



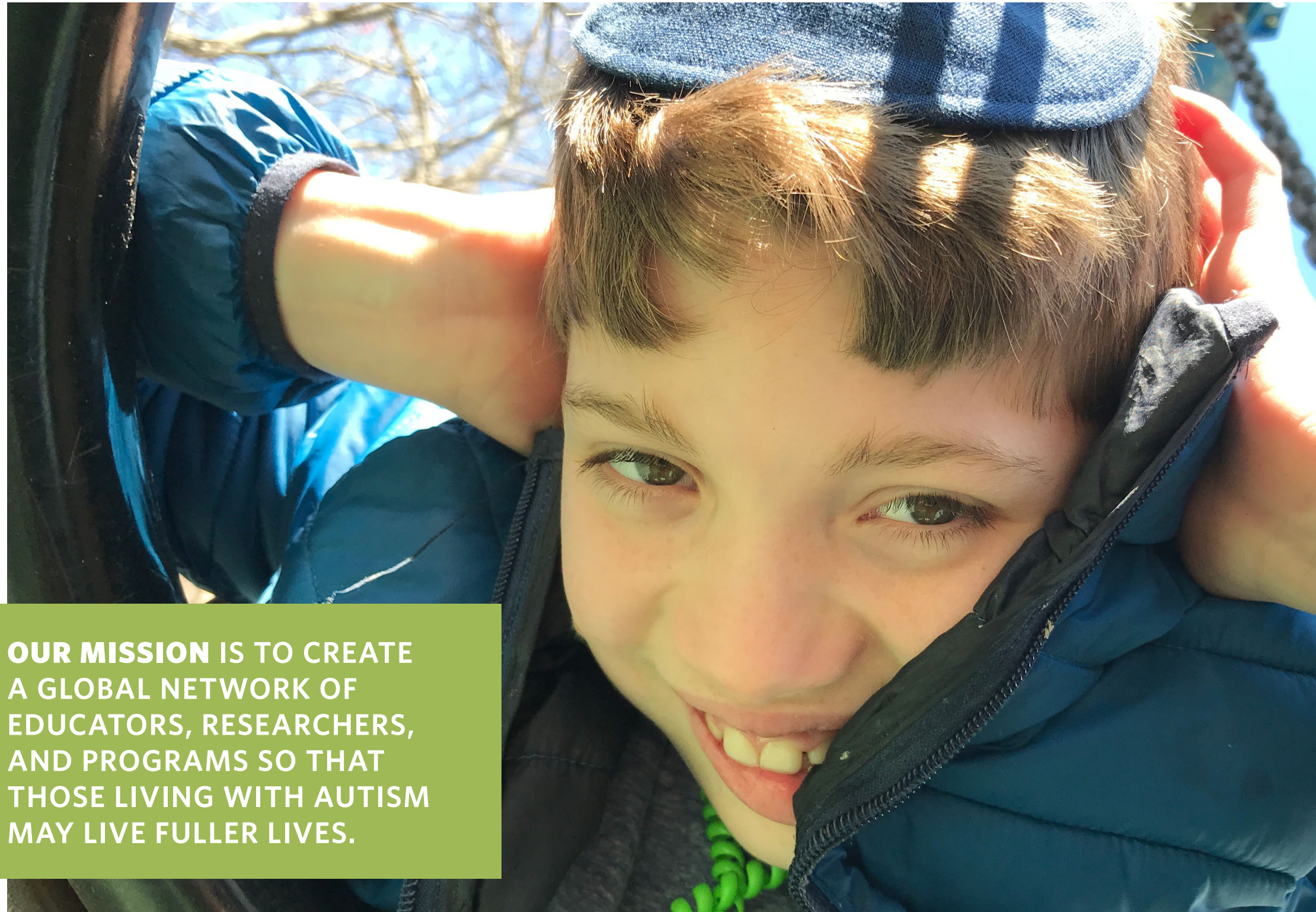
THE NEW ENGLAND CENTER FOR CHILDREN ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2021



The New England Center
for Children®
Autism Education and Research

July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021



**OUR MISSION IS TO CREATE
A GLOBAL NETWORK OF
EDUCATORS, RESEARCHERS,
AND PROGRAMS SO THAT
THOSE LIVING WITH AUTISM
MAY LIVE FULLER LIVES.**



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A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO



Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the 2021 fiscal year, I can honestly say that while it has been fraught with many challenges - a global pandemic, civil unrest, and a debilitating staffing crisis - it has proven how incredibly important NECC is to our community. We also saw how important our community is to NECC.

