



## WAYS TO GIVE

You can help people of all ages with a disability live independently in their community by donating in one of the following ways:

### One-Time or Monthly Gifts

Your one-time or monthly gift provides essential resources and services for our consumers who don't qualify for other sources of support or have unmet needs.

### Memory or Honorary Gifts

You can honor a loved one, friend or colleague by donating in their memory or honor. Your gift will be acknowledged to the individual and/or family.

### Events

Join us as a sponsor, volunteer or donor (in-kind or financial) at one of our events. NILP hosts events throughout the year that are open to the public.

### Matching Gifts or Workplace Giving

Some employers will match your donation or offer to withhold a portion of your paycheck and donate it to NILP. Ask your human resources department if they participate in matching gift or workplace giving programs. Our tax identification number is 04-2701631.

### Planned Gifts

Leave a legacy by including NILP in your will or trust or naming us as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy, retirement account, charitable gift annuity or donor-advised fund. These gifts can be arranged through your financial advisor or attorney.

### To Donate:

- Send a check to NILP, 20 Ballard Road, Lawrence, MA 01843
- Donate online at [www.nilp.org](http://www.nilp.org)

For questions, contact Candice Pechilis, Director of Development at (978) 687-4288 ext. 165 or [cpechilis@nilp.org](mailto:cpechilis@nilp.org).

### Thank you for your support!

The Northeast Independent Living Program relies on the ongoing support of individuals, companies, foundations and organizations. We are tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to NILP are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Member of the ADRC of Merrimack Valley



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Statewide Independent Living Council (MASILC)



20 Ballard Road, Lawrence, MA 01843  
35 John Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA 01852  
Tel: 978-687-4288 (V/TTY) Fax: 978-689-4488  
[www.nilp.org](http://www.nilp.org)



Peer2Peer Resources for  
People with Disabilities



We Are connecting people with possibilities.

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019



## Letter from the CEO

I am amazed by our organizations' resiliency that, indeed, matches our Consumer's resiliency. These are times that demand such dramatic shifts of thinking about how to ensure that our grassroots, consumer driven organization manages to stay true to our mission and values while being a partner in a complex healthcare system environment. In this climate of numerous non-profit mergers; sustainability, is often measured by growth. NILP has continued to sustain, grow and ensure the consumer advocacy role is always at the center of any our leadership decisions.

As I reflect on this past year, I will highlight NILP's successes to share with folks. Success is measured by our increased outreach and services to individuals living with a disability in our communities.

- NILP celebrated our 1st year Anniversary at our Lowell Office. Each NILP Program is fully staffed in Lowell. Our Northeast Recovery Learning Community (NERLC) has a site office there, in addition to their Malden and Lynn offices, as well.
- NILP expands its ADA Consulting Services – Jim Lyons has led his team to advance the efforts to provide more ADA Transition Plans for cities and towns. His tenured experience and reputation afford NILP the opportunity to create pathways to ADA compliance to improve access for our citizens in the Commonwealth. One example is the City of Lowell as they chose Jim and his team to conduct a full ADA audit of their city owned buildings, spaces and even parking garages.
- NILP and its Board of Directors have taken a leap of faith to fully engage in the new MassHealth Reform Initiative with Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs). We have completed our first full year as an Affiliated Partner with Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley to serve as a Long-Term Services and Supports Community Partner (LTSS CP) for people enrolled in MassHealth Managed Care Programs. We are working with 9 ACOs and 2 Managed Care Organizations in the Merrimack Valley.
- NILP Selected as a MassHealth Technical Assistance Provider. NILP's Education Division, The Training and Learning Collaborative, is one of only 47 Vendors (including National and International Companies) selected to provide Consulting, Training and Technical Assistance to ACOs and LTSS CPs across the Commonwealth.

We continue to share our focus, advocacy and talented staff within our disability community to honor our past and protect our future.

Sincerely,

June C. Sauvageau, NILP Chief Executive Officer



## Letter from the President of the Board of Directors

As a member of the Board for the past several years it has been exciting to see the continual growth and success of NILP. The organization continues to expand its programs and services supporting those with disabilities and assisting them with regaining or retaining an independent lifestyle. As in past years, we have experienced significant growth and remain financially stable. As an employer in both the Greater Lawrence and Lowell communities, the number of employees and opportunities for advanced positions continues to grow.

