

THE TILL EGRAM

Winter 2021

Toward Independent Living and Learning, Inc.

Celebrating on the Road – TILL Style!

TILL Holiday Celebrations took on a very different spin this year as our Community Connections duo, Paula and Kingsley, took the 12 Days of Christmas and the 8 Nights of Chanukah on the road - *TILL style!*

Paula Aiesi and Kingsley Brown led a vehicle parade of festive revelers to each TILL home to deliver a unique type of outdoor, socially distanced cheer – including live music, baubles and treats, in addition to the traditional calendar and ornament.

The TILL Holiday Parade-O-Visits traveled to each of our 60+ residences and Day Program sites over the month of December to the delight of individuals, families and staff.

Thank you to all who joined in the fun to make this year’s festivities special!



From the President



Despite this year's challenges, we can't forget to enjoy the light-hearted moments, as we did with our annual Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest.

Dear Friends, Families, and Colleagues,

2020 was a year like none other. It brought out the best in us and the worst in us as we experienced seismic events in injustice and inequality in our society. It also set the stage for righting some of those wrongs and forcing us to face our humanity as a society. TILL, like every other business, faced many challenges as we constantly balanced the needs of our essential staff with the difficult decisions needed to manage the agency and keep it strong and ready for the future

and all the while keeping safety as our first priority. It was a year in which decisions had to be made quickly and in which hard news had to be delivered while being empathetic to the struggles so many were experiencing.

Extraordinary circumstances call for extraordinary measures. TILL has stayed strong during these trying times as a result of the stability and resilience of our workforce, a dedicated management team committed to TILL's mission and culture, an attitude of flexibility to change and adapt as needed, and an ability to combine reality with optimism.

We have never been as separated yet as connected as we are in these times. TILL is taking advantage of the opportunity to connect, to share new experiences *alone together at home* as we come through these difficult times. I want to remember this year as the one that set the stage for social change and for creating new opportunities for the people we support in 2021.

Best wishes for a wonderful and healthy new year - our resilience will prevail as we continue to work together.

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.



TILL Selected as Beacon Preferred Provider



TILL's Autism ABA Services has been selected as a preferred provider of Autism services with Beacon Health Options, a Boston-based leader in behavioral health management, serving 40 million people across all 50 states.

TILL offers Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy for children and adults, with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. ABA is an evidence-based therapy that teaches how to increase positive behavior when reducing negative behavior by breaking tasks into small teachable skills and reinforcing the person for demonstrating these skills. Therapists and instructors work with the entire family to integrate ABA techniques into everyday life.

TILL Again in Top 100



TILL is proud to join the ranks of the Top 100 Women Led Businesses in Massachusetts by the Commonwealth Institute for the 6th consecutive year. Congratulations, to TILL's Founder and President, Dafna Krouk-Gordon!

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

Across our 60+ TILL locations, individuals and staff are receiving the first round of the COVID-19 vaccine, administered by local CVS pharmacists.

We are proud to do our part to end the pandemic and protect the people we serve, as we work together to make our communities safer. We are *Shaping our Future Together*.



TILL's Chelsea Day Program Team poses with their CVS Pharmacist.

Team TILL joins the Digital Dash

TILL was honored to be selected as a participant and fundraising recipient of **OneDigital Dash**, an annual race sponsored by **OneDigital Health & Benefits** to benefit organizations nominated by their local and regional offices. This year's race went virtual.

TILL was nominated by **Mike Ward, Senior Managing Principal of OneDigital Health & Benefits of Massachusetts**, TILL's health and benefits broker and a longtime TILL supporter. TeamTILL, along with 3 other non-profits, competed as **#TeamNewEngland**, logging exercise time and miles online as team members virtually raced to landmarks across the U.S. **TeamTILL** logged a total of 645.7 miles with daily exercise - walking, running, yoga and other fitness activities - **contributing nearly half of Team New England's 1292.5 miles!** TeamTILL included 11 residential and 2 day program teams of individuals/staff, and 9 individual employees.

Goodman Advisory Group, our financial advisors, kindly sponsored **TeamTILL**, contributing the entry donation for each Digital Dash participant, as well as awards and recognition, with a matching donation from **LPL Financial**. Thank you to our partners at **Blue Cross Blue Shield Massachusetts**, **Delta Dental of Massachusetts**, **One Digital New England**, and **Goodman Advisory Group** for their generous support of TILL's mission.



TILL Wave Gallery News

The TILL Wave Gallery has opened a new Call for Art for their March Pop-Up Exhibit **"Puzzle Me This."** Join us on March 1, 2021, for the Virtual Opening Reception from 4-7pm. For details, visit till-wave.org
Art for All - Art by All

Proper Bostonian Quilters Donation

TILL was honored and delighted to receive twelve beautifully handcrafted lap quilts from the Proper Bostonian Quilters Guild. Each quilt is a unique piece of art, in a variety of stunning styles, patterns and colors. These cozy quilts have been greatly appreciated by each of the men and women who received them, as can be seen in several of our holiday photos.

Thank you to the Proper Bostonian Quilters for your thoughtful generosity!



Now, More Than Ever

Direct Support Professional (DSP) Recognition Month is celebrated in September, and there has never been a better time to thank our Direct Support and Relief Staff and all TILL staff members, whose contributions support and enrich people's lives every single day.

In December, the Caring Force began a campaign to thank human service workers and bring public awareness to our workforce. TILL joined member agencies, proudly displaying 100 lawn signs in our many locations throughout Massachusetts and New Hampshire, as a visual 'shout out' to our essential staff.



Thank You for Your Support

Thank you to all of our generous supporters who have responded to our Annual Appeal; doubled their donations through Matching Gift programs; and reached out to us throughout this unprecedented time. We are in this together and we are moving forward, together.



TILL's Holiday Parade-O-Visits Bring Socially-Distanced Cheer!