Last August we kicked off NECC's 45th year with an outpouring of love and support from local and state politicians, NECC staff alumni, Board members, supporters, local businesses, friends, and family. We honored this support and recognized their contributions to our organization through a "45 Days of Inspiration" campaign. All share in our great legacy.

The Center was quiet much of the year as we socially distanced, the pool was still, residential students were learning at home, and teachers became primary caregivers. I was touched at the response from our community - sending PPE, notes of encouragement, and financial support to ease the burden.

The challenges brought out the best in our staff and I couldn't be more proud of how everyone came together to pitch in, help out, and do what was needed. While we are certainly not back to "normal," I continue to be inspired by the openness, support, and camaraderie this organization shows.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent Strully".

L. Vincent Strully, Jr.
President and CEO



Leadership and Board

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Executive

Jared Bouzan, MEd

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Darryl T. Agostinelli

Chief Technology Officer

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Director of Administration

Pam Olsen, PhD, BCBA

Executive Director - Abu Dhabi, UAE

Meghan Reidy, MS

Director of Recruiting

Darcie Stawinski, MSA, CPA

Director of Finance

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Daniel Saul, Director



In memoriam: Daniel Gould, PhD, BCBA, LABA



During his tenure at NECC, Dr. Gould worked in several roles, including clinical specialist, director of residential services, director of information services, program director, director of the Intensive Treatment Team (ITT), and, most recently, executive director of the Mohamed bin Rashid Center for Special Education operated by NECC in Abu Dhabi. In recognition of his service to NECC, the ITT facility was renamed the Dr. Daniel Gould Intensive Treatment Campus this past June.

Dr. Gould also played an instrumental role in the development and implementation of the Northeastern University master's program in applied behavior analysis (ABA) and the Western New England University doctoral program in ABA. His commitment to providing quality graduate education also extended to supporting and mentoring the research efforts of many current and former NECC staff. His initial association with the Eunice Kennedy Shriver research group led him to have a keen interest in stimulus control research. This was evident in his published work that applied stimulus control techniques to treating severe self-injurious behavior and establishing conditioned reinforcers such as those used as motivational supports for our students.

With his deep dedication to our organization, expert knowledge of ABA, and leadership abilities, Dr. Gould was a guiding force in the growth and expansion of NECC. He will be truly missed.

A Day in the Life of Luke

Every student at NECC has a personalized education plan designed to help him or her grow and thrive. Each day, students like Luke work with a team of teachers and highly trained professionals who provide services that help them achieve their goals. As a result, Luke has made tremendous strides since enrolling in NECC's day school.



8:00am

Luke arrives to school and is greeted by his classmates and teacher, Linda. He begins his day working on his general education curriculum in English language arts, math, and science. Enrichment programs, such as history projects and lessons related to current events, are presented to students throughout the year and adapted to the level of each individual student.



9:15am

Communication is at the core of every student's educational plan. Luke works on his communication skills with a Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) to remove barriers to communication so he can express his wants and needs to the best of his abilities.

10:00am

A number of social and leisure activities are built into a day at NECC. After spending time in his classroom, Luke heads to music class where he plays different instruments and makes music alongside his peers. Participation in art and music classes as well as time in the Recreation and Leisure Center help students learn important social and leisure skills that enrich their lives.

12:00pm

Luke and Linda head to Walgreens where he will work on the floor. Luke has learned to stock shelves and help customers if they are looking for specific items.



11:00am

Luke works on vocational skills that he will use on his upcoming shift at Walgreens. At age 14, students begin vocational training and are afforded the opportunity to try different types of work around the Center and in the community. This experience provides a foundation for employment and/or volunteer work.