The Board continues to evolve. All members bring different perspectives most importantly they demonstrate a strong desire to support continual improvement of our organization. As we enter into our 40th year, we will expand our fund raising efforts and look forward to introducing new and special events.

On behalf of the NILP Board of Directors, we remain enthusiastic and committed to growth and success as we serve our consumers and community.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. McNeil  
President



*"We remain enthusiastic and committed to growth and success as we serve our consumers and community."*

### FY' 2018 NILP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TEAM

June Cowen Sauvageau, CEO  
Lisa DiGiuseppe, CFO  
Nanette Goodwin, Assistant Director

Meghan McCann, Associate Director  
Jennifer D'Amore, Director of Operations

### FY' 2018 PROGRAM DIRECTORS / MANAGERS

Jim Lyons, Director, Community Development & Advocacy  
Helina Fontes, Director, Recovery Learning Community  
Mark Wheeler, Director, Marketing & Communications  
Alicia Thyne, Director, Youth Services & Employment  
Matt Pellegrino, Director, Long Term Services & Supports  
Justine Carlton, Director of PCA & Clinical Supports

Mike Berggren, Director, NERLC Operations  
Jennifer Howell, Manager, Community Supports  
Rowan DeAza, Manager, Youth Services  
Suzanne McNamara, Nurse Manager  
Amanda Orfanos, Manager, NERLC North Shore & Lynn HUB  
Rachely Ramos, Manager, Metro North/Acton HUB

### FY' 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Chris McNeil - **President**  
David Bradburn - **Vice President**  
Lisa Visone - **Treasurer**  
Jeff Wilson - **Clerk**

Mark Kelly (Serving Board Nominee)  
Kevin Hatch  
Kathleen Mulligan  
David Ellingson  
Sid Harris



## OUR COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

### Our Mission

The Northeast Independent Living Program, Inc. is a consumer controlled Independent Living Center providing advocacy and services to people with all disabilities who wish to live independently in the community.

### Our Philosophy

Independent Living philosophy states that individuals with disabilities are the best determinants of their own needs and service choices. Through role modeling and peer counseling, with other individuals with disabilities, they become empowered to make changes in their lives and become more self-sufficient and self-reliant.

### Our Vision

Northeast Independent Living Program is known throughout the state for helping individuals regain and retain their independence and equality in the community through *Information & Referral, Advocacy, Skills Training, Peer Counseling and Transitions*. We are a community of people who open doors to create an all-inclusive community free of communication, attitudinal, economic and architectural barriers for all people with disabilities.

## WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2020

- Expanded Pre-Employment Youth Services into the Fitchburg area; in addition, to our Lawrence and Lowell area.
- The Recovery Learning Community (RLC) offers increased Certified Older Adult Peer Services in the North Shore, Malden and Merrimack Valley.
- The NILP Education Division, Training and Learning Collaborative, plans on developing additional disability awareness and cultural competence coursework in both online and hybrid formats.
- Our NILP Community will be generating a lot of buzz this year in anticipation of our 40th Anniversary Gala. Save the Date: Saturday, October 24th, 2020 at the Blue Ocean Event Center in Salisbury.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR IN 2020

- Annual Golf Tournament for Independence, Merrimack Valley Golf Club, Methuen, MA, June 12th
- Legislative Forum, Mass School of Law, March 27th
- NILP 40th Anniversary Gala Celebration, October 24th



“I want to thank NILP for all the help in guiding me to the health care I needed in Massachusetts. Their excellent professionalism and caring manner made the whole process understandable and doable.”

NILP Consumer

## NILP OFFERS FIVE BASIC CORE SERVICES

### Information and Referral

NILP staff provides information and resources to people living with disabilities and the community about accessible services and supports.

### Peer Support

As a peer run organization, we provide peer mentoring and peer counseling support services on an individual basis or in group settings.

### Skills Training

May include instruction to develop independent living skills in areas such as: personal care, budgeting, social skills, housing search, employment readiness and travel training.

