



Beaverbrook STEP, Inc.

Embracing Life Through Inclusion, Friendship & Opportunities

CELEBRATING OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY



A MESSAGE FROM STEP'S Executive Director

.....Remembering and acknowledging the past is the gateway to our future. Our journey forward will only succeed when we honor the past and never take it for granted.....

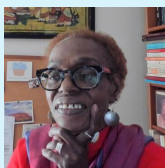
Dear Beaverbrook Community,
It's a pleasure to join together this year to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Beaverbrook STEP — a celebration of excellence! STEP's anniversary theme ***"Embracing Life Through Inclusion, Friendship and Opportunities"*** truly reflects our beginnings, present and future. STEP's 50th Celebration will honor our notable past, applaud our current services and look ahead toward an exceptional future. It will be held on:



Thursday, June 8, 2023, 6 to 10 pm at
The Hellenic Cultural Center,
23 Bigelow Avenue, Watertown
KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Leo Sarkissian, Executive Director
The Arc of Massachusetts

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION SPECIAL AWARDS

Beaverbrook STEP will present Special Recognition Awards to 2 Simmons College Professors: Johnnie Hamilton-Mason, MSW, PhD and Hugo Kamya, PhD, MSW, MDiv. Accomplished experts in Social Work and Diversity, they provided training and support to Beaverbrook STEP staff, managers and volunteers throughout 2021 and 2022 including an interactive workshop series "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion." They have been instrumental in the growth and viability of STEP's Diversity and Inclusion Committee as our organization continues to move ahead in this critical area.



Johnnie Hamilton-Mason
MSW, PhD



Hugo Kamya
PhD, MSW, MDiv.

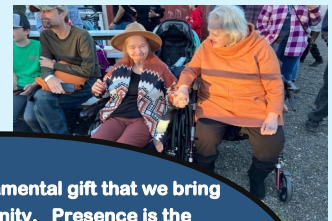
THE POWER OF STEP'S TEAM WORK

Beaverbrook STEP's remarkable successes are directly attributable to our awesome and diverse community of people: individuals, families, friends, staff, volunteers, leaders, advocates, officials and influencers. Working as a unified and supportive team has been paramount to achieving and maintaining STEP's recognized reputation for over 5 decades. In 2023 we will join together to:

- Reflect on our past history, honoring the brave pioneers who envisioned and developed a vibrant community based service movement;
- Acknowledge the outstanding growth, milestones and progress in our field;
- Celebrate STEP's novel and creative approaches that support our individuals and families;
- Gain momentum, strength and resolve for the future as STEP continues our community movement through "Embracing Life Through Inclusion, Friendship & Opportunities."

STEP's future success will be dependent upon the continuation of our Team Work, community expansion and creative approaches to services. Thank you all for your unique contributions leading to 50 years of advancement and achievement!

Sincerely,
Virginia A Connolly
Executive Director



Our presence is the fundamental gift that we bring to the human community. Presence is the foundation of all other opportunities and interactions, of everything that is meaningful.

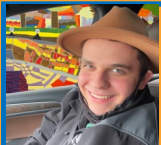
*Judith A. Snow
Self-Advocate
Inclusion Press*



CELEBRATING OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

Dominic Killiany



Dominic Killiany, a young man with autism, is a prolific painter who developed his own business, Dominiccreations, LLC in Watertown, MA. He uses watercolors, pastels and acrylics as his primary mediums, creating fantastic works that reflect a deep love of his community.

Committed to painting 'what he sees' Dominic's artwork combines his instinctive sense of space and intuitive sense of design. The thrill of color and movement are evident in his work and expand the universe of the beholder.

Dominic is a self-taught painter whose hidden talents were unleached when he was introduced to paint by numbers artwork as a young child. Later, he developed his own unique paint by numbers drawings: complex grid drawings with thousands of parts that he individually numbered. Dominic then paints the numbers with magnificent colors of his own.

One prevalent theme of Dominic's is safari animals in a variety of multi-colored scenes. While painting, Dominic is totally absorbed, calm and serene. He loves his work and has many admiring followers.



Visit Dominic at his website
www.dominiccreations.com

You can watch a video featuring
Dominic using this link

<https://youtube/4ERV-tQ-9cA>

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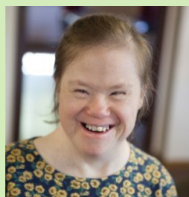
Embracing Life Through Inclusion, Friendship & Opportunities

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I like coming in every morning seeing faces....happy faces and being able to help people reach where they need to be. I've been here (Beaverbrook STEP) as a support staff for about a decade working my way up to my position today as Senior Director. I like seeing people growing, whether it's getting a job in the community, finding something that they enjoy doing or being part of community life.