2:00pm

After work, Luke heads to the gym where he works out and improves his motor skills and physical fitness with an occupational therapist (OT), physical therapist (PT), and adapted physical education (APE) teacher. In addition to sessions with the department, students also can participate in Special Olympics events.

3:00pm

Luke heads home after a busy, enriching day.



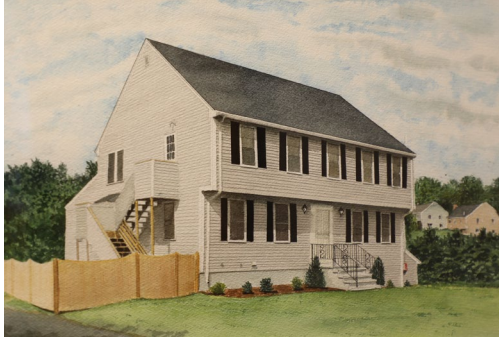
Residential Counselors Deliver Care and Compassion Around the Clock

In addition to the day school, NECC offers a residential program where students receive intensive, positive, behavior-oriented treatment individualized to address challenging behaviors. In these homes — NECC has 16 residences (pictured on opposite page) across MetroWest, including Ashland, Framingham, Hopkinton, Marlborough, Southborough, and Westborough — staff work around the clock to serve the 122 students living in them.

Residential counselors like Dandibor M'Bayo (pictured right) are focused on the safety and success of their students, something that is especially important at night. M'Bayo works the night shift, during which his goal is simple, but not easy: keep the students safe, happy, and healthy through the night so that they are as ready as possible to learn the next day.

M'Bayo and his fellow residential counselors play a vital role in the residential program, especially over the past two years when many of them volunteered to work with COVID-positive students. This selflessness and commitment to care is part of what make them such valued team members, and the reason NECC students continue to thrive, despite the challenges of the pandemic.







Partner Programs and Consulting Adapt to Changing Conditions

NECC's partner classrooms withstood massive changes throughout the 2020-21 academic year. Faced with restrictions and changing schedules depending on local guidelines, lead teachers had to constantly adapt to provide the services students required. Despite the challenges, students at partner program schools succeeded.

This student success was the result of the hard work and commitment of teachers like Chelsey Ryan (pictured left). "Even though many of our students were in school for much of the year, many still participated in general education lessons remotely," said Ryan, the lead classroom teacher.

Ryan recalls one student, a 9-year-old boy named Jesse with whom she worked. "At first, we always had to prompt him, and he struggled to participate and engage," she shared. "He worked so hard, and as a result he's really progressed. He learned to log on to remote classes independently and he constantly wants new work to complete. Every day he asks for homework. We are excited to see what he, and all of our other students, continue to accomplish in the year ahead."

PUBLIC SCHOOL SERVICES AND CONSULTING

595

STUDENTS
IN 54 DISTRICTS

7

STATES
MA, NH, VT, ME, CT, NY, FL

8

COUNTRIES
BAHRAIN, INDIA, LEBANON, OMAN,
QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA, US, UAE



Job Training During a Year of Remote and Socially Distanced Learning

One way that NECC helps students succeed is through career education, training, and job placement. At age 14, students can begin exploring NECC's Vocational Services department, working up to four hours per week. Though COVID limited the job training opportunities for students, Director of Vocational Services Julie Weiss and her department designed lesson plans that could teach job skills remotely.

Group lessons on interpersonal and job-specific skills were taught via Zoom and in classrooms, before being applied in the Career Development Center. As NECC and businesses began to loosen restrictions, students gradually returned to their jobs where they could continue to implement the skills being taught via these lessons. Now, the vocational program continues to work with students in the Career Development Center, via Zoom, and in job sites around the community.

This year, NECC students began working at Apex Entertainment in Marlborough, MA, after the school formed a partnership with the company. Apex has supported NECC through donations (both monetary and meals for staff and students), facilitating sponsorships, media publicity, and job placement opportunities. Students like Michael and Brian (pictured right) and Bradley (pictured left) wash windows, restock prizes, and prepare silverware at the entertainment center.

