

Top 100 Women-Led Businesses in Massachusetts

*T*ILL has been chosen to be among the Top 100 Women-Led Businesses in MA for the third consecutive year by the Commonwealth Institute! TILL placed #34 in this celebrated list amidst leaders in Health Care, Education, Retail and Nonprofit sectors! The ranked list was announced at the annual Award Celebration and highlighted in the October 29, 2017 Boston Globe Magazine.



Celebrating are (l-r seated) Kim Tamaren, Strattus Clinic Director; Laura Molla, C&SS Coordinator; Melissa Lewis, HR Generalist; Eileen Fuentes, Assist. PCM Manager; Allison Reardon, Dir. of Systems Admin.; Rachel Lindberg, Residence Manager (l-r standing) Sharon Kreder, VP Clinical & Support Services; Michelle Marullo, Sr. Day Support Professional; Dafna Krouk-Gordon, TILL Founder and President; and Sarah Fernette, Residence Manager.

Celebrating Milestones

TILL is proud of attracting and retaining talented employees and developing leadership for the future. In September, TILL recognized eighty-two employees who reached milestones of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service with TILL, at our annual Recognition Luncheon.



Business as Usual? Definitely!

We are pleased to share with you news from the second half of 2017 but we also have a lot to look forward to in 2018! Some highlights include:

- Special Guests: Autism Initiatives of Northern Ireland rolled out the red carpet for TILL's Travel Ambassadors last year. This March, we will host our friends and colleagues as they tour programs, and celebrate St. Patrick's Day with us.
- Visionaries Public Television Series Profile: Stay tuned for details of our TILL Premier Launch Party!
- TILL is proud to have developed three residential programs which provide supports for people diagnosed with Acquired Brain Injury (ABI), with a fourth newly constructed home in Dedham opening in 2018!
- TILL's Annual Internal Evaluation gives us an opportunity to receive valuable feedback from families, service-users and staff. In February, we are rolling out a new online format to make it even easier to respond.
- Encouraging growth within our employee base, TILL offers a unique student debt relief program, tuition remission, and tuition reimbursement, and in January, expanded our tuition reimbursement eligibility and increased the reimbursement cap.

Kingsley Brown receives Providers' Council Award of Excellence

Kingsley Brown, Residence Manager for TILL's Brookline home, received the Providers' Council Award of Excellence in recognition of tremendous impact he has had on the lives of the people whom he supports, and his outstanding creativity and continuing willingness to take the step above and beyond to improve the quality of life for all.



Kingsley (center), with his wife, India Brown and Author/Keynote Speaker Steven Pemberton (on left) and his parents, Winston and Vinet Brown (on right), was honored at the Providers' Council Annual Convention on September 25, 2017. Congratulations, Kingsley.

From the President



Dear Friends,
Families, and
Colleagues,

2017 was a very confusing year on many levels. Values and principles that we naively thought were well entrenched in our country's moral fabric seemed to come into question. Divisive language referencing "those people" could be heard once again, more loudly than in the past few decades. One can argue that perhaps attitudes have not really changed in the past 50 years, only behaviors due to legal advances and restrictions. However, regardless of the reason, discriminatory behaviors that had been held in check are now allowed to emerge once again.

Our responsibility as human service professionals is to ensure that the gains that have been made as a result of the hard work of families and professionals alike in the field of disabilities are not dismantled because the political climate is such that there is an acceptance of intolerance.

TILL takes this responsibility seriously. The diversity in our workforce and the diversity in abilities, talents and specialized needs makes our agency stronger. We acknowledge the value that differences bring to any organizational structure. The programs and initiatives you read about in this newsletter are an example of the continued energy and excitement we bring to the field. Our emphasis on international relations and learning through travel and exposure with our new Global partners in Ireland, England, and Germany, to name a few, is testimony to our commitment to learn from others, regardless of their gender, race, religion, ethnicity, and ability. We hope you will continue to be a loyal supporter of TILL as we grow together in the future.

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



TILL Farms Fall Harvest Festival

TILL Farms continues to expand opportunities for learning with the addition of Matilda the Pig, Libby the Goat, 2 chickens and 3 rabbits. These small-breed animals, selected for their sociable temperament, came to us through rescue and rehome programs.



Jim Stelmokas, Farm Manager and John Stevens, Director of Special Projects.

TILL Farms held its first Harvest Festival on Friday, October 27th, joined by guests from TILL's day programs and TILL Centrals for a day of music, activities, games and refreshments. In addition to pumpkin decorating and a corn maze, groups constructed creative scarecrows for display at the Festival, made even more festive with the backdrop of spectacular fall foliage.

A special thank you to Farmer Jim Stelmokas and his great crew for helping to make the day a great success.



Matilda



TILL Games

TILL Games XXIII was held on Saturday, September 9th at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Roxbury. Nearly 200 athletes competed in a variety of events, including sprints, distance, relays, assisted and unassisted walking, and self-propelled and powered wheelchair races. Youth events included the always-entertaining baby crawl and races for all ages.

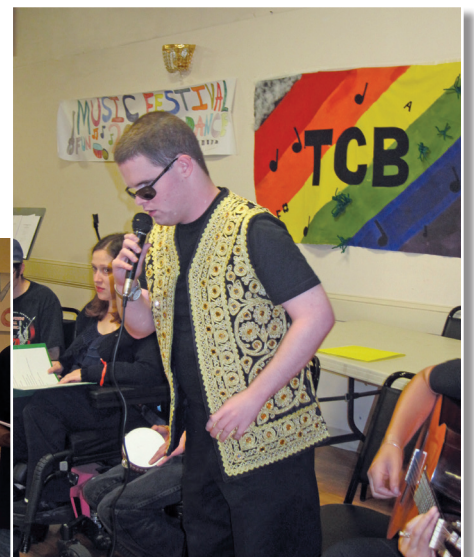
TILL thanks the Friends of TILL Games for their ongoing support; Whole Foods for their healthy snacks to keep our energy high; our Team Members and Fans who make the day a true success; and our Athletes who inspire us with their determination! See you at TILL Games XXIV.



TILL's Music Festival

TILL held its 3rd annual Music Festival on September 22nd at the Tewksbury Elks Lodge. The rainy day was brightened by some amazing performances, meticulously rehearsed by all the Day Program Clusters. The program was highlighted by TILL Central Billerica's performance of Simon and Garfunkel's *Sounds of Silence* and Chelsea Day's performance of *Thinking Out Loud* by Ed Sheeran. Core members of the TILL Wave Band, Emma Rifflemacher and John Stevens provided additional entertainment throughout the event.

With this year's wonderful performances and great success, the annual TILL Music Festival is surely here to stay. Thank you to all the talented staff and individuals who worked so hard to make the day so entertaining.



Holiday Celebrations

Holidays are a special time for celebrating with family and friends. TILL adds to the festivities with unique traditions all our own, including musical singalongs and outrageous holiday hats. Thank You to all who make the holiday celebrations joyful, with a special thanks to merry-makers John Stevens, Director of Special Projects, and Paula Aiesi, Director of Community Connections, for adding to the festivities with holiday music and fun at all 39 celebrations from December to January!



Dear Summer – We Miss You

Here is a look back at some of our favorite activities of Summer!



Thank You for Your 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.

Thank you to all of our generous supporters who have responded to our annual appeal; doubled their donations through Matching Gift programs; and included TILL in their estate planning. For more information, visit www.tillinc.org - Donations.

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