



Your Access Advocates (formerly CLW)

Center for Living & Working, Inc., is thrilled to announce our new name, **Your Access Advocates, Inc.**, as of March 1, 2026. We will continue to provide the exemplary services you have come to expect from us over the past 50 years. We believe our new name and new brand better exemplifies the breadth of individuals we serve and the services we provide.



As part of our 50th anniversary we took time to listen to consumers, staff, volunteers, and partners. What we heard was clear: access, choice, and dignity matter more than ever. Our new name reflects that. We do not change people to fit a plan; we build plans around the individual's choices.

Our mission, staff, and leadership is not changing and our commitment to independence and choice remains.

Our new website is www.youraccessadvocates.org. You can find us on all Social Media Platforms under our new handle "Your Access Advocates". Our telephone numbers and address remain the same.

We look forward to continuing our relationship with you for the next 50 years as Your Access Advocates.

What is "Your Access Advocates"?

Your Access Advocates is our new name. It reflects how we work: by listening, supporting choice, and advocating for what people need to move forward.

Why did the name change?

As part of our 50th anniversary, we took time to listen to consumers, staff, volunteers, and partners. What we heard was clear: access, choice, and dignity matter more than ever. Our new name reflects that.

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A resource and advocacy center for independent living serving people with disabilities and the Deaf & hard of hearing in Central Massachusetts.

Voice: (508) 798-0350 • Toll Free: (800) 570-4020 • VP: (508) 762-1164 • TTY: (508) 755-1003 • Fax: (508) 797-4015
18 Chestnut St. Suite 540, Worcester, MA 01608 • Website: youraccessadvocates.org

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What does “Your Access Advocates” mean?

It means we work alongside people — not telling them what to do, but helping them access options, make choices, and advocate for what matters to them. We don't change people to fit a plan, we build plans around the individual

Is anything changing for consumers?

No. Our services, programs, and people are the same. This is a name change not a change in who we are or how we support you.

Was the organization bought or taken over?

No. We are the same organization with the same mission, staff, and commitment. This is an evolution, not a replacement.

What's staying the same?

- Our mission
- Our staff and leadership
- Our commitment to dignity, independence, and choice
- Our consumer-directed approach

What's new?

- A name that better reflects our role as advocates
- A clearer focus on access, choice, and inclusion
- A stronger voice for the people we serve

Boston Reads at Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Stephanie Hakulin, the first Black Deaf woman president of the NAD, joined Horace Mann School to read with our students in ASL, supported by the amazing Boston Reads program. Literacy is most powerful when it's shared in your native language.

Huge thanks to MCDHH/MA, Boston Public Schools, and City of Boston Mayor's Office of Early Childhood for making this happen!

Read more about the program:

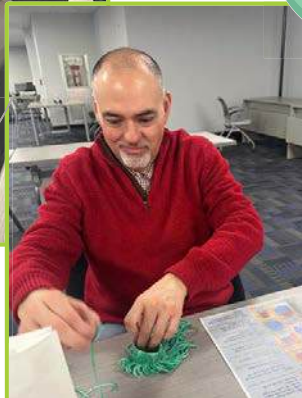
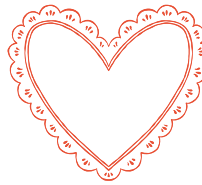
www.boston.gov/departments/early-childhood/boston-reads



Valentine's Party

On February 12th DHILS staff and consumers gathered to celebrate Valentine's Day. We did a "Winter Gnome" craft and played a couple of rounds of Bingo. Everyone also enjoyed the snacks and beverages provided.

Happy
Valentine's
Day



What is a Junk Journal?

A junk journal is a handmade book made from recycled, reused, or "found" materials, that you use to store memories, thoughts, or art/collages.

Junk journals may include:

- Materials: Reused paper, tea-stained pages, ticket stubs, greeting cards, and fabric scraps.
- Purpose: They are personalized, one-of-a-kind books used for memory keeping, art journaling, or daily planning.
- Style: Often rustic or vintage, but fully designed by the maker.
- Creation: They can include collages, painting, writing, and sometimes sewing.
- No Rules: There is no "right" way to make one; it is a creative outlet, not a perfect product.



RSVP to come April 21st to make your own Junk Journal with DHILS! See flier in Events.

Ready for Tax Time?

Before your tax appointment, check that you have all the right forms and bring them with you to your tax appointment!



- ✓ Photo IDs
- ✓ 2024 Tax Return
- ✓ 2025 W2s
- ✓ 2025 1098
- ✓ 2025 Rent paid
- ✓ College Tuition & Fees Loan Interest
- ✓ Drivers (Uber, Lyft or another company): List of mileage and expenses
- ✓ Social Security Cards (or ITIN if no SSN)
- ✓ A check (with your bank account & routing #s)
- ✓ 2025 1099 (R, INT, DIV, B, G)
- ✓ 2025 SSA-1099
- ✓ 2025 Health Insurance (1095-A, 1095-B, 1095-C)



SPRING
IS COMING



March AWARENESS

MARCH 1: NATIONAL PIG DAY

- Recognizes the domesticated pig.
- Pigs are smart animals.
- There are hundreds of different breeds.
- A female pig is called a gilt or sow.



MARCH 8: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME



- Second Sunday in March.
- You turn clocks ahead 1 hour near the start of spring. Then, turn them back 1 hour in the fall.

MARCH 11: JOHNNY APPLESEED DAY

- Born John Chapman on September 26, 1774, in Leominster, Massachusetts.
- He nurtured the land and made apple trees bloom across the U.S.



MARCH 20: FIRST DAY OF SPRING



- Spring starts on the March or vernal equinox, when the amount of sunshine is approximately 12 hours long.
- Days grow longer, flowers bloom, and nature wakes up from its winter sleep.

MARCH 28: BLACK FOREST CAKE DAY

- 'Black Forest cake' is the English name for the German dessert **Schwarzwaldor Kirschtorte**, meaning "Black Forest cherry torte".
- The cake is named after the liquor (Schwarzwaldor Kirschwasser) of the region of the Black Forest (Schwarzwald) mountain range in southwestern Germany.





Worcester Parent Guide to Community Resources
[CLICK HERE FOR ENGLISH GUIDE](#)



Missed a Newsletter?
Past issues are on our website!
[CLICK HERE](#)



Updated Therapists for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Directory
[CLICK HERE](#)

Questions? Contact your Skills Trainer

Joan Philip	<i>DHILS Director</i>	508-762-1165 (VP)
Priscilla Langone	<i>DHILS Administrative Assistant</i>	508-556-1600 (VP)
Ellen Perkins	<i>DHILS Asst. Manager/Hard of Hearing Skills Trainer</i>	508-502-7576 (Voice); 508-762-1354 (VP)
Rosemary Moreira	<i>Senior Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-time)</i>	508-762-1166 (VP)
Denise Paro	<i>Deaf Skills Trainer (Part-time)</i>	508-762-1021 (VP)
Vacant	<i>Deaf Skills Trainer (Full-time)</i>	
Vacant	<i>Deaf Skills Trainer (Part-time)</i>	
Kim White	<i>Staff Interpreter</i>	508-755-1042 (Voice); 508-283-1036 (VP)



Videophone: 508-762-1164
TTY: 508-755-1003

www.youraccessadvocates.org



YAA: www.facebook.com/YourAccessAdvocates
DHILS Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/yaa.dhils/>