"APEX has been a fantastic partner in many ways over the last year," said Chief Development Officer Jared Bouzan. "Their willingness to work with our families and students to help in any way they can is admirable."



RESEARCH

RESEARCH IS A PILLAR OF NECC'S STRENGTH

NECC isn't just a school. A team of researchers at the John and Diane Kim Autism Institute conducts important research that supports children and families managing autism. Much of this research is done by staff and teachers enrolled in NECC's partner graduate programs at Simmons University and Western New England University, which offer staff the opportunity to earn a master's degree in ABA and special education-related fields at a substantial discount. Individuals enrolled in these partner programs conduct research alongside experienced professionals in order to explore the issues and create solutions for children with autism.

Under the direction of William Ahearn, PhD, BCBA-D, LABA, and Eileen Roscoe, PhD, BCBA-D, LABA, the research arm of NECC informs everything the organization does. Research is conducted through different labs affiliated with one of NECC's university partners and findings are published in peer-reviewed academic journals, shared at international conferences, and incorporated into lesson plans on the Autism Curriculum Encyclopedia (ACE®) ABA Software System.



TRAINING

38

INTERNS

75

TEACHERS COMPLETED
GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS IN FY20

326

STAFF ENROLLED IN
GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

931

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
TRAININGS TO OUTSIDE STAFF

RESEARCH HAS IMMEDIATE IMPACT

One of NECC's many ongoing research projects, the Infant Sibling Research Project, has continued to expand over the last year. Through the work of our researchers and the development of the Early Markers of Autism tool, the project is making a difference in the lives of children like Jack.

At just two months old, Jack was enrolled in the Infant Sibling Research Project. Both of Jack's siblings had received autism diagnoses and his mother, Sarah, knew the importance of early intervention. After being evaluated, the research team discovered that Jack was, in fact, displaying early markers.

For ten months, an ABA therapist worked with Sarah and Jack, and Jack began to show signs of improvement after his autism diagnosis at 12 months. Progress was not always easy, but through consistent 1:1 ABA therapy, he made strides. After 10 months of treatment, Jack began speaking in full sentences, and his other symptoms, at one time so glaring, had lessened as well. The hard work from Jack, researchers, and Jack's family was paying off.

At 22 months, Jack was again evaluated by an independent psychologist and Sarah received remarkable news: Jack no longer had an autism diagnosis. Today, more than a year later, Jack has check-ins with researchers and is thriving.



KEY STATS

79

INFANTS
ENROLLED

49

HIGH RISK INFANTS
ENROLLED

6

INFANTS RECEIVING
1:1 ABA TREATMENT

19

INFANTS
GRADUATED



NECC-ABA Research Conference

Due to the cancellation of many conferences because of the pandemic, NECC hosted a two-day research symposium conducted internally in the Kim Institute on the Southborough campus in June. Current and former graduate students from the Southborough campus and Abu Dhabi shared recent research developments and more than 80 staff members attended through in-person and remote means. Presenters discussed research on a range of topics, including teaching verbal behavior, conducting remediation strategies during teaching, assessments of social interaction, increasing compliance with pill swallowing, nasal swabbing, and other medical procedures, and treating automatically reinforced problem behavior. Here is a sampling of the symposia presented during the Conference:

- Bidirectional naming (BiN), including emergent listener behavior.
- Competing-stimulus assessments (CSA), which included papers on identifying reinforcers for treatment of problem behaviors, as well as whether access to leisure items was effective in decreasing automatically maintained challenging behavior.
- Remediating problems of learning, including how class-specific reinforcement can be used to efficiently teach categories to individuals with autism; an instructional strategy for establishing auditory discrimination; and a study designed to remediate overselectivity.
- Infant work, including identifying early markers of autism in infant siblings and treatment of stereotypy in infants at risk of ASD.
- Assessment of social interactions, including how different variables may influence the effectiveness and efficiency of praise.