**Fatuma Mussa, Senior Director
Beaverbrook STEP, Inc.**



BEAVERBROOK STEP, INC.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

CEO/Executive Director
Virginia A. Connolly, MEd, LCSW, LMHC
vaconnolly@beaverbrookstep.org

Senior Director/Options Day Services/Residential Services
Jessica Kirwan, MEd, BCBA, BCBA Supervisor

Senior Director/Human Resources/Residential Services
Richard Currier, MEd

Senior Director/Director of Administration
Lindsay Roberts

Senior Director/Residential Services
Teri Ricker, MSW

Senior Director/Options Day Services/Referral Coordinator
Dina Davis-Gurel, MS, BCBA, BCBA Supervisor

Senior Director/Residential Services
Michelle Awtry

Senior Director/Residential Services
Raymond Tanis

Senior Director/Quality Assurance Services
Esra Gurel

Senior Director/Options Day Services
Brad Clem

Senior Director/Individual Support/Transitional Services
Fatuma Mussa

Senior Director/Director of Health Services
Steve Dwyer, RN

Sam Song, RN, Nurse Practitioner Candidate

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Beaverbrook STEP, Inc.

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Stan Kruszewski
Vice President:	Shirlee Purcell
Treasurer:	John Kennedy
Clerk:	Sandra Tomasetti

Directors

Augusta Haydock
Laurraine Lecorps
Arthur Millman
John Saunders
Katherine Roche
Karin Tuttle

Provisional Member: Estelle Fox

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON EMERITUS

Marta Murphy Nurse Practitioner

SUPERVISORY COORDINATORS

Richard Currier, M.Ed. Senior Director, Beaverbrook STEP
Teri Ricker, MSW Senior Director, Beaverbrook STEP

REPRESENTATIVES

Roseann Adamian	Self-Advocate
Daniel Burger	Attorney
Jill Weiss	Self-Advocate
Bonnie Wilkins	Family Member, Nurse Practitioner
Tom Martin	Community Advocate
Sean Fleming	Community Advocate
Margaret J. Mehm, Esq.	Family Member



I love Beaverbrook STEP.
It's a wonderful agency.
It's more than an agency
they are like a family.
They care about everyone.

Valerie Youngren

My name is Robert Mallory and I am supported by Beaverbrook STEP. I love my house and everything about it. My housemates are cool and I love them.



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION NEWS

Beaverbrook STEP is committed to promoting diversity and inclusion within all of its programs. The agency has embarked on robust initiatives to foster a more inclusive and open workplace, free of discrimination. Led by the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, these initiatives have been cultivated through practice, education and a renewed sense of urgency.

Over the past 2 years, STEP's D&I Committee has partnered with Simmons University, to provide a series of diversity trainings for all Beaverbrook STEP staff. As mentioned in the Executive Director's Message, STEP plans to honor the two Simmons University professors, Johnnie Hamilton-Mason, MSW, PhD and Hugo Kamyra, PhD, MSW, MDiv who developed the initial "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" training and consultation program for us.

The Committee's critically important work continues through sponsorship of major agency events, engaging all stakeholders in thoughtful discussion, and proactively celebrating the diversity that is ever present in our community.



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THE BOSTON GLOBE DESIGNATES Beaverbrook STEP, Inc. As A Massachusetts Top Workplace for 2022

THANK YOU BEAVERBROOK STEP EMPLOYEES!!!

The Boston Globe has recognized 150 Companies and Organizations in Massachusetts as Top Workplaces in 2022. Beaverbrook STEP with nearly 450 staff was recently honored with this designation (<https://topworkplaces.com/images/TWP.svg>).

The Boston Globe selects awardees after reviewing nomination surveys that indicate high employee scores in these categories:

- Employee Engagement,
- Attracting and Retaining Talent,
- Improved Insights regarding culture and
- Setting a path for the future.

The Boston Globe Top Workplaces “differ from other employer recognition programs because it’s based solely on employee engagement survey results. In addition to qualifying companies as the nation’s organizations of choice, employee insights help leaders understand where the culture stands and set a path for future success.”



*“The path of our humanity
and the joy of our being
knows no bounds when in
our hearts we make no
exclusion of those
different from ourselves.”*

*Stanley Kruszewski,
President, Board of Directors
Beaverbrook STEP*



Want to see Beaverbrook STEP’s community in action? Visit You Tube and enjoy 2 Beaverbrook STEP videos created by Media By Marvin:

Video 1: community
<https://youtu.be/T-uEJDq-RM0>

Video 2: employment
<https://youtu.be/HpAuFRaa3Fk>



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Bobby Fiore, of Beaver Brooks Step Boston, did some dancing at City Hall Plaza. DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

Incorporated in 1973, Beaverbrook STEP's mission and philosophy focus on empowering individuals to make their own personal choices and decisions about their lives to achieve full community inclusion.

Using a person-centered planning approach, STEP focuses on strengthening relationships among individuals, families and communities — relationships that support the people we serve, helping them to realize their dreams and live meaningful lives.

Contact Us

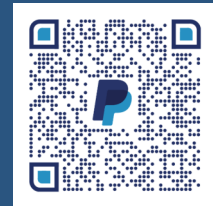
Beaverbrook STEP, Inc.
85 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Watertown, MA 02472
(617) 926-1113

www.beaverbrookstep.org

Virginia A. Connolly, MEd, LCSW, LMHC
Executive Director

Serving Communities in Eastern MA

DONATIONS WELCOMED



Affiliations:



Beaverbrook STEP, Inc.

50 Years of Excellence

March 2023

Beaverbrook STEP, Inc.
85 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Watertown, MA 02472

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