

BHMA 25th Anniversary Highlights

1. BHMA is the first program in the country that infuses music, dance, and creative arts with teaching of life skills and vocational preparation for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
2. BHMA serves adults with a variety of diagnoses. Our current student body is approximately 40% autism spectrum, 20% Williams syndrome, 15% Down syndrome, and 25% other (intellectual disabilities, global developmental delays, chromosomal disorders or deletions).
3. BHMA has expanded its geographical footprint, both on and off campus, to accommodate the growth of our community. BHMA has grown from a census of 14 in the first class to 30 individuals in 2013 to over 70 individuals today.
4. BHMA's residential program offers a dorm setting, group homes, and shared living to meet the needs of our residents while attending our day program.

Timeline of growth-based projects:

- 2010 - BHMA purchased a 4-person group home in South Hadley
 - 2016 - BHMA launched its shared living program
 - 2017 –BHMA constructed the Bernon Music Center on campus
 - 2018 – BHMA moved the arts program into a studio space
 - 2019 – BHMA opened a group home in Hadley for 3 residents
 - 2022-23- BHMA renovated the interior and exterior of its main building
5. For FY 2025, BHMA's operating budget is projected to be over \$5.6 million. The first operating budget was under \$1 million; by 2013 it was \$1.8 million.
 6. 85% of individuals at BHMA are working or volunteering in the community weekly.
 - **Current work sites** – Big Y, Trader Joes, Marshalls, Batch Ice Cream, Rock Valley Tool, Serenity Yoga, Chap de Laine's, Town of South Hadley, BHMA, Ace Hardware
 - **Current volunteer sites**- Council on Aging, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Daikin Animal Shelter, The Food Bank of Western Mass
 7. BHMA musicians have done over 1,000 public/community performances. In addition to many primary schools, our groups have performed at several Massachusetts colleges including Amherst College, UMASS, Assumption University, Bentley University, Berkley College, Springfield College, Bay Path University, and MIT. Our musicians have also performed at various professional organizations including:
 - Pepsico in Somers NY
 - Gillette Stadium
 - Best Buddies International (Celtics performance)
 - PEO Mass State Chapter
 - ADDP
 - The Center for Performing Arts - Girl Scouts

- Six Flags New England
 - Springfield Museums
 - Federation for Children with Special Needs
8. BHMA provides 142 individual music lessons weekly. The music department currently delivers 20 ensemble opportunities per week ranging from Digital Music to Rock 'n Roll, and Classical. Seven of these groups are working bands and consistently perform both in the local community, state, and nationally on occasion.
 9. BHMA runs 9 different art-based classes or groups during a single week, providing 20 hours of art instruction to each artist weekly. Currently, 18 artists are receiving payment for their works sold. The artists receive 100% of the profits of their consigned work.
 10. BHMA musicians have performed the National Anthem at Red Sox, Celtics, and Miami Heat games. BHMA alums have also performed at the White House, Carnegie Hall, Boston Symphony Hall with Keith Lockhart, Tanglewood, numerous appearances with Tom Brady at the Best Buddies Ride-a-thons on the Cape, and at Kennedy Library in Boston.
 11. BHMA has graduated over 160 individuals from our two-year transition program. Graduates have come from 14 different states throughout the US and three different countries- India, Canada, Bermuda.
 12. BHMA's bands provide an anti-bullying/disability awareness message during gigs at schools. During the performance, 2 BHMA musicians will talk to the audience about how their experience with their disability has impacted their lives. By sharing achievements, explanations of their personal struggles, relationship to music, and dreams, our participants deliver a message of awareness - not only of disability, but the optimism, passion, and disappointment that exists in all lives. The message is that of inclusion and acknowledging similarities rather than differences.
 13. BHMA's Music and Human Service Program brings regularly scheduled performances twice a month to 18 different assisted living and eldercare facilities.