"It is very fortunate to have such passionate supporters, without whom this historic Institute could not have been built."
- Vincent Scully, Jr.
\$2,500,000 +
199,999

1810-1811
Michael and Betty Brown
Richard and Lisa Haddad
The Gardner and Emily Paul Power
Gilda Family Foundation
Kenny Deussen & McGee, LLC
Michael and Lisa Adams
O'Keefe Family Foundation
Susan and John H. H. H. H.
Vivian and George Tapp
Bobby Zeman
Gibb Family
\$10,000 - \$1,999
AISC24
Zell and Cecily Davis
Zell and John Palmer
Kerry Thomas and Milton Hanzel
Brookline and Bernard Lundy
Thomas and Ann Marshall
The Morgan Family Fund

Lower Level

Main Dashboard > App Library > Skills Assessment Dashboard

Assessment History

Recent Results

Skills Assessment Materials



Most Recent Skills
Assessment:

Start Date: 08/22/2017
End Date: In Progress

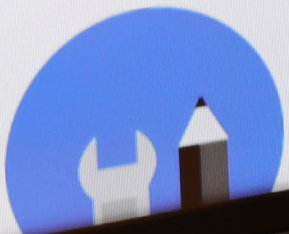
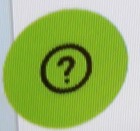
[Launch Assessment >](#)

Completed Assessments:

0



Add/View Assessments



Promethean

ACE[®] Continues to Grow

The Autism Curriculum Encyclopedia[®] (ACE[®]) ABA Software System continues to be an industry-leader in autism education software. Since its beginning in 2008, the platform has grown to help more than 15,000 students with autism around the world learn and grow.

In June, Darryl Agostinelli (pictured right) joined NECC as chief technology officer with the purpose of innovating its technology infrastructure to match its world-renowned autism education services. Under his leadership, ACE[®] will accelerate the development of its curriculum to grow and reach as many students with autism as possible around the world.



BY THE NUMBERS



10,000+
students learning
on the ACE[®]



2,215
lesson
plans available



34 states and 15
countries where
the ACE[®] is used

NECC's Global Impact

NECC's mission and vision reaches far beyond the walls of the Southborough location. In addition to operations in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, the staff alumni network spans the globe. This year, NECC formalized an alumni network that connects the nearly 3,000 staff alumni around the world.

From those who began their careers as interns, to others who came for a graduate degree, every staff alumnus plays a part in NECC's mission and continues to share a passion for autism education across the globe. In addition to groups on social media sites, the *NECC Now* video series aims to keep staff alumni connected to each other and to the important work happening at NECC.

GLOBAL IMPACT STATS:

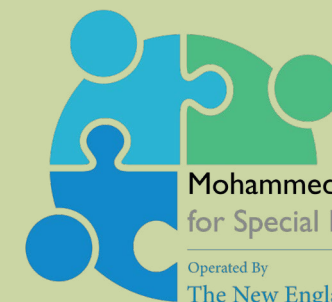
- *Staff alumni are working in 7 countries and 44 states, including the District of Columbia*
- *NECC staff have presented research in 23 countries*
- *The ACE® ABA Software System is used in 16 countries*
- *NECC has onsite programs in 3 countries*



NECC IN THE GULF



- This past year, the NECC Dubai Clinic expanded to a second space and now provides ABA services for 11 students.
- NECC signed a new contract with the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge to operate the Mohamed bin Rashid Center for Special Education operated by the New England Center for Children (MRC-NECC). The new contract includes the expansion of the campus and services provided. MRC-NECC currently serves 230 students.



Mohammed bin Rashid Center
for Special Education

Operated By
The New England Center for Children®

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force Grows

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) was a priority in the 2020-21 fiscal year. Through starting this conversation, DEI was infused in every part of NECC's strategic plan for the next six years and the DEI Task Force grew to include more than 100 staff members from every level at NECC.

Fatou Njie-Jallow (pictured right) led the growth of the Task Force with 12 subcommittees dedicated to addressing specific DEI topics. Since assuming leadership responsibilities with the Task Force, Njie-Jallow has become NECC's Director of DEI. The Task Force was also aided by the services of Soudie Tahmassebpour, a civil rights attorney and DEI consultant.

