

Faces of New Bedford Part 2

Faces of New Bedford is a New Bedford Guide project being undertaken by Josh Souza. If you'd like to nominate someone or ask a question you can inquire with him through email at josh@newbedfordguide.com. If you'd like to see the faces from newest to old go [here](#).

Faces of New Bedford began as a project by Colton Simmons. You can find Colton on Instagram: <https://instagram.com/simmonscolton>

Faces Of New Bedford #201: Izaiah Baretto

Meet Izaiah Baretto, 26-year-old Personal Training Manager and Functional Training Instructor. Izaiah grew up in the Ben Rose Garden Apartments in the South First Neighborhood, which was riddled with gang-violence and lack of guidance, leaving him in a difficult place. He got involved in sports at a young age at Dennison Memorial, in hopes to keep himself away from trouble but he found himself walking the line between both until he had his first child at 18.



Knowing he needed to do better for the future of his family, Izaiah removed himself from a lifestyle that could have led to destruction and began focusing on one thing he always loved, staying active. Working out at a local gym, he was encouraged by management and other members to get into training, as he was always gifted with strength and the willingness to help others while he was there. After a while, he took their advice and got his first certifications and began training in that

gym.

Fast forward to today and Izaiah is continuing to chase his passions in fitness and helping others. As a Person Training Manager with a local gym, while teaching classes at other gyms, he has also earned himself a handful of certifications, allowing him to teach group classes and function training, which focuses on exercises that allow individuals to perform activities of daily life more easily and without injury.

Izaiah hopes to be able to open his own gym in the neighborhood he grew up in and being a role model to the youth there, showing them that they don't have to become the product of their environment.

Faces Of New Bedford #202: John Barboza

Meet John Barboza, 58-year-old Hypnotist with Life Enriching Hypnosis. When John was a child, he was always interested in magic, watching magicians on TV and even learning magic tricks from books he would get from the library. As he got older, the interest in magic was always there but he focused on other things.



John worked several jobs throughout his twenties and at the age of 28, he decided to go back to college, eventually graduating from Umass Dartmouth with a degree in Criminal Justice and Sociology. This put him on a career path of corrections, working at the Massachusetts Department of Corrections for 21 years before retiring.

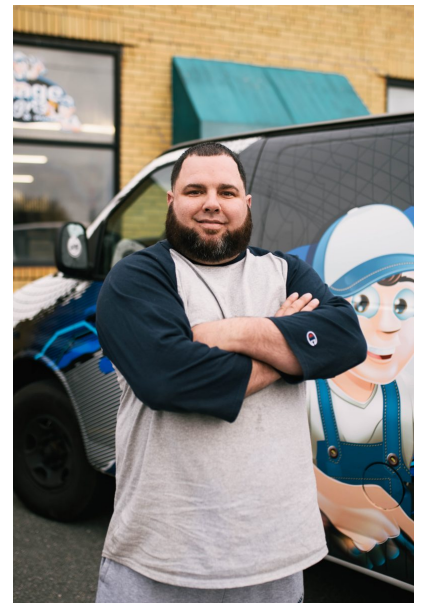
In 2009, after watching the movie the 4th Kind, his interest

in hypnosis resurfaced, which is what the protagonist in the movie uses to help those who were convinced they were abducted by aliens. He started buying and reading books on the subject while practicing hypnotizing others.

John has since been certified by the National Guild of Hypnotists and meets with clients regularly, helping them overcome all sorts of ailments from habitual behaviors to stress. John also offers free hypnosis sessions to quit smoking with New Bedford Wellness every 3rd Sunday at the Boys and Girls Club.

Faces Of New Bedford #203: Derek Yates

Meet Derek Yates, 39-year-old Owner, Installer and Designer at Image Signs Incorporated. After finishing high school, Derek joined the army and was enlisted for three and a half years. After his service, he went back to school and got an Environment Technology degree from Bristol Community College and spent the next few years doing environmental cleanup.



In need of a career change, Dereck opened his own car detailing business and quickly build a good reputation within the community. Ge would also work with his mentor, Eddie Barrett, prepping cars for his lettering and wrapping business. Derek fell in love with the process of wrapping cars and started learning all of the programs involved with designing, in hopes to open his own lettering and wrapping business.