### Advocacy

Individual assistance and/or systems advocacy for people living with a disability to gain access to benefits, services and support programs.

### Transitions Services

We facilitate the transition of people with disabilities from nursing homes and other facilities to home and community based living with the necessary support services to help them live independently. We also support the transition of youth with disabilities into higher education, the workforce and the community.





“Thank you NILP for being an invaluable safety net. Having a disability can be isolating and overwhelming. Your agency is like a beacon. Your employees are stars!”

NILP Consumer

## NILP PROGRAMS



### Northeast Recovery Learning Community (NERLC)

NERLC provides welcoming, safe, understanding, judgement-free spaces where individuals of diverse backgrounds can gather for healing and growth. We are a community of peers in recovery from mental health challenges, addiction and or traumatic life experiences. The NERLC’s peer specialists support individuals on their journeys to obtaining and maintaining wellness in a variety of ways, including: 1:1 peer support, self-directed recovery-oriented trainings, peer support groups, advocacy and through an array of community events and activities. We serve 69 cities and towns throughout the Northeast region and have offices in the following locations: Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn and Malden.



### Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) – One Care Program

MassHealth’s One Care program is entering its sixth year and NILP has served as an LTSS provider since the program’s inception. Our LTSS Coordinators work with One Care plan members to identify resources and services in the community that promote independence, wellness and recovery goals. Every member has the right to choose to have an LTSS Coordinator on their care team to act as an independent advocate to provide expertise on community resources that may be available to them.



### Title VII Part B Funding

NILP has access to limited funding through the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which may be provided to individuals with disabilities to assist them in achieving goals related to living independently in the community. This funding can be used to obtain such things as home modifications, vehicle modifications, assistive technology, etc.

### Merrimack Valley Aging and Disability Resource

The ADRC is a collaboration between NILP and Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley that has a “no wrong door” entry point of service for people with disabilities and elders looking to access community-based services. A specialized service provided under the ADRC is Options Counseling, an interactive, short-term decision-support process that involves providing individuals with information about the full range of public and private resources, services, and settings available in their community of choice.



### Community Supports

Our Community Supports (CS) services assist people with disabilities in navigating the process of obtaining benefits and services on their path to living independently in the community. Providing Information & Referral, Peer Counseling, Skills Training, and Advocacy, individuals are able to apply and search for affordable and accessible housing, apply for benefits such as MassHealth and Social Security, or acquire assistive technology.



### Personal Care Assistance Program (PCA)

The PCA Program is essential for thousands of persons with disabilities who choose to live independently. The program is consumer controlled and the person receiving the services manages it or with the assistance of a surrogate of their choice. PCA consumers can receive assistance with activities of daily living such as bathing, eating, or dressing. Currently 2,200 consumers are benefiting from our PCA services and every day the program increases.





## NILP PROGRAMS

### Youth Services Program

The Youth Services Program serves youth ages 14-22 with disabilities. We work with students individually and in group settings to develop independent living skills such as: employability, improve communication skills and strengthen their social skills. Students gain a sense of empowerment and responsibility by working on their personal goals while they begin their transition to adulthood.



## NILP HOSTED SOME WONDERFUL EVENTS IN FY' 2019



### Annual Meeting and Open House

NILP held a successful Annual Meeting & Open House on October, 24, 2018, at its' Lawrence office location. Approximately, 100 people attended this event including consumers, local community organization members, State Officials, staff members, and others. The meeting portion was a good opportunity to update everyone about NILP, voting in new Board members, announcing this years' award winners, and more. After the meeting, attendees toured our program offices to learn more about our services as well as networked with staff.



We are proud to be a part of the Merrimack Valley Community Partnership (MVCP): Northeast Independent Living Program and Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley

### The Long-Term Services and Supports Community Partners (LTSS CP)

The Long-Term Services and Supports Community Partners (LTSS CP) is a program offered by your MassHealth health plan. The LTSS CP was created to better help you find local services and benefits to help improve your independence and wellbeing. The Merrimack Valley Community Partnership (MVCP) was formed to provide these services in the Greater Merrimack Valley. If you enroll in the program, MVCP will assign you a LTSS CP Care Coordinator/ Navigator (CP/ Navigator). Your CP/Navigator will meet with you and your primary care doctor, create a plan, and help you get the services and supports you need to better live independently in the community. Participation in a LTSS CP program will not affect other services you receive.