With Njie-Jallow's leadership, NECC continues to make strides fostering a community of acceptance and respect. "DEI isn't about black or white or male or female," said Njie-Jallow. "It's about making sure that *everybody* can walk through the door at work and feel supported. That's our goal, and I'm excited to continue my work towards it."

Throughout the year, the DEI Task Force hosted a number of town hall meetings to educate the community on a number of monthly heritage and awareness celebrations. In May, NECC Board members Yie-Hsin Hung and Marco Farsheed joined the conversation for the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month town hall event. These events provided an opportunity for staff to learn more about the history, culture, and diverse backgrounds of their peers.





Fundraising Events Pivot in Year of Uncertainty

Though in-person fundraising events were canceled due to the pandemic, NECC got creative and managed to re-imagine and coordinate a series of virtual events. For example, those running the Boston Marathon virtually for #TeamNECC were provided training as well as a route and plenty of support along the course. And the organization's biggest fundraiser of the year also went virtual — the annual Children of Promise Gala shifted completely online. Despite the virtual formats, NECC was still able to raise crucial funds for its students, showcasing the strength of NECC's community.





FALMOUTH ROAD RACE

Held August 15-29, 2020
\$14,859



BOSTON MARATHON

Held September 7-13, 2020
\$44,409



CHILDREN OF PROMISE GALA

Held November 20, 2020
\$677,755



5K WALK/RUN FOR AUTISM

Held May 1, 2021
\$109,077



Annual Giving Donors



ORGANIZATIONS

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Allen & Major Associates, Inc.
Allways Health Partners
AmazonSmile
Andover OBGYN Associates
Apex Entertainment Marlborough
Avidia Bank
Bay State Federal Savings Charitable Foundation
Blum Shapiro
Brendon Properties
Brown & Brown of Massachusetts, LLC
Cafua Management Co, LLC
Citizens Bank
Constance O. Putnam Foundation
DCU for Kids
Driscoll Insurance Agency
East Boston Savings Bank
EClinicalWorks
Ernst & Young
Falconi Brothers, Inc.
Fallon Community Health Plan
Fifth Generation, Inc.
Fletcher Tilton PC
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Lee Kennedy Co., Inc.
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My Little Buddy's Boat
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Philadelphia Insurance Co.
Priority Fire and Security, Inc.
Reliant Medical Group
RK Centers
Robell Research, Inc.
Rockland Trust
Ross Mortgage
Saxon Partners, LLC
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State Street Corp.
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Jacqueline Corley
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Sue Dacey and Tina Render
Peter Anh Dang in memory of Sheila Moynihan Barry
Morris Davenport
Jed Davidson
Philip Derfler

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Marco DeThomasis
Adam Devine
Donald Di Giacomo
David DiAntonio
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Utah Nickel
Fatou Njie-Jallow and Baboucarr Jallow
Christopher and Susan O'Brien
Mathew and Margaret O'Brien
Shawn and Jacquelyn O'Brien
Brian Oickle and Deirdre Frey

Katie Olszowy
Jason Ouellette
Matthew Parker
Mary Ellen Parzych
Theresa and Larry Passmore
Christine and Ed Pearson
James Peplau
Michael and Justina Perriello
Marc and Hillary Price
Joseph Rabbitt
Divino Ribeiro
Paul and Marybeth Riley
Roy and Carol Rioux
Justin Rosen
Steve and Betsy Rosen
Julie Rosenberg and Niels Burger
John and Ann Rounseville
Natasha Rozenvald
Dave Rudd
Sorrel and Noel Ryan
Sima Sarrafan
Brenda Schelling-Biggs and Joseph Biggs
Christopher Schenck
Lee Sibian
Kristen Sidman
Marion Siltanen
Robert Silva
David and Susan Sleight
Gary and Jill Smith
Ford and Ruth Spalding
Geoff and April Stein
Michael Steinkrauss
Stephens-Schwager Family
Peter Stone
Lynn Story
Beth and David Stout
Mike Stowe
Kate Sullivan

Isaura Tavares
Erin Tavilla
Katie Thomson
Connor Tobin
Tracey Toran
Steven Tower
Peter Tyson
Stefanie Upshaw and Joseph Sweeney
Ali and Jesse Vennard
Scott Voss
The Walsh family
Kimberly Walter
Paula Weissman
Laura Wilhelm
Howard and Candice Wolk
Francis Wynne and Helen Edwards
Wanlin Yan and Ping Xie
Beth and Neil Young
Andrew Zimmerman and Susan Connors
Jeremy Zorn

THANK
YOU!