In 2012, he started building signs for clients as he hadn't gotten the machinery to wrap vehicles just yet. After a few

years in business and a few purchases later, he was able to turn Image Signs Incorporated into a one-stop shop. From Apparel to signage, Derek has dedicated himself to his clients, with loyal local companies Coelho's Plumbing, Tia Maria's, Moby Dick Brewing Company, and Cafe Italia as well as opening the doors to working with companies such as Chic-fil-a, Bank of America, and much more.

Faces Of New Bedford #204: Rhu Nobre

Meet Rylee "Rhu" Nobre, 23-year-old Videographer, Photographer and owner of Primo Studios. Rylee grew up always involved in creative hobbies, whether it was dancing or drawing. When she was in high school, she was tasked with making a video for a project in her English class. It was during her time working on the project that she fell in love with the art of film.



She immediately went home and spent hours online researching cameras and convinced her parents to get her a camera. She quickly began looking for projects to work on, starting with music artist that went to her school, venturing into the world music video production.

Over the next few years, she began to learn more, working with photography and graphic design, rounding herself out as an artist. After working with clients like Hope Yoga and LA Cycle, she knew that she wanted to use her talents to grow local businesses.

This all culminated in her opening Primo Studios, a one-stop shop for businesses looking to brand and market themselves on social media. In creating the home for Primo Studios at the

Kilburn Mills in the cities south end, she also hopes to create a space for other creatives to rent space for gallery showings or their own photography and videography needs.

Faces Of New Bedford #205: Matthew “That Salt” Gwozdz

Meet Matthew “That Salt” Gwozdz, a security officer at Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech and owner of That Salt. As a child and teenager, Matt had always been involved in sports and felt as though he was never the best at any one of them, but always had a way to build camaraderie amongst his team. He would always bring a positive attitude and encourage his teammates, making him interested in getting into coaching and training.



After high school, he took some time off from school to really figure this out for himself. He spent his time training professional fighters and those who just wanted to get in shape. While also running his own candle business, he pursued and received his Bachelors in Science, with a focus in Physical Education.

With the impending market crash, he knew he had to get out of his candle business while he still could and therefore he joined the security team at GNBVT. He enjoys his position at the school, as it allows him to work with students who need direction and a positive influence, helping them realize their full potential. Still driven by an entrepreneurial heart, he continued to find ways to create new businesses once the market started to correct itself.

Having eaten clean for many years, Matt began getting sick of bland chicken and steak and found a gift from his brother and sister-in-law one-night cooking. This container of homemade

Brazilian seasoning salt sparked the idea of That Salt into life. After working with his family to perfect the recipe they launched, That Salt, with a social media campaign focused on encouragement and providing one positive tip to their community each day.

Faces Of New Bedford #206: Cody Carmo

Meet Cody Carmo, 26-year-old Graphic Designer and Co-Owner of Longevity Co. Clothing. Cody had always been interested in art and creating as a child, but didn't think it could be a career path until his senior year in high school. He applied to the Johnson and Wales Graphic Design program in the hopes of pursuing a creative career.



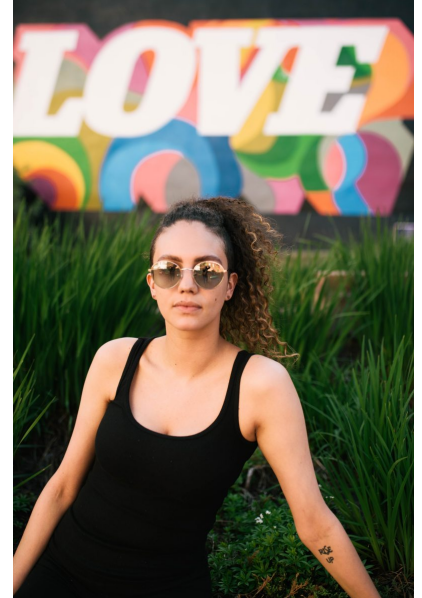
It was during his freshman year that his interest in screen printing was born. He bought a small machine and started burning screens for t-shirt ideas in his dorm shower. After a bit of trial and error, he took his ideas to a local screen printer and the early identity of Longevity Co. started to form. Joining up with Ethan Franklin and Paulo Duarte, over the next few years Cody was able to use social media marketing and the community they created to expand the reach of their clothing brand worldwide.

All while working several day jobs as a graphic designer, currently at Poyant Signs, Cody would work with his team to formulate new ideas for their upcoming lines. Since launch, they have not only sold clothing world-wide but been able to work with large names in the streetwear fashion world, such as Bloody Osiris, who worked closely with Kanye West on his YZY brand. Their hope is to continue to make waves in the

streetwear world and grow their brand into a worldwide community.

