
Children's Orthopedic Foundation

Letter from the Executive Director

I hope this edition of the SBAGNE Quarterly News finds everyone well. We have enjoyed a beautiful fall and fingers crossed there is not a repeat of last Winter.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank **Barbara Lee** for her years of service to SBAGNE. Her term as Chair ends in December. Barbara has served as a director, clerk, vice chair and for the last two years as chair. Many of you have met and gotten to know Barbara as she has attended many events during her tenure, always lending a hand to make sure all goes smoothly. Her energy and commitment to SBAGNE will be missed.

Please remember to visit the SBAGNE website often for news and updates. We are also staying in touch with constituents with twice monthly emails. These emails include information on upcoming events, local resources and articles of interest. If you have suggestions regarding topics or information you would like included please email Ellen at edugan@SBAGreaterNE.org.

Included in this newsletter is information regarding upcoming Holiday Parties. I hope to see many of you there!

Be well,

Ellen

Ellen Dugan, Executive Director, SBAGNE

Annual Appeal

Shortly you will be receiving the SBAGNE Annual Appeal. SBAGNE is supported by generous individual donors, matching gifts, grants and fundraising events. Your support allows SBAGNE to provide programs and services though out the year and reach many individuals and families living with Spina Bifida. We accomplish much, but have more to do.

Welcome to
amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

As scary as it is, the holidays are fast approaching. This of course means that all of us will be starting to think about shopping for loved ones. If you like to make the most out of online shopping we have an important piece of information.

We would to remind everyone that we are now active with Amazon Smile. This means that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the Spina Bifida Association of Greater New England whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

To do this go to:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7305430>

We also have a click-to option on our website page.

Welcome to the new SBAGNE Board Members

Abigail Bordreaux
Aimee Williamson
Jason Paynich

New Officers have been elected for 2016.

Rebecca Sherlock, Chair
Ginny Briggs, Vice Chair
Linda Long Bellil, Treasurer
Jason Paynich, Clerk

Thank you to the newly elected Board Members and Officers for their willingness to serve and support SBAGNE. We couldn't do it without you!

Yahoo ListServes

For many years SBAGNE has hosted an adult and a parents' list serv on Yahoo Groups. As we have moved to Facebook, twitter and regular communication via email, we will be closing down these sites in December. Please like SBA Greater New England on Facebook, join us on [twitter @SBAGreaterNE](#) and keep an eye out for the twice monthly updates via email.

In the News



Annual Empowerment Program (formerly Annual Benefit Program)

\$200 annual amount. Applications can be downloaded at www.SBAGreaterNE.org.

2015 applications are being accepted until midnight December 31st, 2015. Postmarked, emailed to edugan@SBAGreaterNE.org or faxed (508) 482-5301.

Share your stories

SBAGNE wants you to share your stories about everyday life with Spina Bifida. In building the Spina Bifida community tell us about your job, volunteering, hobbies, recreation activities, a profile of the city/town you live in highlighting what is accessible, vacation. What do you want to share? Approximately 500 words, with a photo. Submit to Ellen at edugan@SBAGreaterNE.org. We will begin to include in upcoming newsletters and feature on SBAGreaterNE.org.

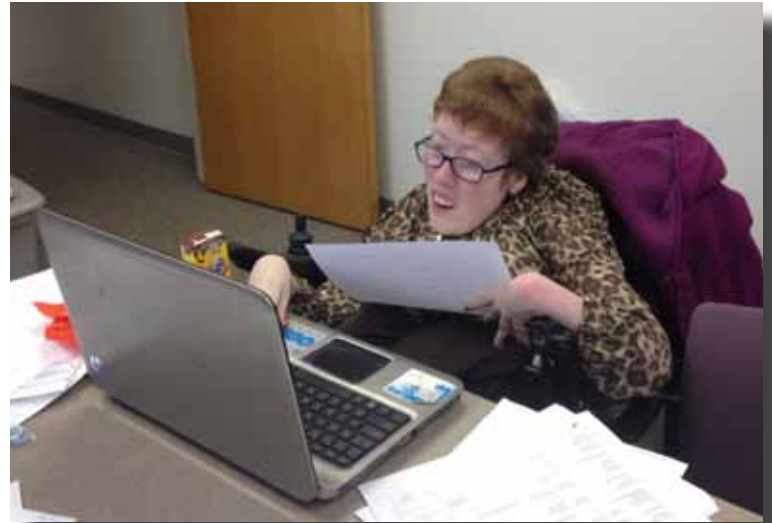
PATH-WAY - Providing Access to Happiness

We would like to introduce the non-profit PATH-WAY organization. Their mission is to elevate the lives of individuals with varying degrees of abilities.

Pathway holds social events for adults in their 20s-40s in the Boston Area. The variety of events offered range from game nights to volunteering. All events are physically accessible and can be seen online at www.path-way.org. The next event is November 17th from 6pm-9pm at 745 Atlantic Ave. For further information, take a look at their webpage, Facebook, and twitter (@PATH__WAY).

<https://www.path-way.org/about-v.html>

Spotlight on SBAGNE



My name is Elizabeth Brodeur. I'm 22 years old and I have Spina Bifida. I graduated high school in 2011. I've been at SBAGNE as an Administrative Assistant since January 2012.

At SBAGNE I copy checks. Then I stamp and initial the back of them. I put forms and papers into bags for different events. For the BLING event I look up different things to put into bags to give to the girls. I stuff the bags for the BEST event. I type thank you notes to send to people who donate. I edit the mailing labels each year with names that need to be added or deleted for the Holiday Cards. and I put the cards into envelopes and address and stamp them. I find crafts and activities for the kids to do at the Holiday Party. I also help with other things when asked.