Financials



34%

STUDENT EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

COVID RELATED EXPENDITURES (PPE AND SANITIZER), FITNESS EQUIPMENT AT SCHOOLS AND RESIDENCES, PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AND OTHER OUTDOOR ACTIVITY EXPENDITURES, SWIMSUITS, ART AND MUSIC SUPPLIES, MINOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO SCHOOL AND RESIDENCES

FY21 ANNUAL FUND ALLOCATION

1%

VOCATIONAL PROGRAM SUPPORT

TRANSPORTATION, OVERTIME STAFFING, EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPLIES

22%

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

FIELD TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES - FIELD DAY, APPLE PICKING, FARM TRIPS, PROM, HALLOWEEN, TEAM-SPECIFIC CELEBRATIONS AND OUTINGS

2%

SPECIALIZED IT ZOOM ROOM SYSTEMS

2%

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT NEEDS

SPECIALIZED FURNITURE FOR STUDENT/STAFF SAFETY, STUDENT CLOTHING, PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR STAFF

24%

RESEARCH AND STAFF TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

CONFERENCES, STAFF SALARIES RELATED TO RESEARCH, INFANT RESEARCH PROJECT

5%

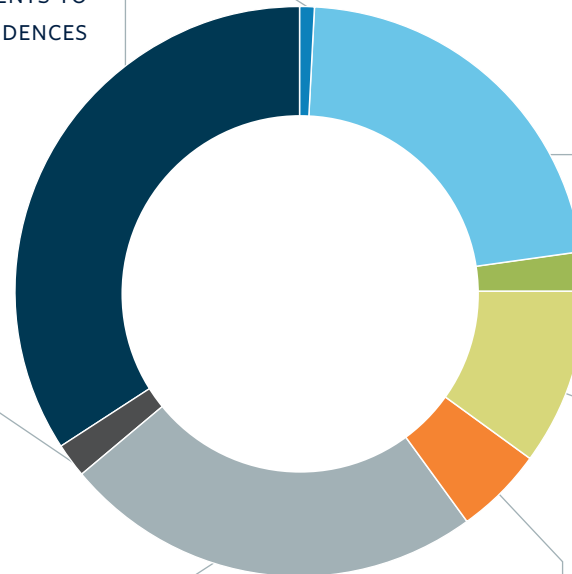
DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION INITIATIVES

CONSULTATION TO PROMOTE DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION EFFORTS THROUGHOUT NECC

10%

STAFF SUPPORT

PARENT- AND FRIEND-SPONSORED EVENTS (STAFF APPRECIATION), HEALTHY OPTION VENDING MACHINES, SMALL REINFORCERS THROUGH TEAM BUDGETS



