



Announcing Recipients of the 2018 Braintree Community Inclusion Award!

Mayor Joseph C. Sullivan will again be hosting the **10th Annual Braintree Community Inclusion Awards** on Thursday, May 24th to honor members of our community that have furthered the ideals of *inclusion*. Inclusion means that ALL children and youth are given equal opportunity to participate in the community. More specifically, children and youth with special needs are participating alongside their typical peers.

We are honored to be dedicating this year's event to **Kristen Zechello, Special Education Parent Advisory Council Co-Chair and Town of Braintree ADA Coordinator**. Kristen has guided friends, family, school personnel, the SEPAC, the Community Inclusion Awards committee and the entire Town of Braintree with a sharp vision of how everyone can be included in our community.

We are honored to be presenting this award to the following members of our community this year:

- **Julia Doherty** – Julia, a senior at Braintree High has devoted herself from an early age to include those who have different abilities and challenges. Julia is the President of the Best Buddies program at BHS and organized Braintree's own "Fancy Formal"! She has also been assistant coach for the Super Stars sports league since she was very young.
- **Joe Hubbard** – Joe has been a volunteer at the Special Needs golf program at Braintree Municipal Golf Course since 2007. Joe has taken the role of teaching the other volunteers how to interact with and teach our special athletes for them to be able to access the sport in their own ways and develop a love for the game!
- **Melissa Ricci, Victoria Russo and the South Middle School Ambassadors Club** – The Ambassadors Club, under the leadership and passion of Melissa, Speech and Language Pathologist and Victoria, Special Education Teacher, was created. The Ambassadors seek to educate all students with their initiatives and commitment to including all students at South Middle School!
- **Christopher Kelly and Steve Zechello** – These two gentlemen founded and coach the Commonwealth Football Club "Kick-N-It" Soccer League. This program allows all of its players, with varying abilities, to learn skills and sportsmanship in their own unique ways! Coach Chris and Coach Steve staff the program with typical student volunteers who help the players learn soccer skills in a fun and safe environment.

We are extremely honored to have **Braintree Public Schools' retired Superintendent, Dr. Peter Kurzberg**, a longtime supporter and pioneer for inclusion in our wonderful community, to offer his perspective and thoughts on Braintree's history and commitment to inclusion in our schools.

Please join us for this celebration at the Braintree Town Hall on **Thursday, May 24th at 6:30 p.m. for light refreshments and the program of speakers will begin promptly at 7:00pm**. Each year, this event is inspiring and uplifting as we hear stories about the special members of the community that we honor. It is a wonderful way to share the meaning of inclusion and how it's done in Braintree! The Community Inclusion Awards Committee looks forward to seeing you there!