

Local Solutions

Spring 2017

*Watch For
Our Summer
Open House!*

LOCAL SOLUTIONS: WORKING WITH PARTNERS TO...

*Create inspired
housing in the
heart of a thriving
supportive
community where
people with special
needs on MDI can
flourish.*

Our Board of Directors:

Enoch Albert
Dick Brown
Linda Foster
Tim Fleck
Lara Horner
Dee Karnofsky
Sharon Knopp
Marty Lyons
Erica Merrill
Roberta Raymond
Roger Wilson

GROUNDBREAKING NEWS!

November 8, 2016 was a bright and sunny fall morning, full of joy for the Local Solutions family. We celebrated the long-awaited groundbreaking for the Parish House renovations. Members of the board, future residents, their families, and key supporters from CHOM joined us for the ceremonial signing of the center beam with the construction crew from E.L. Shea.



The Parish House will include communal spaces that are welcoming to all, bright, and colorful. Wholesome, delicious food will be prepared and shared in the common kitchen. Local Solutions is developing programs that will give our tenants and others opportunities to work, volunteer, recreate and develop needed social relationships.

Holiday Party

by Colin Albert-Knopp

On Friday, December 23, 2016, Local Solutions, a small nonprofit agency, held a holiday party for the future residents of the Parish House here in Bar Harbor. The party was held at Malvern Belmont and was a huge success. All six residents and their families enjoyed eating pizza, singing Christmas carols and receiving Christmas presents. I was the only Christmas grinch there, and my name is Colin Albert-Knopp (pictured right). Peter Logue, a very successful documentarian, also attended and will be releasing a documentary about Local Solutions and the Parish House in the next 2 years.

Our Vision for the Parish House

Local Solutions is hard at work creating an apartment community that will support and enrich the lives of young adults with disabilities. The residents will be encouraged to live with as much independence as they want, while having the support that they need.



Top row: Norman Haynes, Dee Karnofsky, Enoch Albert, Chris Heel, Pauline Garcia, Kim and John Garcia.
Middle Row: Sharon Knopp, Annie Raymond, Ezra Halket
Bottom Row: Jeff and Roberta Raymond. Missing: The Grinch





Kim Gardia, Pauline Gardia, Roberta Raymond

Celebrating.... Pauline Garcia!

During the summer of 2017, 21-year-old Pauline will be ready to move into the Parish House in downtown Bar Harbor where she will have her own private apartment. She will share a common kitchen and living area for community meals and other activities with five other young adults.

For any young adult living at home, this would be a huge transition, but Pauline has an extra challenge. She has Down syndrome. But that does not get in her way. Pauline is well prepared to start living on her own. She works at Downeast Family YMCA daycare program. She has been featured in the Ellsworth American and the MDI Islander. Pauline has a dream to one day open her own child care center and to be a pop singer. Pauline says, "Don't let what anybody says tear you down. Be comfortable with who you are."

Leaving No Stone Unturned

In two separate meetings this winter, Local Solutions board members had the opportunity to update state officials on the progress of the Parish House Project. On December 10th, Gary Wolcott, Maine's Director of Aging and Disability Services, travelled to Bar Harbor to meet with Board members and the families of the future Parish House residents. On January 10th, Mary Mayhew, Maine's Commissioner of Health and Human Services, met with five board members and State Senator Brian Langley in Ellsworth. Both state officials were familiar with our project and have been supportive of it. Board members shared our vision for the Parish House, and discussed concerns about making the Parish House financially sustainable, and about finding, training, and retaining dedicated staff by paying a living wage. Several promising leads came out of the meetings, and Board Members are actively pursuing them.



Dee Karnofsky, Commissioner Mayhew and her assistant, Sen. Brian Langley, Sharon Knopp, Roberta Raymond, Enoch Albert
Photo by Marty Lyons

Future Parish House Resident Chris Heel's 4th Annual Autism Walk/Run

Saturday, April 29th
Neighborhood House, NEH
Registration: 8:00am
Start: 9:30am - 2 mile walk
10:00am - 5K run



Chris Smith and Captain Chris Heel

Thank you for your continued support.
With your gift, you are helping to build
a supportive home for adults with
disabilities in our community.

Local Solutions
c/o Bar Harbor Bank & Trust Company
P.O. Box 400 Bar Harbor, ME 04609
Stock contributions are accepted

Local Solutions would like to thank the MDI Unified Basketball team, coaches, referees, and fans for their generous donations through which we received over \$1,000 during the 2017 season.