FY21 CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

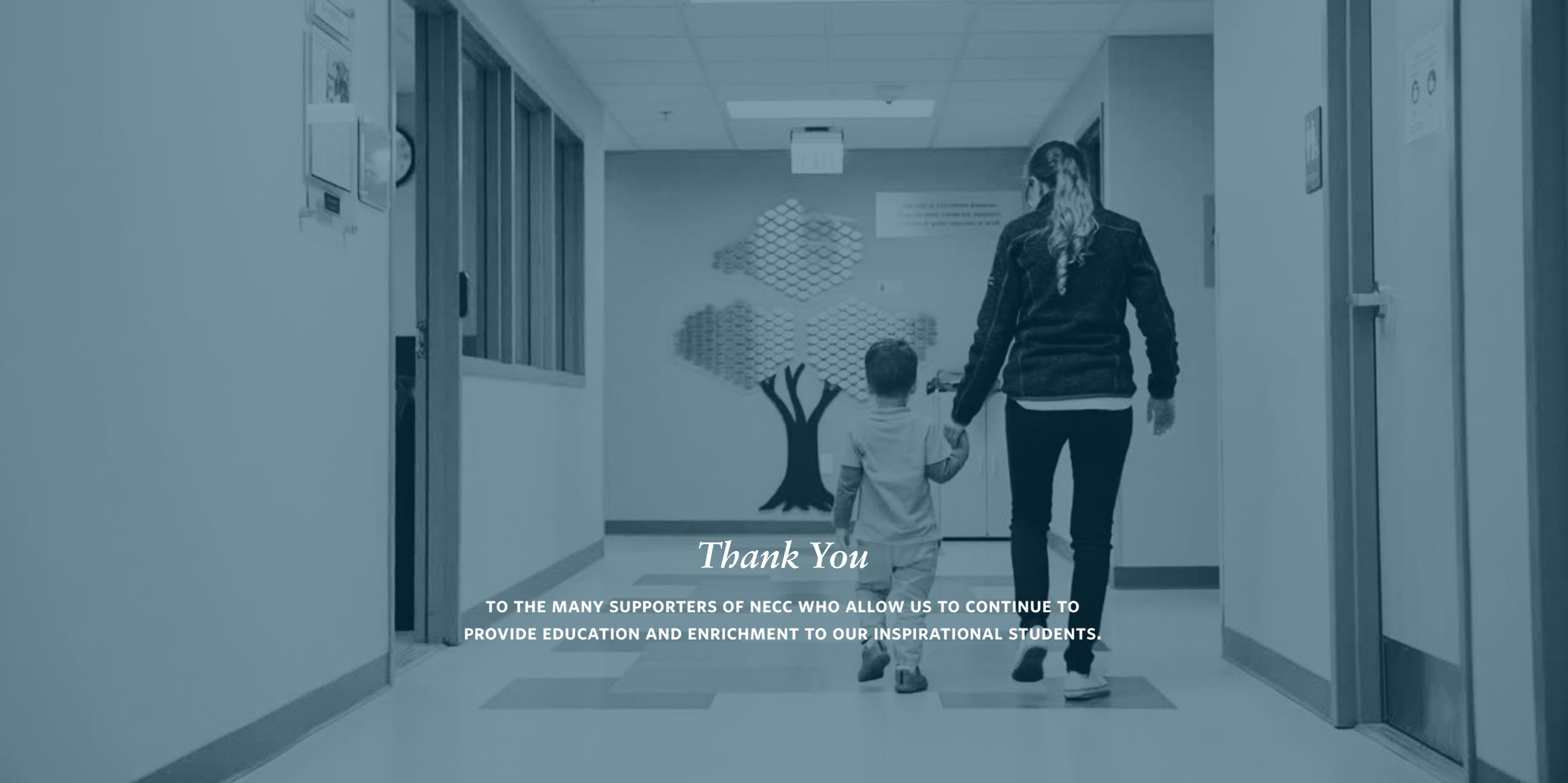


- TUITION \$107,415,227 (94%)**
DAY, RESIDENTIAL, ADULT, HOME-BASED, DAYCARE, PARTNER CLASSROOMS, INTERNATIONAL
- CONSULTING \$3,090,438 (2.7%)**
- ACE® TECHNOLOGY \$1,953,690 (1.7%)**
- FUNDRAISING \$1,657,814 (1.5%)**
GRANTS, EVENTS, IN-KIND DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS
- OTHER \$118,157 (0.1%)**



- PROGRAM SERVICES \$104,442,011 (92.4%)**
DAY, RESIDENTIAL, ADULT, HOME-BASED, DAYCARE, CONSULTING, PARTNER CLASSROOMS, INTERNATIONAL
- ADMINISTRATIVE \$7,791,196 (6.9%)**
- MARKETING, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND FUNDRAISING \$743,833 (0.7%)**





Thank You

TO THE MANY SUPPORTERS OF NECC WHO ALLOW US TO CONTINUE TO
PROVIDE EDUCATION AND ENRICHMENT TO OUR INSPIRATIONAL STUDENTS.



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