Faces Of New Bedford #207: Aleisea Guzman

Meet Aleisea Guzman, 23-year-old Designer and Sculptor. Aleisea got involved in the world of art as a child, attending the Art Mobile that traveled to Satellite Village homes where she lived. Watching her father play video games, as well as playing her own, it inspired her to go to school for software development.



After high school, she began attending Umass Dartmouth, focusing on a degree in Computer Science. Realizing that she wasn't so interested in the coding aspect of game creation, but the character and model development, she switched her major to Animation and Game Arts, with a concentration in sculpture. She enjoyed taking extra sculpture classes, as it was an escape from computer work, allowing her to mold and shape her work with her own hands.

As she has just graduated, she is looking to her future and has hopes to continue to contribute to the local art community. She has also helped local street artists, such as Meaggsy and TomBob in commissioned works throughout the city.

Faces Of New Bedford #208: Andrew Rapoza

Meet Andrew Rapoza, 21-year-old student and baseball player. As a child, Andrew was always involved in sports. From bat boy for his older brother to winning championships himself, he knew that he had a future in sports if he took it seriously.



Throughout his time at New Bedford High School, Andrew focused most of his efforts in his football career. By his senior year, he had even earned several different scholarship offers from schools across the country. His direction shifted though, suffering his 4th major concussion during one of the final games of his senior year.

Unsure of how his future would play out, he followed his second passion for baseball and walked onto the team at Barry University, located in Miami, Florida. Having to prove himself, he played 40 of the 50 season games and finished with a .305, opening him up to scholarships to return and play the following year.

Andrew, now entering his senior year as captain of the team, waits in prospect for the 2019 MLB Draft or his upcoming season to make one more try towards the regional championship. Andrew also plays for the New Bedford Bay Sox Collegiate team while he is off during the summer.

Faces Of New Bedford #209: Tabitha Pimental

Meet Tabitha Pimental, 29-year-old owner of Dance Clinic and Salon manager at Style Makers Salon. Tabitha had been involved in the world of dance since she was 3 years old. She danced at Jan Estrella's School of Dance where she fell in love with the art.



Just before entering high school, Tabitha had the opportunity to perform in The Nutcracker at the Zeiterian Theater. It was during this production that she had found her second passion, which would become hair dressing. She was so intrigued by how the hair dresser for the play not only transformed her and her friends, but made them feel great about themselves.

As a freshman at Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech, she enrolled in Cosmetology and never looked back. She completed her time there and interviewed with the owner of Styler Maker's Salon and has been with them ever since. Tabitha has focused on her craft over the last 11 years, but during that time she knew she needed to find a way to make time for dance.

Tabitha's dream of owning her dance studio came to life after passing her childhood school and seeing the building for lease. She knew what she must do and immediately began the process of opening her studio. In 2015, she opened Dance Clinic and since then her enrollment has quadrupled and added a second studio space for the expanded classes. Tabitha's passion for dance transcends the art, as she knows her work helps keep the youth she works with out of trouble and focused on achieving their goals, which is one of the reasons she was nominated as a South Coast Emerging Leader in 2018.

Faces Of New Bedford #210: Bethany Fernandes

Meet Bethany Fernandes, 21-year old videographer and co-owner of The Well. Bethany first became interested in film during her freshman year of high school, but only because she enjoyed acting. By the beginning of her sophomore year, she was ready to give up on the class but her new teacher gave the class a new perspective to film making and it made her fall in love.



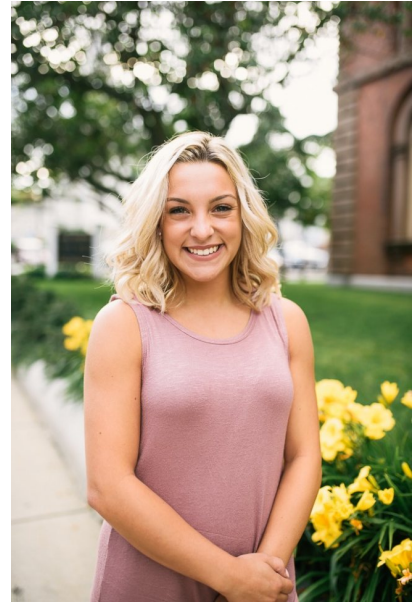
By the end of that school year, Bethany had worked with a team of students to win a New England Student Emmy with their music video. Encouraged and inspired by this, she set off to film her own video her junior year, which won her another New England Student Emmy while she was still in high school, but recently won a National Student Emmy.

