

THE TILL EGRAM

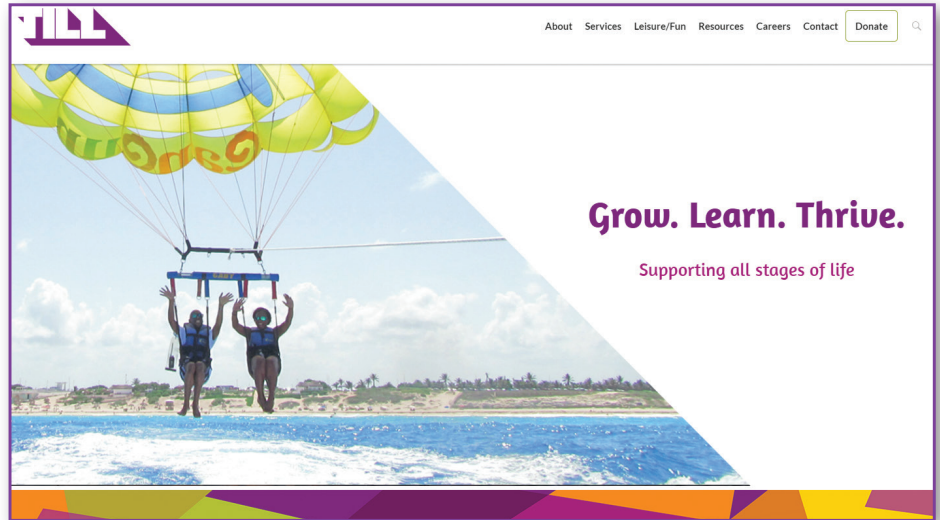
Winter 2019

Toward Independent Living and Learning, Inc.

New Year—New Sites!

We are excited to announce the launch of our newly designed website!

We began this project with the goal of creating an easy to navigate, mobile-friendly information portal featuring easy-to-use applications for services and employment with an interactive careers page, packed with engaging photos and videos to both show and tell our mission. Thank you to our partners at Bartlett Interactive for making our vision a reality. We hope you enjoy your visit!



www.tillinc.org



TILL's successful entrepreneurial food service training program, **Essence of Thyme Café and Catering**, has outgrown its River Street, Hyde Park, kitchen and moved to a beautifully renovated, state-of-the-art kitchen and café on Hyde Park Ave. In order to ensure uninterrupted production and delivery of school lunches, ETC utilized the winter school vacation week to make this transition.

Also on the move—**TILL's Recreational After School Experience (TRASE)** has moved to a new location in Charlestown! TILL's Bridgeview Center, at 330 Rutherford Ave., is a mixed-use building offering affordable housing, including our 5-bedroom group residence, as well as retail and commercial space. TRASE welcomed students after the holiday break to their colorful new digs with space for art, games, activities and a spacious cooking area.



Also at our Bridgeview Center, TILL is pleased to welcome Genoa Healthcare to our retail space. This full-service pharmacy is dedicated exclusively to the needs of our individuals supported by TILL's residential programs.

The **Woodland Guest House** offers adults (18+) with learning differences, developmental disabilities or autism, functional and social learning opportunities through fun activities - with support and guidance from trained, experienced staff. Weekend guests enjoy exploring new interests, practicing independent living skills, and developing social skills through TILL's recreational respite program.

For more information or to schedule a visit, contact us at 781-302-4700 or at guesthouse@tillinc.org.



From the President



Dear Friends,
Families, and
Colleagues,

Travel to far and
distant places
reinforces what we
have in common as
well as how we differ
from one another. We
learn equally from

both. As we travel across the universe through TILL's Education Through Travel initiative, we build new connections for future relationships and professional exchanges.

Our travels have taken our service users and staff from zip-lining in Costa Rica to performing at an international rock festival in Germany. Our trips are not simply tours to destinations, but rather active explorations of new adventures and of confidence building through the discovery that you can do more! We are very proud of the personal stories which unfold as people we support at TILL take on new challenges with the guidance of our committed, professional staff members. We continue to be active, local citizens by volunteering at food pantries and animal shelters as well as raising funds for many local charities. Uniting through an appreciation of our diversity is more important than ever and the 54 nationalities represented in TILL's workforce is an excellent way for us to contribute to global understanding and appreciation.

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

Stay In Touch

Email info@tillinc.org to receive important news via email, update your mailing address or find out more about TILL's services. Keep up with the news, events and more: like tillinc on Facebook, follow @tillinc on Twitter, and @till.inc on Instagram.



CARF

In September 2018, TILL was awarded for the *seventh* consecutive time, a Three-Year Accreditation for our Day Habilitation and Community-based Day Support Programs by CARF International, a nonprofit organization that offers accreditation services and support for health and human services programs.



