Connections and Networks

Transitions to Work continues to engage with community business leaders and other networks to learn and share the message about inclusive hiring. We are creating culture change one conversation at a time. We are thrilled this month to share some exciting exchanges, connections and conversations.

**UJA-Federation of New York Hilibrand Autism Symposium – “CARVING A PLACE IN THE WORLD FOR YOUNG ADULTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS”**

Transitions to Work was honored to be a participant in the UJA-Hilibrand Autism Symposium. The conference featured speakers and panelists presenting new research and innovative models to spark dialogue about current challenges and effective solutions to helping adults with ASD obtain and maintain work, social connections, and independence. As a panel speaker, Transitions to Work was able to share its model with the 300 attendees and learn from others with cutting edge programs. You can learn more about the conference at [www.ujafedny.org](http://www.ujafedny.org).

**Israeli Knesset Visit**

Members of the Israeli Knesset recently visited with Combined Jewish Philanthropies and Jewish Vocational Service to learn more about Transitions to Work. The Ruderman Family Foundation sponsored this prestigious delegation to Boston and New York for an intensive 5-day visit. A goal of the mission is to change the conversation about the American relationship in the Knesset and beyond and provide an ongoing platform for discussion of key issues among Israeli business, philanthropic and social change leaders. We were thrilled so many of our Transitions to Work employers were able to join us for the event, led by a panel of corporate leaders from Anton’s Cleaners, Brigham & Women’s Hospital, CVS Caremark, Prime Motor Group, and NewBridge on the Charles. Our employers spoke with passion and were tremendous advocates, teaching the Knesset members that inclusive hiring is good for business because the individuals of all abilities they have hired are great employees and add tremendous value to the workplace. The Knesset members left inspired to bring this learning and model of engagement and hiring back to Israel. Read more about the Knesset visit at [http://www.jpost.com/Jewish-World/Jewish-News/Boston-residents-appeal-to-visiting-MKs-to-amend-Jewish-reforms-347229](http://www.jpost.com/Jewish-World/Jewish-News/Boston-residents-appeal-to-visiting-MKs-to-amend-Jewish-reforms-347229).

**Transitions to Work Alumni Connections**

We are excited to launch our first Transitions to Work Alumni event. With over 75 Transitions to Work graduates, we look forward to offering a way for them to connect with each other and with
young adult leaders in the business community. The event will be held on May 6th from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Combined Jewish Philanthropies. The evening will feature speaker Dan Minnich, Co-Founder and Co-Director of Waypoint Adventure, Inc., a non-profit organization that provides life transforming outdoor adventure programs for people with disabilities. Waypoint’s mission is to help youth and adults with disabilities discover their purpose, talents, and strengths through the transforming power of adventure. The presentation will be followed by facilitated table conversations among young adults of all abilities to share work experiences, employment stories, successes and challenges. For more information, please contact Beth Tauro at betht@cjp.org or Madeline Wenzel at Mwenzel@jvs-boston.org.

Transitions to Work continues to connect with new employers to educate on inclusive hiring and build employer partnerships. Please let us know if you or someone you know might be interested in exploring Transitions to Work as a fit for your or their company. To learn more about Transitions to Work, please visit: http://www.cjp.org/transitions-to-work.aspx