



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

South Shore YMCA | MARCH 2018 | Diversity & Inclusion Highlights

All Are Invited Laura's Love 4.28.18

This annual event benefits our inclusive programs and adaptive sports.

To donate or to learn more:

ssymca.org/programs/inclusion-programs/



ANNOUNCING A NEW OFFERING



Coming this Spring to the
Emilson Branch!

Adult Adaptive Swim Club

ssymca.org/programs/inclusion-programs/

Saying Goodbye To A Friend In Memory Of Andrew Lawson



*A proud Lobstar Tennis
Team Medalist*



*Andrew rallying with his
Hoopstars Basketball Teammates*

The Y community is saddened by the loss of our friend, teammate and community member Andrew Lawson, who lost his courageous battle with cancer at the age of 27. An active member at the Emilson YMCA, he was on the Lobstars Tennis Team, an energetic Zumba class participant and team member of the inaugural Hoopstars unified basketball team. "Everyone who knew Andrew was taken in by his genuine and enthusiastic spirit, says Lisa Drennan, Association Director of Inclusion, he had a profound impact on the Y and surrounding community and will be remembered fondly". Our thoughts are with the Lawson family at this time.

NEW SPORT COURT CHAIRS OPENS POSSIBILITIES FOR GROWTH IN ADAPTIVE SPORTS

INCLUSION SUPPORTS AT CAMP AVAILABLE

To learn more on how to access supports at our day camp locations:

ssymca.org/programs/inclusion-programs/



AUTISM AWARENESS DAY APRIL 2nd



Did you know that 1 in 68 kids is diagnosed with Autism?

Show your support by wearing blue on Monday, April 2nd to help raise awareness.



We are proud to share that the South Shore YMCA has invested in 8 court sport chairs to be used to further grow our wheelchair sports programs. Staff at the Emilson branch had a chance to christen our chairs by participating in a team building and awareness exercise where they learned the sport of wheelchair basketball.

Our basketball clinics are up and running at our Quincy branch on Thursday nights and tennis is scheduled to return to our Emilson branch Sundays in April. All ability levels and ages are welcome. Athletes interested in taking part in our Wheelchair Basketball or Tennis clinics can learn more: www.ssymca.org/programs/inclusion-programs/

Member Spotlight: LCA Actresses Helen & Sydney

the Y

Performances extended due to weather and power issues!

EMILSON YMCA ARTS & EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Production of



There's a MONSTER
in my closet

Book by Angela D. Stewart
Music & Lyrics by Bill Francoeur
Produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., Englewood, Colorado

NEW DATES!	SHOW DATES	ADMISSION
	March 16 : 7pm	\$10 Adult
	March 17 : 4pm	\$5 Youth

Tickets available at the door, cash or check only

LAURA'S FOR THE CENTER ARTS

97 Mill Street
Hanover, MA 02339
ssymca.org | facebook.com/ssyarts

We've got bad news and good news. The bad news was that 2 of last week's **There's a Monster In My Closet** shows were cancelled due to the weather and power outage. The good news is that there are new dates, so you can still catch this show!

Community Happenings Mark Your Calendar:

What: Inclusion Open House at our Quincy Branch

When: 4/18 | 6-8pm

For More Info:

ssymca.org/programs/inclusion-programs/

What: Vision Through the Arts with Emily Colson

When: 4/12 | 10am-2pm

For More Info:

ssymca.org/programs/inclusion-programs/

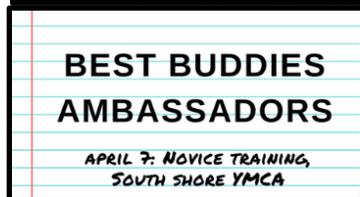
What: Best Buddies Ambassador training

When: 4/7

Register: <http://bit.ly/2Bd3ut6>.

For More Info:

jessafries@bestbuddies.org.



True to their steadfast commitment to inclusion, the staff of the Laura's Center for the Arts have provided a culture where all actors and artists belong and are a valued part of the team or in this case cast.

Two members of the cast who are reaching their own goals in this supportive and inclusive environment are Sydney Rappaport and Helen Copenrath.

Sydney, a 15-year-old freshman with autism states, "I like acting in the play, I feel happy and I like it here".

Helen attends The Boston Higashi School for children and young adults with autism. She plays the character of Sandman, "My favorite part is singing" she states with a smile.

Tyler Cavanagh, Assistant Director of Arts and Education at the LCA couldn't speak highly enough about the growth both of the actresses have experienced. When asked what he attributes to the positive culture of his cast he stated, "The group all has each other's back and everyone supports each other. They learn how we each work together to be part of the team and how to work with each other's strengths. I invite all to see this talented cast".

SSY's Inclusion Director to Present at the National Inclusion Projects Annual Conference.

For the third year in a row, Lisa Drennan, Association Director of Inclusion, will be a guest presenter at the Power of Play Conference in March. This year, she will be leading a 3-hour long training titled: *Preventative Strategies and Techniques to Build an Inclusive Day Camp Culture*. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in hands on interactive exercises to practice the introduced strategies and skills. "It's an honor to have the opportunity to share what we have developed at our Y with others across the country who are looking to start or enhance their own inclusion initiatives", says Drennan.



For more information on the conference: www.inclusionproject.org

March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, which was established to increase awareness and understanding of issues affecting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

UMASS INTERNS TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE OF A VARIETY OF LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Sasha Saunders and Kendra Wilson are in their final year at UMASS Boston and both are completing their internships with the Y's Inclusion Department. Their experiences have ranged from assisting with social skills groups, adaptive sports, our Partnership Programs as well as behind the scenes planning of branch events tied into inclusion initiatives.



Lisa Drennan, Sasha and Kendra attending the Y's Advocacy Day at the Statehouse.

"As an inclusion intern I have expanded my knowledge and skills in assisting individual with diverse abilities", shares Sasha.

Kendra and Sasha, along with members of Y's leadership staff had the unique opportunity to participate in the YMCA's Advocacy Day at the Statehouse in February. "It was a great experience, I learned so much about how much the Y's do for our community", stated Kendra.

COME CHEER ON THE HOOPSTARS UNFIED BASKETBALL TEAM AT THEIR TOURNAMENT

Tuesday, April 3rd @ 7pm | Emilson Branch



Players participated in a tournament hosted by the Hockomock Area YMCA in Feb.

For inquiries regarding these or any other inclusion programs at the South Shore YMCA, contact Lisa Drennan, Association Director of Inclusion | ldrennan@ssymca.org | ssymca.org

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