

# LathamCenters



Passage  
to a brighter  
future



Nationally known, innovative treatment in a beautiful setting. Since 1970, we have been working together - with our students, residents, their families, and outstanding professionals - to bring hope and change to young people and adults who face tough challenges. At Latham they receive respect and discover new potential to become responsible members of their communities.



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# LathamSchool

It can be hard to reconcile the peaceful beauty of Latham School - its winding paths, leafy trees, classic Cape Cod architecture, stands of bicycles and beds piled with stuffed animals - with the difficult pasts of those who have come here.



Our students range from 8 to 22 years old, and fall into two main groups who

intensive therapy, specialized education and vocational opportunities. We focus on highly individualized treatment that supports both students and their families.

Success can come in many ways. A girl once withdrawn and unable to make eye contact now confidently greets people with an outstretched hand and warm smile.

Students travel to a nursing home to entertain seniors. A young woman discovers her love of horseback riding, and becomes a valued employee on a horse farm.



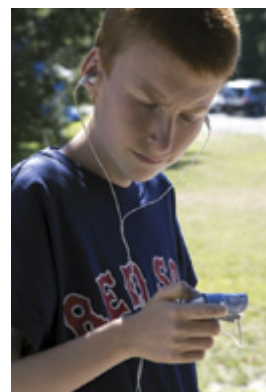
come together in this extraordinary setting. Some are girls and boys who arrive with little trust in themselves or others. Along with their families, they have coped with troubled histories, have experienced trauma and failed placements. Others are both girls and boys living with Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS), a genetic disorder that affects every family member (see page 6 for more on PWS).

What unites all of our students is what they find a Latham: a safe, healing environment, a vibrant atmosphere, and a dedicated professional staff, which offers close supervision,



*“Latham is so passionately committed to helping each child lead the most independent life possible, filled with meaning and new opportunities.”*

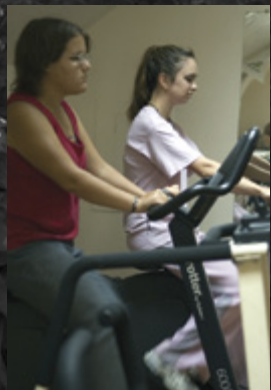
INDEPENDENT PSYCHOLOGIST





*"I am so proud of our students. Their compassion, their respect and kindness towards others - they inspire all of us."*

LATHAM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



# Gilbough Program

For many, Gilbough offers a journey back to life. We are one of the leading residential treatment centers in the country for Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS), and one of the few that works with both children and adults facing this unusual genetic condition. People born with PWS face many challenges: uncontrollable appetite, limited motor skills, mild to moderate mental retardation, and compulsive

disorders among them. PWS often leads to extreme obesity, heart disease, pulmonary disorders, and ultimately, early death.

Thus far Prader-Willi Syndrome has no cure, but we are nationally known for helping those with PWS lead happier, more productive, and longer lives. We work closely with nationally known, leading experts in the fields of medical care and research for PWS.

Together with our residents and their families, we have created a successful new diet that works. Many in our PWS community have



lost substantial weight. They've also found improved health, with fewer illnesses and medical problems, and higher self-esteem.

Our residents are competing in Special Olympics events, learning to garden, going to Red Sox games, holding jobs, and beginning to achieve the wisdom of living into old age.

*"I wouldn't be alive today if it weren't for Gilbough. I feel blessed to be here."* GILBOUGH RESIDENT



*“It has given me a life!  
It’s given my family a life,  
and most importantly -  
it’s given my son a life.”*  
GILBOUGH PARENT



# SAILProgram

Since Latham's inception we have helped hundreds of children and adults enjoy better lives. We recognize the transition from childhood to the adult world is a critical step, and can be a very difficult one. To ease this transition, in 2002 we created SAIL (Supported Adult Independent Living). SAIL provides young adults with hands-on staff guidance, as they learn to make important decisions in

for themselves and their homes, to seeking employment, doing their own banking, grocery shopping and cooking, to having fun in the community and meeting people with whom they can safely form healthy, long-term relationships.

At SAIL, individuals' goals are driven by their own interests and tastes. We work with them to reach their goals, helping them to become as self-sufficient as possible.



their lives and continue to work toward greater independence.

SAIL offers young adults the opportunity to explore the world in a variety of situations. SAIL residents might live with several housemates in a home in the community, in an apartment with another housemate, or in their own apartment. Some young people initially require 24-hour support, 7 days a week, while others need less. We provide levels of support based on each resident's needs. All receive well-rounded exposure to a range of life experiences, from caring



*“An innovative approach to supporting young adults in their journey towards independence.”* COUNSELOR





## **LathamCenters**

Our work is licensed and accredited by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Department of Developmental Services and the Department of Early Education and Care.

We hope that this brief overview of the Latham community and programs has been beneficial, and invite you to contact us at any time. We welcome your inquiries and will be pleased to arrange a campus visit.

**Anne McManus** Executive Director  
**Michael Marchese** Director of Adult Services  
**Jonathan Smith** Director of Children's Services  
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