

Massachusetts Reading Network

in association with the Talking Information Center Network April 2017

Monthly Impact Report

Director's Corner

"Imagine if the most powerful health intervention for the at-risk elderly isn't a high-tech surgery or a handful of expensive pills, but the simple exchange of stories over a steaming cup of tea." This "imagine if" from The Atlantic magazine isn't too difficult for the volunteers and staff of the Massachusetts Reading Network. We often hear grateful listeners talk about how the broadcasts help them:

Continued at [DIRECTOR](#)

Ability Over Disability

Imagine. People doing what they enjoy despite a disability. And yet... There are those who limit people with disabilities simply by their attitude or misconceptions.

A young man is recording a program for us on how he is treated simply because he's disabled. He wants to have his voice heard and help educate the public on how people with disabilities would really like to be treated. *Continued at [ABILITY](#)*



TIC volunteer, Karen Hayes, auditioning for the TIC Radio and Podcast Players.

Advocating Through Art

Barbara Stanwyck and Agnes Moorehead have much in common. They were both famous film stars in Hollywood, they were both nominated for 4 Oscars, but never won and they both had successful TV turns. Also, they both played Leona Stevenson in "Sorry, Wrong Number". But what does that have to do with TIC? To find out, tune in to the TIC Network on June 29th for the live broadcast of "Sorry, Wrong Number". *Continued at [ADVOCATE](#)*

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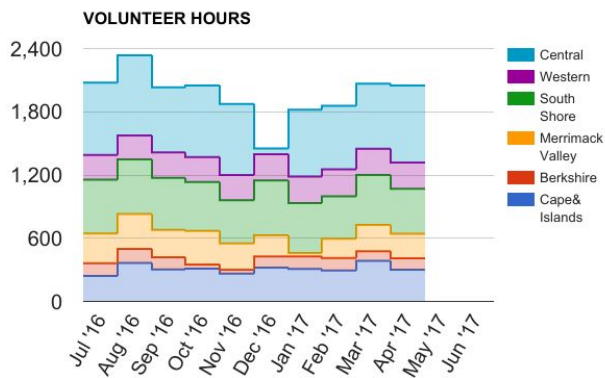
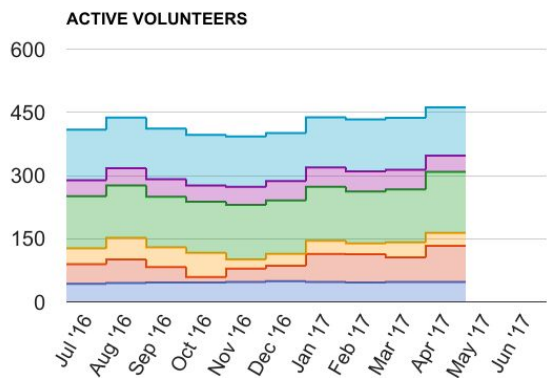
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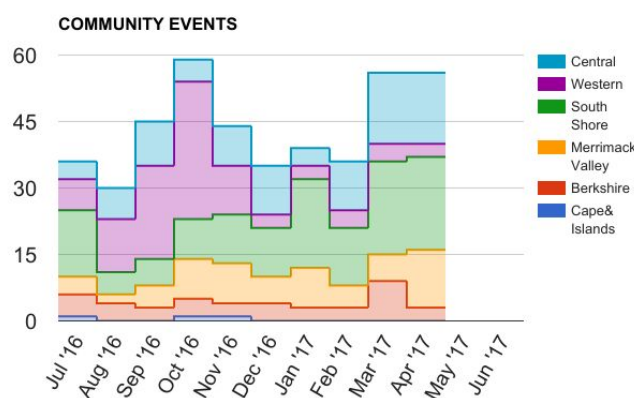
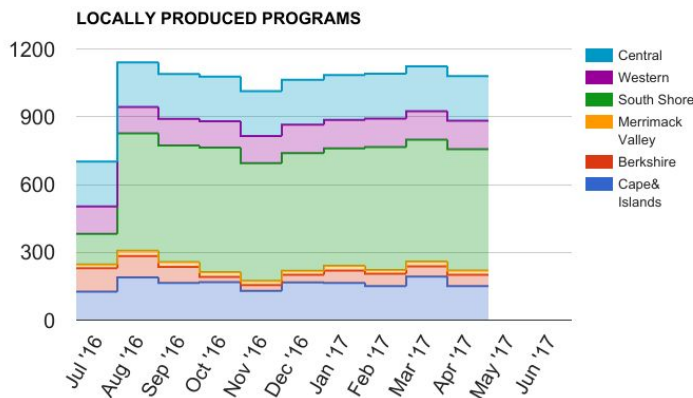
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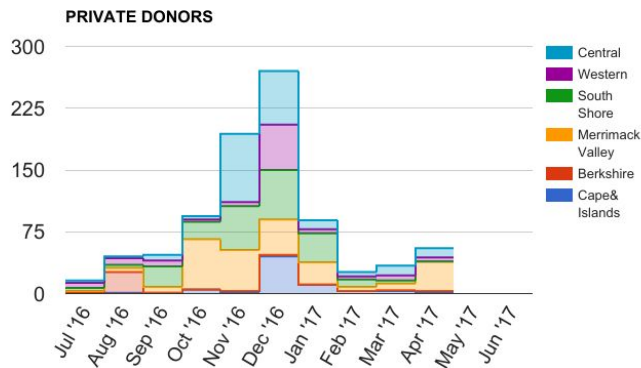
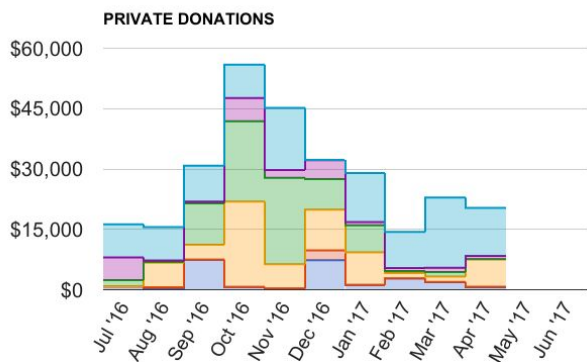
Volunteers Extend Funding and Mission



