

Parkinson Awareness Activities Across the State

Each year in April, we recognize Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month. This year, across Massachusetts, several programs were organized by volunteers including individuals with Parkinson's, family members, support group leaders, chapter members, as well as healthcare professionals. These programs and events not only raise awareness of a condition that affects over 15,000 individuals in Massachusetts, but provide education and much needed support to better cope and live with Parkinson's. We are including a sampling of some of these activities. We would like to thank all who have participated during the month of April.



Diane & Sid Durkee

On April 4th, Diane Durkee, Peabody Parkinson's Support Group leader, organized an awareness event which included her quilt pattern, which was displayed at the World Parkinson Congress in Glasgow, Scotland and is presented by the Parkinson Disease Foundation. Guest speakers included the honorable Mayor Michael Bonfanti, Dr. Anne Young, Massachusetts General Hospital, APDA BUMC Coordinator Cathi Thomas, Sid Durkee, and Michael Achin.

Howard Porter, Wakefield Parkinson's Support Group leader, produced a television show on Stoneham Cable TV on Parkinson's disease. This program included a live audience, a choral presentation by support group members, and interviews of APDA Center staff.



The film crew



Cathi Thomas, Dr. Marie Saint-Hilaire, Howard Porter, & Denyse Turpin

Norwood Bank hosted a month-long display of the Parkinson Disease Foundation World Parkinson Quilt. Jed Hickson organized this event and met with many members of the community. Special thanks to Jed and the staff of Norwood Bank!



Jed Hickson & Cathi Thomas



Norwood Bank crew

Over 125 individuals attended the Parkinson's Awareness Day at Braintree Rehabilitation Hospital! Each year, Braintree Hospital organizes this program to provide education to the community.

Mike Achin obtained a proclamation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives, sponsored by Representative Elizabeth Poirier and signed by Speaker of the House, Robert A. DeLeo and over 45 representatives. This proclamation recognized April as Parkinson's Awareness Month.