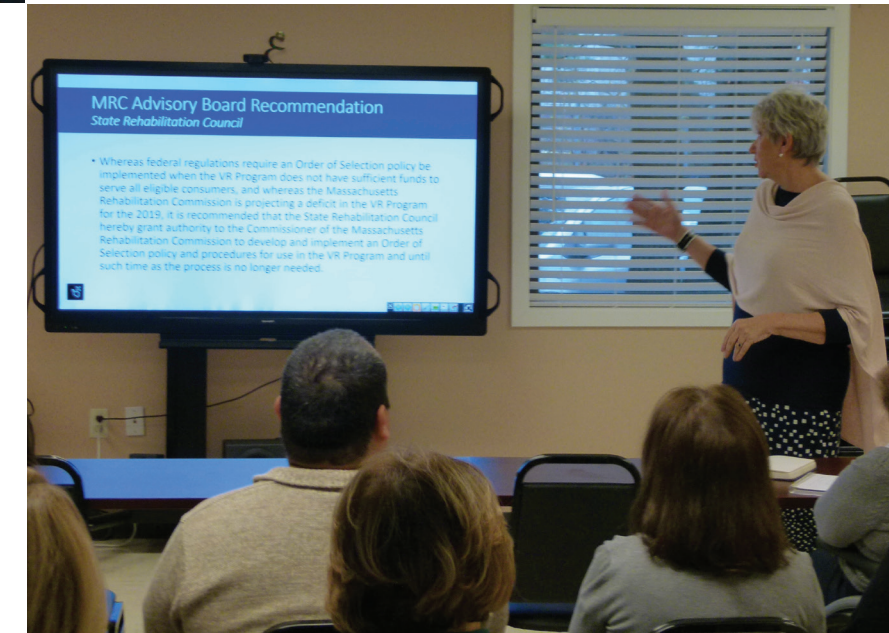


#### Access to services or benefits including:

- Access to a device that helps you communicate
- Access to a wheelchair to get around
- Help preparing meals or shopping
- Help managing your medications
- Help finding accessible transportation to get to appointments and other places
- Training, support and education to help meet your goals

### MRC Community Listening Session

NILP hosted a MRC (Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission) Community Listening Session at our Lawrence office on November 19, 2018. This meeting was led by MRC Commissioner, Toni Wolf, and included a discussion with the community stakeholders and consumers about how consumers receive services and supports on their path towards employment and how MRC partners with agencies and providers in the area.



### Disability Integration Act

NILP held a Disability Integration Act (DIA) Watch Party Celebration led by Mary Margaret Moore, Disability Advocate, and NILP staff members, Jim Lyons, Sheila Hegarty, and Mark Wheeler. This event was held in conjunction with a national live stream hosted by ADAPT and featured, the re-introduction of the DIA bill to Congress on January 15, 2019. Several consumers, legislators, and legislative aides gathered to watch this event transmitted from Washington D.C. and participated in a group discussion.



## NILP HOSTED SOME WONDERFUL EVENTS IN FY' 2019



### Annual Legislative Forum

One of our most successful and comprehensive self-advocacy events this year was our Annual Legislative Forum. ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Consortium) Partners, NILP and ESMV (Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley), held the Forum on March 22, 2019, at the Mass School of Law in Andover. We continued our tradition of connecting legislators with their consumers with disabilities. Many consumers shared their stories of struggles and successes which captivated attendees. Thanks to the strength of our consumers, people learned more about the disability experience. Over 120 people attended including Consumers, State Legislators, Legislative Aides, Community Organizations, Staff Members, and more. Thanks to all who participated in this event to make it such a success.

### Training and Learning Collaborative (TLC)

NILP's education division, TLC, delivered community and systems education to bring about physical, attitudinal, and systemic change. We heightened awareness in our community about the ADA, Federal Fair Housing, IDEA, and other civil rights laws. TLC provided 30 trainings. Some of our clients included: UnitedHealthcare, Mystic Valley Elder Services, and the Town of Groton. Our ADA technical assistance provided numerous facility access assessments at sites such as: The City of Lowell, Veasey Memorial Park, and the Town of Groveland.



