



chicopee • springfield • three rivers • westfield

**Contact:** Amie Miarecki  
**Email:** [amiarecki@sunshine.us](mailto:amiarecki@sunshine.us)  
**Phone:** (413)592-6142

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

---

**Sunshine Village Delivers on the Promise of a Great Day for Fifty Years-  
Great Days Gala Celebrates Innovation and**

---

**Chicopee, MA** — September 14, 2017 — Building on the dream of several parents of children with disabilities in 1967, local nonprofit Sunshine Village celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with a Great Days Gala on September 14, 2017. Over 250 guests enjoyed food stations and passed hors d'oeuvres under a tent along with tours of the buildings on its main campus in Chicopee. As an industry-leader in disability services, the organization serves over 450 people and employs over 250 people in its day programs and employment services for adults with developmental disabilities, including those on the autism spectrum.

The event focused on the innovation surrounding the next fifty years of the organization, including finding new programs to serve the growing population of individuals with disabilities. Board President Ernest N. Laflamme Jr. and Mayor Kos of Chicopee cut the ribbon on the Davis Building that was recently renovated by A. Crane Construction Company and Caolo and Bieniek Associates, Inc. to allow for future growth. The building houses administration offices and a new contemporary day habilitation program geared toward younger adults aged 18-32 years. In addition, the Board Room was also dedicated to the steadfast leadership of Mr. Laflamme as a board member.

**About Sunshine Village**

In its fiftieth year, Sunshine Village helps adults with developmental disabilities, including those on the autism spectrum, lead rich, meaningful lives. We are a thriving, vibrant community where hundreds of adults and their families connect, learn, and contribute. Each day, our participants develop life skills, enhance social skills, improve coping strategies, and increase their independence. With a main campus in Chicopee and additional sites in Chicopee, Springfield, Three Rivers and Westfield, we offer a range of day programs and employment services. With medically-based day habilitation programs, we incorporate physical and occupational therapies into music, culinary, art and sport therapy programming to shape great days. Our employment services engage business partners to help participants prepare to work in industrial and commercial settings. The community-based day services program offers a strength-based approach to community integration with unique experiences and skill-building opportunities to tap into everyone's potential. As a nonprofit organization, we receive state, federal, and private funding to achieve our mission. We are accredited at the highest level by The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, CARF International (CARF). At Sunshine Village, we know small moments turn into great days-where everyone shines!

75 litwin lane, chicopee, ma 01020  
call 413.592.6142 or fax 413.598.0478  
[www.sunshine.us](http://www.sunshine.us)

everyone shines  
**SUNSHINE**  
VILLAGE

---

chicopee • springfield • three rivers • westfield

**###**

75 litwin lane, chicopee, ma 01020  
call 413.592.6142 or fax 413.598.0478  
[www.sunshine.us](http://www.sunshine.us)