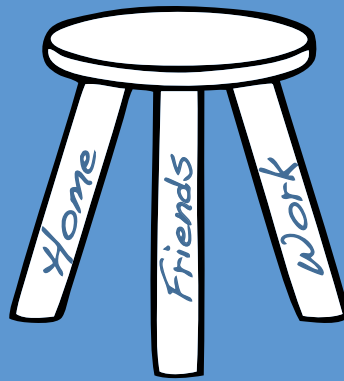


LOCAL SOLUTIONS



Fall Newsletter
2013



HISTORY

Local Solutions was created in 2010 by a group of parents as a response to the lack of service for their adult children with special needs. In 2011 they became a 501©3 non-profit. Nationwide parents are facing the tremendous problem of how to give their children a stable independent life and how to ensure them lifelong care. Social Services are unavailable for many people because of long waiting lists and lack of programs. Local Solutions strives to keep our most vulnerable citizens within their own community, where natural supports such as family, friends, local institutions (libraries, churches, YMCA's, employers) and familiar surroundings protect and enhance their lives.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to create housing, to enhance the social life and to support lifelong learning and work opportunities for those in our community with special needs. The idea is "to create a foundation for shared memories and long term friendships"; "to provide meaningful, fun, relaxing activities for those with special needs and foster a real enduring community inclusion for us all.



WHAT'S NEW?

Our dream has come true! Through the generosity of St. Saviour's Episcopal church, Local Solutions now has a house to renovate for adults who are in need of supported living. Our new building the former St. Saviour's parish house is directly behind the church and most recently was the home of Eden Nursery school. It has been a central part of our community since 1906. It will now become a home for six local young adults with special needs and a gathering place enriching the lives of us all.

When the house is up and running we will focus on what residents do with their time and how we can help find them employment and opportunities for social engagement along with activities such as gardening, art, music, performing arts and cooking.

We are very grateful to Father Timothy Fleck, the congregation, Linda Foster, Muffet Stewart and everyone who has given us their time, encouragement and support with this project. We also want to thank the Jesup Memorial Library and its staff who have helped host our meetings and the over 70 community members who have attended them, including Caroline Pryor who facilitated our forum this past winter.



We are excited to announce our two new board members Roberta Raymond who is a special education teacher at Mount Desert Island High School, and Kristy Smith who is the human resource manager at our local Bar Harbor Hannaford Store. They have provided us with new ideas and their eagerness to support and be committed to our cause is greatly appreciated.



MAINE PARENT COALITION

The Alliance for Quality Housing Services monthly meeting is held in Portland the second Monday of the month and facilitated by CHOM director Cullen Ryan. It is attended by parents, providers, DHHS, personnel and anyone interested in services for those with cognitive/intellectual disabilities. The meetings provide a wealth of information. The next meeting will be October 21 due to the Columbus Day holiday. Visit their website at www.maineparentcoalition.org



COMMUNITY HOUSING OF MAINE

C.H.O.M. which stands for Community Housing of Maine has partnered with Local Solutions to renovate the Parish House. Local Solutions needs to raise \$200,000 to supplement the capital campaign. C.H.O.M. is a Portland based non-profit that has completed projects across the state to house people with disabilities and people in crisis. Please visit their website to see the beautiful homes they have created. Contact info: Cullen@chomhousing.org, call 207-879-0347, office location: 309 Cumberland Ave. Suite 203 Portland, ME 04101.



Thanks to Hannaford's for being a community leader in hiring those with disabilities and donating food to our meetings.



CONTACT INFORMATION

We have also been updating our Facebook page so please go to Local Solutions for Maine and see what's new. Email us at localsolutions04609@gmail.com or call 207-288-4365 with any questions or ways you are able to help our cause! Donations can be made payable to Local Solutions and sent to Bar Harbor Bank & Trust Company P.O. Box 400 Bar Harbor, ME 04609.



WE NEED YOUR HELP

Please write or email our local legislators advocating for more homes across our community as well as the state.

Brian Hubbell: RepBrian.Hubbell@legislature.maine.gov
 Louis Luchini: RepLouis.Luchini@legislature.maine.gov
 Brian Langley: langley4legislature@myfairpoint.net

or mail them at:
 1 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333