### Annual Golf Tournament for Independence

NILP held its' Annual Golf Tournament for Independence on June 14, 2019, at the beautiful Merrimack Valley Golf Club in Methuen. 72 registered golfers, along with other guests participated in this annual fundraising event. After a fun day of golf, guests enjoyed a buffet luncheon and took part in a raffle and a lively auction. All proceeds from this event helped to support the NILP Independence Fund which allows more people with disabilities to realize their dream of living independently in the community. A big thank you goes out to all of the sponsors, donors, volunteers, and others for their support in helping to make this event a success!



## FINANCIALS

The Northeast Independent Living Program, Inc.  
Statements of Financial Position as of June 30, 2019 & 2018

	<b>Assets</b>	
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 862,704	\$ 802,295
Accounts Receivable	839,512	525,425
Prepaid Expenses	25,413	21,548
Property and Equipment - net	657,315	697,012
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>\$ 2,384,944</u>	<u>\$ 2,046,280</u>
	<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 83,604	\$ 69,947
Accrued Expenses	149,878	141,711
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt	15,915	15,302
Long-Term Debt	<u>367,115</u>	<u>382,427</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	616,512	609,387
<b>Net Assets</b>		
With Donor Restrictions		
Unrestricted	1,768,431	1,436,894
Designated by the Board for Operating Reserve	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
	1,768,431	1,436,894
With Donor Restrictions	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	1,768,431	1,436,894
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<u>\$ 2,384,944</u>	<u>\$ 2,046,280</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.  
\*Financials are in draft format and are subject to change.

### Grants & Partnerships

- Disability Law Center (DLC)
- Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley (ESMV)
- Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES)
- Career Resource Center (CRC)
- Disability Policy Consortium (DPC)
- Easter Seals
- Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD)

### Major Funding Sources

- Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC)
- Department of Mental Health (DMH)
- Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS)
- Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOA)



## STAFF AND VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

### FY' 2019 Volunteers

Lisa Arsenault	Meredith Fioner	Anthony Leahy	Eric Pearson
Meredith Askins	Meredith Fisher	Martha Leen	Marcela Rizzo
Annmarie Beuparlant	Yuki Gavin	Luz Leonard	Sampson Rek
Holly Belanger	Daniel T. Gibbons	Jessica Long	Henry H. Mendoza Silverio
Armand Buonanno	Shantey Gonzalez	Tyler Lu	Christine Silverstein
Paul Castiglione	Sid Harris	Laura Marsan	Bonnie Sisson
Lisa Crider	Sandy Jennings	Andrew McGinty	Barbara Stambaugh
Shaquille DeLaCruz	Ellen Jordan	Methuen High School	Christine Tardiff
Ana DeLeon	Mark Kelly	Russ Morrill	Robyn Vaillancourt
Rosemary Dunlop	Blanca Kooken	Ruth Ortiz	Lisa Visone

### FY' 2019 Interns

Ryan Balachandran	Krittika Chakraborty	Jeanette Giusto	Johnathan Texter	Jonathan Valdez
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### Outstanding Effort Awards

**ADA Champion Award** – was presented to **Mary Ann Nay, ADA Coordinator, Town of Boxford** for her commitment and dedication to ensuring the rights of people with disabilities and support of our mission.

**Community Partnership Award** – was presented to **Taryn Mercado, Case Manager for DMH Lowell Site Office**, for her commitment to independent living and support of our mission to improving the lives of people with disabilities.

**Long-term Board Member Award** – was presented to **Jami Cope** posthumously for her leadership, tenacity and commitment to improving the lives of people with disabilities.

**Outstanding Leadership Award** – **June Sauvageau** received this award in recognition of her ten years of dedication, commitment and leadership as CEO of NILP.

**Outstanding Leadership Award** – **Eric Pearson** received this award in recognition of his years of service and leadership as a member and President of the Board of Directors.