A huge thanks to Elizabeth, who joined SBAGNE as an intern for 6 weeks and has stayed for 3 years. SBAGNE is grateful for Elizabeth's hard work, commitment to SBAGNE and her ability to assist Ellen with computer issues when needed.



Falmouth Road Race Runners Raise More than \$40,000 for SBAGNE

We would like to thank all the runners, donors and the participants that helped and took part in Team SBAGNE for the 2015 Falmouth Road Race. Our 2015 team consisted of 21 Runners and countless fundraisers. Together Team SBAGNE raised over \$40,000 which beat our goal of \$35,000. We would like to thank each and every one of the runners and donors that made this possible. Without this dedication and support our organization would not be as successful or strong.

The runners that dedicated their time and energy to Team SBAGNE for 2015:

Brian Packard
Caitlin Sullivan
Dave Balardini
Kristen Larson
Kara Chapman
Jim Collins
Jennifer Collins

Dan Packard
Wendy Potts
Christian Potts
Trish Chandler
Robert Bertolino
Rich Gay
Matt Neal

We had a number of first time runners on our team. We would like to thank those runners for joining our community.

Sean Connolly
William Burghardt
Aimee Williamson

Carol Ann Ostiguy
David Litif
Michael Cannistraro

Thanks again to both our long-time and our first time runners that gave so much and did so much for our organization and our constituents. It is people like this that help us carry on with our mission, and we are deeply appreciative of all the efforts the runners have given us for this year's race.



The **Circle of Strength** recognizes significant support from individuals, families and corporations. When you make a donation of \$500 or more, your philanthropic giving plays a critical role in shaping the future of SBAGNE. By making a commitment at this level, you lead by example and support the Spina Bifida Community. Your gift of \$500 or more sustains and strengthens the work of SBAGNE. We ask that you give as generously as possible to this appeal.

Circle of Excellence

\$10,000- \$24,999

*Personalized Naming Opportunity

A unique, customized certificate recognizing your support

Invitation to be on SBAGNE Advisory Board

Name recognition on our Donor Wall

Name recognition on SBAGNE Annual Report

Subscription to SBAGNE Newsletter

Circle of Aspirations

\$5000- \$9999

A unique, customized certificate recognizing your support

Invitation to be on SBAGNE Advisory Board

Name recognition on our Donor Wall

Name recognition on SBAGNE Annual Report

Subscription to SBAGNE Newsletter

Circle of Opportunity

\$2500 - \$4999

Name recognition on SBAGNE Annual Report

Subscription to SBAGNE Newsletter

Window Decal

Circle of Possibility

\$1000- \$2499

Name recognition on SBAGNE Annual Report

Subscription to SBAGNE Newsletter

Window Decal

Circle of Promise

\$500-\$999

Name recognition on SBAGNE Annual Report

Subscription to SBAGNE Newsletter

SBAGNE Awareness Bracelet

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Board of Directors

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Barbara Lee

Email: blee@SBAGreaterNE.org

Vice Chair

Rebecca Sherlock

Email: rsherlock@SBAGreaterNE.org

Treasurer

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Clerk

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Elizabeth Brodeur (888) 479-1900

Administrative Assistant

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Falmouth Road Race

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Fund raising

Ellen Heffernan-Dugan, Executive Director

Email: edugan@SBAGreaterNE.org

Membership

Ellen Heffernan-Dugan, Executive Director

Email: edugan@SBAGreaterNE.org

Memorial Donations

219 East Main St

(888) 479-1900

Ste 100B

Milford, MA 01757

Parents Helping Parents

Cara Packard

Email: cpackard@SBAGreaterNE.org

Youth & Adults Group

Ellen Heffernan-Dugan, Executive Director

Email: edugan@SBAGreaterNE.org

Walk-n-Roll

Ellen Heffernan-Dugan, Executive Director

Email: edugan@SBAGreaterNE.org

Note: The information in this newsletter is provided solely for informational purposes. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice on the management or care of a person with spina bifida. Although every effort is made to assure that information is accurate and current, knowledge in the field of spina bifida is growing rapidly and all data are subject to change without notice. Neither the SBA of Greater New England nor any parties who supply content to this publication make any warranty concerning the accuracy of any information found herein. The SBAGNE does not endorse any specific medical regimen. You should not change your medical schedule or activities based on the information provided in this publication. Always consult with a doctor, health care provider, or other medical professional before making any medical decisions. The SBAGNE does not employ medical personnel in its organization.



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Web site: www.SBAGreaterNE.org

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Without your correct address (mail or e-mail), we can't contact you, send you the newsletter or let you know about upcoming events. If you move, please email or call Ellen Dugan with your updated information.

Mark Your Calendars for the **2015 SBAGNE Annual Holiday Parties**

Sunday December 6, 2015 -11:00 - 3:00 PM

Sturbridge Host Hotel
366 Main Street, Sturbridge, Mass

Saturday December 12, 2015 11:00 – 3:00 PM

St Philip's Church
2365 Turner Rd, Auburn ME

Parties will include:

- *Lunch
- *Fun and Games for All Ages
- *Special Holiday Guest (with a gift for all children attending)

******PLEASE RSVP BY FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2015******

RSVP to
Visit www.SBAGreaterNE.org
Include the following information in your reply:

- *Party you will be attending (Massachusetts or Maine)
- *Your first and last name
- *Your phone number
- *How many people in your group
- *Names and ages of all the children in your group
- *Specify the name of the person with Spina Bifida

Directions to the parties will be at www.SBAGreaterNE.org

