



# The Moore Center

Creating opportunities for a good life.™

## Annual Report 2014

### TOM IS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM AND LIVING A GOOD LIFE

#### MOM SAYS THANKS TO THE MOORE CENTER FOR "GETTING IT"

From the beginning, Thomas Suckley III was his own person. He didn't respond to things in predictable ways. He was often agitated and it was hard to comfort him, hard to know why he was distressed. Moments of contentment were more the absence of distress rather than the presence of joy. Conventional developmental milestones passed by, but there were other puzzling developments that seemed promising.

Tom liked to have people read to him. He would crawl into his mother Eileen Suckley's lap, nestled into the corner of an overstuffed chair, and stare into the pages of a book with rapt attention. He had rules. His collection of two dozen books was stacked in the particular order in which they had to be read. There could be no deviation. The chair could not be moved. The intonation of voice could not vary. The experience had to remain constant and it might be requested half a dozen times a day. But as long as it remained unchanged, Tom was content.

It was some time before Tom's autism was accurately diagnosed. When it became clear Tom was on the Spectrum, the Suckleys recognized that they needed help to understand who Tom was and who he had the potential to become. They needed to connect with people they could trust, people with experience they could draw upon to devise strategies and supports that would be helpful to Tom. Above all, they needed affirmation that whatever the issues, this child was precious, unique and a reason for celebration.

It was then the Suckleys were introduced to The Moore Center, where Tom has been attending for more than 10 years now. "The Moore Center is a welcoming place – a place in which it is possible to breathe, to reflect, to discuss – and in the end, to devise creative supports for the people who need them most," said Eileen.

According to Eileen, creative support is an idea that distinguishes The Moore Center. She said while other agencies and programs attempt to remediate deficits, The Moore Center strives to enable individuals to soar - to exceed expectations.



And soar he has! Tom, 27, has friends and chickens, two cats, two big dogs and a new puppy called Fred, as he likes to tell people. He has just completed a job that The Moore Center helped find for him at a hotel in Hooksett. "I have learned a lot in this position. My new job will be at St. Anselm's College. It will be five days a week instead of two and I will have more responsibility. I think I can handle it and I'm looking forward to being there," said Tom. "Thanks to my friends at The Moore Center, when I make mistakes, they show me what I can do differently and how I can make better choices. Not everyone has friends like I do. I think I'm pretty lucky."

Perhaps Eileen sums up their family's experience at The Moore Center best. "Those of us who parent or assist people with

challenges or disabilities have a code phrase. We speak of people 'who get it.' Rarely am I in the company of so many people who 'get it' as I am at The Moore Center. The work that The Moore Center provides, particularly to those on the Autism Spectrum, is precious. Their commitment, resilience, resourcefulness and humanity have meant the world to us. And while I can only speak personally of what it has meant to one family, to one little boy who is now an aspiring young man, I know that those stories are replicated daily in the lives of hundreds of other families."



**MIKE REED**  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Henry Ford once said, "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." This couldn't be more true than at The Moore Center, where the partnership between staff, Board members, clients and their families create opportunities for a good life every day. Whether that's teaching someone to bowl, empowering them to find employment or helping

them understand that they can do the things they want to do, The Moore Center family comes together to ensure everyone is living life to its fullest. Just ask Eileen and Thomas Suckley, whose son, Tom, is on the Autism Spectrum, but enjoys working, spending time with his friends, playing video games and even cleaning his room, what they think of The Moore Center team and its creative supports and commitment to her son, who is now part of the greater community. The agency is enormously grateful for the strong support it receives from individuals and small and large businesses to achieve our vision of a day when all people, despite their challenges, are fully engaged in their communities like Tom. We invite everyone to become a part of our team, and give a big thanks to all those already on it. I'm proud to be a member of The Moore Center family.

**PAUL S. BOYNTON**  
PRESIDENT & CEO

As we are all aware, the waters are not always calm and life's uncharted path presents numerous challenges that at times leave us feeling uncomfortable, and sometimes even scared. What I've learned through the years, however, is that if you stay calm and focus on what is really important - your mission - the journey can be one of wonderful opportunities unseen through the waves if you are not looking for them. Staying nimble and open to change makes the uncertainties seem less daunting, and the possibilities more exciting. At The Moore Center, we place our goals front and center and then work to achieve them, knowing that the path to success may not always be easy, but that if we stay informed and keep



others informed so that we are all sharing the same vision, we can move through the challenges and embrace the opportunities ahead. The health and human services landscape has certainly undergone significant change in the past year, and I have no doubt that it will again do so in the year ahead. Life happens. It's the way that you deal with the changes placed in your path that determines where you end up, and I know we're going to end up in a great place. Working together, we always do.

Financials for the 2014 Fiscal Year		
	FY 14	FY 13
Total Revenue	\$41,875,785	\$39,585,694
Total Expense	\$41,612,541	\$39,540,355
<b>Change in Net Assets before Interest Rate SWAP</b>		
	\$263,244	\$45,339

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This list reflects gift and pledges made from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. Donors who have supported The Moore Center for multiple years are listed in bold.

\*Denotes employee

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Creating opportunities for a good life.™

We also gratefully acknowledge those who support United Way and who have designated their gift to The Moore Center. The Moore Center endeavors to recognize all donors accurately. If you find an error or omission, please call (603) 206-2723 with any changes so we can immediately correct our records.

The Moore Center

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