Programming and Outreach Support Independence



Diversified Development Amplifies Impact



DIRECTOR - [continued from page 1]

- ★ "It's comforting to hear another human voice in the room."
- ★ "Some days I just don't want to be alone."
- ★ "At bedtime, I put the TIC program on and funny or not, it puts me to sleep!"
- ★ "I now recognize some of the readers' voices and look forward to hearing their programs."

Before becoming Executive Director at TIC, I spent my career working with folks on fitness and wellness, bringing them into a community of others with very similar goals and outcomes seen in the quotes above.

According to medical research, loneliness is common and present when someone feels alone, separated from others, unsupported or distressed. Loneliness usually comes and goes, but when it lingers, loneliness can accelerate aging and create multiple health issues. Scientific studies, by [Brigham Young University](#) and [the National Academy of Sciences](#), suggest that loneliness, isolation and living alone can be as threatening to health as cigarettes, excess alcohol, and obesity.

The danger of loneliness is especially acute for the newly disabled and later in life when social resources decline and illness accumulates, which can have an impact on independence. From birth to old age, we need one another to regulate our emotions AND our bodies. When disability or old age leads to social isolation there are health consequences.

Our many fabulous volunteers - with financial support from the state and our generous donors - make a real, positive impact on the state's most vulnerable population, the lonely and disabled. TIC and the Massachusetts Reading Network broadcast 7 days a week, 24 hours a day so people can listen whenever they are in need of news, entertainment or a kind, familiar voice. *Jim Bunnell, Executive Director, the Talking Information Network.*

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**ABILITY** [continued from page 1]

We have another gentleman who is doing a program on fixing and restoring cars even though he's blind and still working! His motto: "Feeling is believing!" I have a blind friend who crochets and another who skateboards.

A couple of definitions:

Disability: a physical or mental condition that limits a person's movements, senses or activities.

Double disability: a physical or mental condition that limits a person's movements, senses or activities by others toward a person with a disability.

"They" see someone "physically able" park in a handicapped spot and assume that person isn't disabled. "They" see someone in a wheelchair stand up momentarily and assume that person can't be disabled either. Try using a crosswalk in a wheelchair or using a white cane before the lights change. Not all drivers are as careful or attentive as they might be.

One complaint I have heard from a gentleman occurs when he visits his local bank. If he has someone with him who is sighted, the cashier or teller will talk with the sighted person instead of my blind friend. If money is to be exchanged it is given first to the sighted person to hand over. Or the teller will talk with the sighted person as if my blind friend were not present.

Having a disability is never one-sided. Interaction of some kind cannot be avoided. But, by sharing both sides of our experiences understanding can be a precious first step in strengthening communication and common cause. *Beverly J. Prentice, Director, Berkshire Talking Chronicle, Radio Reading Service of United Cerebral Palsy*

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This legendary thriller by Lucille Fletcher, [YouTubeRecording](#), which premiered in 1943 had a lasting impact on its audience and you can experience that yourself! TIC is very pleased to announce a brand new production of "Sorry, Wrong Number" as part of three radio plays, which will air on the TIC Network this summer! Each of these radio plays will be performed by the TIC Radio and Podcast Players (RAPP), which is made up entirely of TIC volunteers. These volunteers were part of 45 people who auditioned for parts in the plays that will be performed in front of a live studio audience. Because there are three plays, there is the chance that everyone will get a part!



We are absolutely thrilled to have Eric Joseph, Executive Director of the Bay Colony Shakespeare Company (BCSC), and TIC's Producer, John Shea, directing and producing the plays. Mr. Joseph, a Cohasset native, returned to Marshfield after a successful career in acting and production. Through the Bay Colony Shakespeare Company and the TIC RAPP productions, Mr. Joseph is advocating through the arts. The BCSC performs professional plays for school audiences, helping them both appreciate Shakespeare and improve academic performance. The TIC productions bring live performance into the homes of our listeners across the state, including Massachusetts' most vulnerable residents. The goal of this new programming is to bring live theater to those who might not have access to it otherwise due to accessibility or financial issues and to bring our audience of over 30,000 listeners fresh, new and exciting content!

After the successful TIC production of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, Mr. Joseph and TIC decided to pilot a summer series in the hopes of building support for underwriting the good works of TIC and the Massachusetts Reading Network. The plays are designed to attract sponsors. As in old-time radio, each play will contain commercial breaks built into the story and read by the actors. Businesses that wish to support the TIC Radio and Podcast Players productions, may become part of the show through these unique underwriting messages. For more information on how to become a sponsor, visit www.ticnetwork.org or contact Anna Dunbar at 781 834 4400 or via e-mail at adunbar@ticnetwork.org.

Check the TIC Website to for more behind the scenes info and updates as the broadcast dates approach!



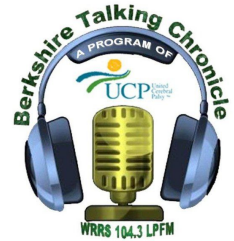
The TIC production of *Twelfth Night*..



Audible Local Ledger

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Listen to TIC National Service

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