CARF surveyors, experienced professionals in the field of human services, spent three days visiting program sites and reviewing policies, systems and practices. In their feedback, surveyors noted our clear aspiration to excellence in service delivery, and our person-centered approach to developing goals, and commended us for our leadership, organizational systems and financial management systems. Both surveyors commented positively about our competitive spirit, which leads us to many fun and exciting challenges among staff and the people whom we support.

Thank you to all whose ongoing commitment to quality services resulted in this very successful survey!

Top 100 Women-Led Businesses in Massachusetts

TILL is honored to be named to the Commonwealth Institute's Top 100 Women-Led Businesses in MA for 2018! **For the fourth consecutive year, TILL has earned a place in this celebrated listing amidst leaders in Health Care, Education, Retail and the non-profit sector!** The full list with rankings was announced at the annual Award Celebration and highlighted in the October 28, 2018, Boston Sunday Globe Magazine.



Celebrating this award: Steve Fay, CPA, KLR; Sheree Wynter, TILL Residence Manager; Deb Goodman, Goodman Financial; Dafna Krouk-Gordon, TILL Founder and President; Ashley Ashe, TILL Administrative Assistant; Ronnie Millar, CEO, Irish International Immigrant Center; Martine Pierre, TILL Autism Support Coordinator; Scott Tuxbury, VP, Sapers and Wallace; Svetlana Magao, TILL Residential Coordinator; and Caitlyn Plummer, TILL Residence Manager.

TILL Sports and News Shorts

*T*ILL Games XXIV was held on Saturday, September 8, at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Roxbury, with over 200 athletes competing in a variety of events.



New this year was the TILL Corn Hole Challenge. This event was so well received; it will have its own festival in Spring 2019. **Save the date for our 25th Annual TILL Games to be held on September 7, 2019.**

Last fall, TILL's **Community Connections** department launched **TILL Soccer**, playing at *Danvers Indoor Sports* and the *Easton Fieldhouse*. This inclusive *futbol* experience has been a huge success with players of all abilities participating; with adaptive footguards for

players using motorized or manual wheelchairs, and field partners to maximize team play. We look forward to resuming in the Spring.

In January, the fun continued with TILL Skills, inclusive basketball skills and drills sessions at *Danvers Indoor Sports*.



TILL Education Through Travel created an Irish Adventure for travelers, including members of our Springboard Social Club. The group toured the Cliffs of Moher, the Ring of Kerry, and Dublin, with an exciting day in Belfast reconnecting with friends from previous travels. For more information about TILL Education Through Travel (ETT) contact tilltravel@tillinc.org.



TILL Farms in Westborough held an Open House October 25th to introduce the program to schools and referral sources. Visitors enjoyed seeing the many learning opportunities for farmers-in-training under the guidance of our professional farmer, Jim Stelmokas. For more information about TILL's year-round farm-based program, contact us at info@tillinc.org.



The TILL Wave Gallery is an inclusive space for local artists of all abilities, showcasing local solo and collaborative artists, through exhibits, workshops, and events. Located at 264 Arlington Street, Watertown, the gallery is open Mondays and Fridays 12-6pm, and by appointment. Follow @TILLWaveGallery on facebook for current events, exhibits and calls for art.

TILL Wave Band and International Ambassadors Mix It Up in Germany

In August 2018, members of the TILL Wave Band joined TILL International Ambassadors for an exciting trip to the Neuerkerode Community in Braunschweig, Germany, to partake in their 150th Anniversary Celebration and Music Fest. The TILL Wave Band was honored to open the **Rock an der Wabe** (Rock at the Comb) Music Festival with two original songs by John Stevens and covers of *Across the Universe* and *All My Loving*.

TILL Wave Band musicians John Stevens, Justin Davison, Mike Cardoso, and Ryan Norton, joined Neuerkerode's bands, **Hand-in-Hand** and **The Mix**, Sweden's **Crazy Mike** and **The Mumes** from Denmark in a week-long **Music Unites Europe** event that featured musical workshops and a unique "mixer" where musicians created new bands by switching bandmates to write and perform one or two original songs. The results were amazing, demonstrating teamwork that surpassed differences as each musician contributed to the final result.

TILL's International Ambassadors Judith Benjamin, Dafna Krouk-Gordon, Lana Magao, and Ruyter Bellevue, also spent time with members of the Neuerkerode community, learning about life in this inclusive community. TILL looks forward to continuing our relationship with Neuerkerode and strengthening the connections made with our new friends from Sweden and Denmark!



Toward Independent Living and Learning, Inc.



Help Us Shape the Future Together

TILL, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Your tax-deductible gift helps make our innovative programs and services possible, enhancing the quality of life for the people we support.

TILL is honored to receive donations in memory of a loved one; in recognition of a special person or celebration; whether directed to a specific program or project, or wherever it is most needed.

For more information about bequests or other planned giving opportunities, please contact Dafna Krouk-Gordon, TILL Founder and President, at 781-302-4600 or by email at: dafna@tillinc.org