**Staff 110% Award** – **Gary Cormier** received this award for his outstanding and dedicated work at NILP.

**Volunteer Award** – **Chris Nadai** received this award for his outstanding and dedicated work as a volunteer and supporter of our mission.

### Years of Service Awards

**30 Year Service Award** – was presented to **Judy DeJesus** with sincere appreciation for her loyalty, diligence and outstanding performance.

**10 Year Service Award** – was awarded to **Vida Whitcomb** with sincere appreciation for her loyalty, diligence and outstanding performance.

**5 Year Service Award** – was presented to **Lisa DiGiuseppe, Meghan McCann, Steve Michelson** and **Amanda Cordero** with sincere appreciation for their loyalty, diligence, and outstanding performance.



### IN MEMORIAM

Dagoberto Ajanel	Denise Del Rosario Castanos	Victoria Greer	Amalia Ortiz
Shaland Allison	Leah Deveau	Joanna Hernandez	Yen Oun
Herminia Aviles	Noreen Emmett	Jose L. Hernandez	Sylvio Phillips
Heidi Bouchard	Michael Fogarty	Cheryl Hodgkins	Jose A. Rodriguez
Rita Bourquin	Alexandra Gadowski	Philip Kamal	Luz G. Rodriguez
Catherine Burke	Glenn Gardner	Raymond Latulippe	Susana Roman Soto
Ramona Canela	Justiniano Gomez Gonzalez	Ponciano Matos	Jose Roman
John Carbonneau	Concepcion Gonzalez	Joseph P. McGrath	Martha Santana
Paul Cloutier		Christine McNulty	Anna St. Pierre
Judith A. Dadak		Kathleen Murphy	Ramire Villa



**Desinet (Desi) Flores Crespo** had many passions in life, among them were singing, dancing, cooking, and her Boston Sports Teams. Desi was a very active member of the church and was part of the choir. A graduate of Greater Lowell Technical High School, Desi furthered her education at The Holden Medical Institute as well as the Slater School for Health Aid. She loved helping people and joined NILP in June 2018 as a PCA Skills Specialist in our Lowell office. Above all, Desi's first love was family, especially her children.



“As a blind person with disabilities, I want to thank NILP for the excellent support they provided for me during a difficult time in my life. They assisted in providing me with transportation as well as enrolling me in a program that gave me the technology necessary to manage my diabetes.”

NILP Consumer

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## SPONSORS AND DONORS

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99 Restaurants

Appleby & Wyman

Asahi-America

Assisted Living Locators

Bates Insurance, Medford

Bill Harmuth

Boston Center for Independent Living

Cape Organization for Rights of the Disabled

CBG Benefits

Chelmsford Dental

CLASS Inc.

CME Energy

Commonwealth Care Alliance

Community InRoads

Community Teamwork Inc.

Conlins Pharmacy

Conway Scenic Railroad

Costco Wholesale

Disability Resource Center

Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, Inc

Element Care

Emanio Creative

Enterprise Bank

Gary & Lynn Hale

Hanover Insurance

Herb Chambers Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Danvers

HIRSCH ROBERTS WEINSTEIN

Indian Ridge Country Club

J Brian's Pub & Grille

Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches of Lowell

Joe Trocki

Kevin Hatch

Lenzi's Catering

Long Term Pharmacy Solutions, Inc

Lowell Five

Lowell Housing Authority

Lowell Spinners

Massachusetts School of Law

Merrimack Valley Credit Union

Mike Sullivan

mobilityworks

Moore Staffing

N-Tek, Inc.

Opportunity Works, Inc.

Outback Steakhouse

Paul and Jeanette Sullivan

Pawtucket Red Sox

Phil Lemire

Picture Guys

Pinnacle Private Wealth

Pro Tire & Tune

QPL Inc., & The Image Group

Resource Connection

Riverside Press

RUMBO

Salem Co-operative Bank

Senior Whole Health

Showcase Cinemas

The Cabot Performing Arts Center

The Irish Cottage

The Savings Bank

Tompkins Corporation

Tuscan Brands

UMASS Lowell Conf. Center

Union Office Interiors/Supply

United Health Care

Walmart

Wood Be Creation

*We Are connecting people with possibilities.*