During her senior year, she put together her legacy project, which was a commercial for the school. The commercial went on to win two New England Student Emmy's, for Bethany's writing and videography. With so much already accomplished, she knew it only made sense that she go to school for film.

In the fall of 2016, Bethany began studying film at Quinnipiac College in Connecticut. She quickly realized that there wasn't much more she would learn in film school to do the work she wanted to after and switched her major to marketing. She knew with the right marketing knowledge and the vast amount of educational material online, she'd be able to open her own branding and marketing business. This led her to open The Well with high school classmate, Erick Sa, focusing wedding and commercial videography.

Faces Of New Bedford #211: Hannah Mattos

Meet Hannah Mattos, 21 year-old-student and Boston Celtics Cheerleader. Hannah spent her entire life dancing and when she got to high school, her parents recommended that she join the cheerleading squad, to be involved in activities in school. Against her wishes, she joined and since then hasn't looked back.



After high school, she was approached by her high school cheer choreographer, who is also the head coach of the Celtics cheer squad. He told her that she would be a good fit and should try out. During her freshman year at Umass, she tried out but didn't make the team due to being too young.

She decided then that she would just try out each year until she was considered old enough and was taken on at the age of 19, making her the youngest cheerleader. She will be coming up on her 3rd season this year, barring she makes it through tryouts.

Not only is she representing cheerleading on such a large platform but also starting as the head coach of the Fairhaven High School program. Working alongside her high school cheer partner, she will have the chance to pass on everything she's learned to the next generation.

Faces Of New Bedford #212: Jill Fearons

Meet Jill Fearons, 46-year-old director and founder of the Friends of Jack Foundation. Jill spent most of her professional life as a school teacher but as her family started growing, she stayed home to take care of the children.



Their fifth son, Jack, was born with a rare defect in the brain stem, Chiari Malformation, which caused him to randomly stop breathing. He was admitted in to Boston Children's Hospital Outpatient program and that cause Jill to need to stay in Boston with him at all times. After seeing what her family endured during Jacks difficult time, she vowed to help other families that may not have had the resources she did. This started as an annual fundraiser, which went to fund Southcoast Pediatrics , helping families like her own.

As the years passed and the foundation formed, she began raising funds to start small initiatives through the Friends of Jack Foundation. One of those is the Teddy bear program, which ensures that any child who is triaged in an emergency room in the Southcoast, enters into social services, or visits a family member at the house of corrections, gets a teddy bear to help soften their visit. She also has the Super Hero Program, which gives kids a mask and a cape when they go into surgery, as it was something that helped Hack be brave. They've also partnered with Fun 107 and WBSM the Food for Tots campaign and is currently working to help start a program that would give those moving around in the foster program duffle bags, instead of the black trash bags there children are given.

Faces Of New Bedford #213: Marissa Gill

Meet Marissa Gill, 31-year-old Physical Therapist and Managing Partner at Bay State Physical Therapy. Growing up, Marissa knew that she wanted to get into a profession where she could help others. During an internship with a physical therapist in high school, she knew that it was the job for her.



After graduating from New Bedford High School, she began attending Northeastern's Physical therapy program. She received her Doctorate after six and half years of school. She began working for Bay State shortly after graduating and has been with them ever since.

She enjoys the field because she's able to help people get back to a healthy and functional place after an injury. Since being with Bay State, she has worked at several of their locations, but has recently partnered to open her own location at Healthtrax in Dartmouth. She's worked all over the state and has been passionate about bringing her own practice into the Greater New Bedford area. Marissa and her team have also volunteered their time to help out at local road races and events.

Faces Of New Bedford #214: Simone Cardoso

Meet Simone Cardoso, 24-year-old Singer, Songwriter, and Vocal Instructor. Simone has been singing for as long as she can remember. Her parents noticed her natural ability at such a young age and enrolled her in private singing lessons at Christine's Studio of Performing Arts.



She was the studio's very first vocal student and during her time there she grew tremendously. During her 6th grade year, she was cast as Annie in the New Bedford High School performance which was a huge accomplishment for her. Simone continued to pursue theater until her freshman year of high school when she joined the girl group, Varsity Girls.

Simone performed, recorded and grew as an artist during her high school career, as the Varsity Girls became extremely popular. During her senior year, she began focusing on college, as the group started to slow down and eventually disbanded. Simone went to Salve Regina where she received her Bachelors in Music Education.

