

Spring 2026

The Arc of Blackstone Valley
LIVE · LEARN · WORK · PLAY

NEWSLETTER

ADVOCACY IN ACTION



Advocacy is more important than ever for individuals, families, and professionals within the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) and the broader Human Services community. As discussions around potential Medicaid cuts continue, the stability of critical services is at risk. These programs provide essential support for some of our most vulnerable neighbors, and any reduction in funding could have lasting consequences for access to care, workforce sustainability, and quality of life.

Now is the time to make your voice heard. Engaging with state leaders—by calling, emailing, or meeting with them—helps ensure they understand the real-life impact of their decisions. Personal stories, professional experiences, and community perspectives all play a vital role in shaping policy and protecting these essential services.

To support this effort, Community Provider Network of Rhode Island (CPNRI) and the Health and Human Services Coalition are hosting a rally on May 5th at 2:00 PM at the State House. This is an opportunity to stand together, raise awareness, and advocate for the funding necessary to sustain vital programs across Rhode Island. Register here if you plan on attending: [Register Here](#)

Your voice matters—especially now. Together, we can help ensure that individuals with I/DD continue to receive the support they deserve.

Autism Acceptance
Month

April 2026



Celebrate
Differences

Developmental Disability
Awareness Month

March 2026

We're Here
Then, Now, Always.



How to Find your Elected Officials



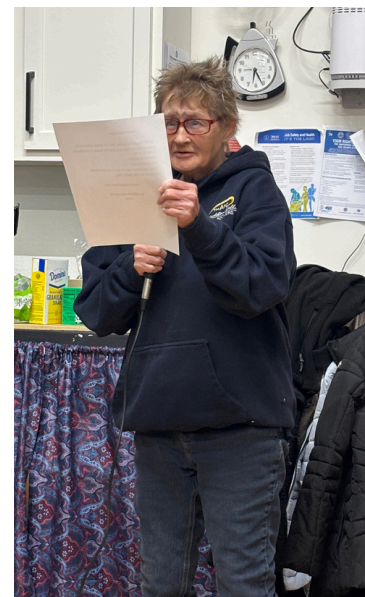
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elections and assigned polling
place, elected state officials as
well as local elected officials

Poems from the Heart: A Valentine's Celebration of Art and Connection

A Valentine's Day-themed poetry night at Flying Shuttles Art and Weaving Studio in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, offered a warm and expressive evening that brought together art, community, and storytelling. Poetry night was held on Thursday, February 5th and embraced themes of love and connection. Participants got together to share original poems, spoken word pieces, and reflections inspired by Valentine's Day. Attendees ranged from seasoned writers to first-time readers, all contributing to a supportive and inclusive environment. Our Valentine's poetry night served as both a celebration of love and a testament to the power of the arts in creating inclusive, community-centered experiences.



Events like this reflect the studio's broader mission to build community through creativity. Flying Shuttles Art and Weaving Studio regularly organizes gatherings such as poetry nights to encourage self-expression and connection. We hope to see you at our next one! Only \$5 cash per person, which includes light refreshments as well as a 10% discount on all products for sale during intermission. You can view our online store front [HERE!](#)

The next poetry night is scheduled for May 21st from 6-8pm. The Flying Shuttles Art and Weaving Studio is located at 390 Pine Street in Pawtucket, we hope to see you there!



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