Her time at Salve really opened the most important door for Simone, her passion for songwriting. Until this point, she had only performed songs written by others and now she was crafting her own ideas and emotions into her music. This has fueled her drive to push her solo career and work with other artists, helping them craft their own sounds. Simone is currently finished and waiting to release her debut EP later on this year.

Faces Of New Bedford #215: Michael Galarza

Meet Michael Galarza, 29-year-old Master Barber and owner of Galarza's Barbershop. Growing up, Mike didn't see himself being a barber as an adult. Although his mother worked at a salon and he would spend time there as a kid, he went on to study to become an electrician at New Bedford Voc-Tech.



It was after graduation, where he began to entertain the idea of going to barber school. Without looking back he enrolled and after becoming licensed, began working at Major League Barbershop in Fairhaven. Mike learned a lot while working there but after a disagreement, he found himself without a job. With a child on the way, he turned to God, hoping for a way through the uncertain situation he was in.

Shortly after, a small salon became available and with his newly attained Master's license, he was eligible to take it over and opened Galarza's Barbershop in 2011. His goal in business is to bless people with good service, providing great haircuts while also providing great conversation and an ear to listen. Although some days can be long and repetitive, when a client who had a rough day can leave with a smile, he's reminded why God put him in the position he is in.

Faces Of New Bedford #216: James Carpenter

Meet James Carpenter, 25-year-old designer, and photographer.



James was drawn to the arts at an early age, whether it was drawing or using his parent's film cameras. In high school, it was through the inspiration of a teacher, that he realized he wanted to pursue a creative career.

Not sure of what direction he was headed in, he enrolled at BCC after graduating with a general art degree. He was shooting photos all the time and getting involved in the small photography community on Instagram at the time. He was soon featured by Instagram and grew his following by tens of thousands overnight. This allowed him to photograph the beauty of the Southcoast and share it on an international scale.

This opportunity opened a lot of doors for James, putting him in partnership deals with major companies, all while studying at Umass for his bachelors in Graphic Design and photography. Knowing that this wouldn't last forever, he focused on his schooling and graduated with his bachelor's degree in graphic design and photography.

Since graduating, he's had the opportunity to work for Arnold, one of the largest ad agencies in the country, and now work's for Compass in their in-house studio, designing collateral for high-end real estate clients. His hope is to continue to grow as an artist and reflect the beauty of New

Bedford with his photography.

Faces Of New Bedford #217: Jarred Varao

Meet Jarred Varao, 27-year-old school adjustment counselor for New Bedford Public Schools. Growing up, Jarred was exposed to more than most kids, living in a family that was constantly moving and facing many hardships. Very quickly he knew that he didn't want to continue his life this way, with the encouragement from school counselors and teachers, he pushed to do his best in school.



In high school, he focused his studies on culinary arts but during his senior year in high school, he knew he wanted to go back and help make a difference in the lives of children just like him. He received his Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Umass Dartmouth, where he also continued on to receive his Master's degree in Clinical Psychology. He also graduated Summa Cum Laude and the Pallatroni Award for Outstanding Clinical Potential.

While he was taking classes at UMD, he got started as an adjustment counselor, interning at Roosevelt. It was during this time that he learned a lot and prepared himself for his full-time position at DeValles school, where he is the adjustment counselor. His work is so fulfilling to him because he knows that he once was in those kids positions and has the chance to be the counselors that helped him, to them.

Faces Of New Bedford #218: Stephany Silveira

Meet Stephany Silveira, 28-year-old Hairstylist and Co-Owner of Roots + Daises Beauty Parlor. Stephany started doing hair in high school, as a student at Great New Bedford Voc-Tech.



After high school, she got her license and began working in Boston. Although business was great, the long commute and time away from family became draining. She relocated to local salons, only to find herself looking for new positions as both salons closed down.

Tired of relying on others, she and her friend Nikki Avila decided to open their own salon. Bringing their vision to life, Roots + Daises Beauty Parlor is a reflection of their desire to treat their clients with the best possible treatment. Not only do they offer normal hair and makeup services, but spa and massage services as well.

Faces Of New Bedford #219: Elliana Simmons

Meet Stephany Silveira, 28-year-old Hairstylist and Co-Owner of Roots + Daises Beauty Parlor. Stephany started doing hair in high school, as a student at Great New Bedford Voc-Tech.



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Faces Of New Bedford #220: Jan Macgregor