

# LOCAL SOLUTIONS

Summer Newsletter 2014

You're invited to a Garden Party  
at St. Saviour's Church, Bar Harbor!

WEDNESDAY

August 27th 5 - 7 PM

Please join us to learn about the  
Parish House Renovations.

## BUILDING INDEPENDENT LIVES IN BAR HARBOR COMMUNITY!

### LOCAL SOLUTIONS: WORKING WITH PARTNERS TO ...

- Provide local young adults with disabilities the chance to live, work, and enjoy our own community — while getting the support they need
- Create a stable foundation for shared EXPERIENCES and long-term friendships

The looming question for parents of children with disabilities:

Who will care for my child when I am no longer able to do so?



## Building a Dream!

**Local Solutions' mission** to help young adults with disabilities build independent lives in their community is blossoming right in the heart of Bar Harbor! St. Saviour's Church has generously donated their Parish House to renovate into apartments and shared living space. Local Solutions has partnered with Community Housing of Maine (CHOM), a Portland based non-profit experienced in creating homes and inclusive communities. We began operating under the Charlotte White Center. On July 1, 2014 we became our own non-profit.

Our project is now **supported by a group of determined parents— and amazing young people ready and waiting to move in!** Our future

residents will get to work, learn, have fun, and volunteer in their community. They will have support staff, as well as the natural support of family, and community members

championing their efforts—and cheering them on.

Our **fundraising efforts** continue. To date, we have raised \$130,000 through the generosity of over 200 donors. We hope to reach our goal of \$300,000 that will allow us to begin the building renovations late this fall.

For **community members**, there will be opportunities to help build a place where differences fade and diversity is celebrated. We invite you to join us— as a volunteer, as a donor, or simply as a supporting voice in town!



*Our whole community learning and growing together.*

# WHO WE ARE

*Pete Seeger once said,  
"The key to the future of  
the world is finding the  
optimistic stories and  
letting them be known."*

*MDI's new nonprofit  
Local Solutions  
epitomizes an  
optimistic story.*



**THE PROBLEM:** Every year children with disabilities, who have been supported through school, graduate and have nowhere to go. In many cases, their social, emotional, and financial support vanishes. State and federally funded group homes are not available for everyone. Among these vulnerable citizens, many continue to live with their parents which is not a long term solution.

Young adults and their parents need to create their own lives and relationships.

**OUR RESPONSE:** In 2010 a group of local parents gathered to address the problem of ensuring a stable, long-term housing solution for our adult children where they will live with support, as independently as possible.

**OUR DREAM:** To create a model intentional community, built on partnerships and community values, that can be replicated in other towns near and far. We believe that life-long planning for post-school-age adults with disabilities should be an integral part of a healthy community's housing plan and opportunities.

## *Meet Some of Our Inspirations. In their own words....*



**Chris**



**Norman**



**Annie**



**Pauline**

*I work at Hannaford... I make cider out of apples that we pick... I compete in Special Olympics... I love to cook... I graduated (or will graduate) from MDI High School... I volunteer at Sweet Pea Farm and the Common Good Cafe... I love music, trains, and running... I ran cross country... I love to dance... I run half marathons... I am in college... I want to work with young children... I am an artist... I write books... I want to live, work and have fun with my friends in Bar Harbor!*



# AUTISM AWARENESS WALK 2014 RAISED \$3000.00 +

For his Senior Exhibition, MDIHS Graduate Christ Heel raised over \$3000 as 160 community members walked in support of Autism Awareness and research.

Local Solutions was one of seventeen sponsors who committed to inclusion of people with disabilities in the MDI community. Way to go Chris!

**Chris donating \$3,003.96 to the Autism Society of Maine**



## It Takes Music to Make Local Solutions!



*Special thanks to Jennifer Worcester, manager of SIPS, for making this event possible and to Clusterfunk for making it rock!*



## GOOD NEWS — SOME SPECIAL GRANTS

Local Solutions has been the recipient of a **\$10,000 grant from the Stroud Fund**, an outreach fund administered by The Stroud Committee of the Parish of St. Mary and St. Jude in Northeast and Seal Harbor respectively. The committee felt our The Parish House project at St. Saviour's Episcopal Church which will benefit our whole island community closely matched the mission that Dr.

Morris W. Stroud III had in mind when the fund was created in 1990. We are very grateful for this generous donation towards the renovation of the St. Saviour's Parish House.

In April, **Maine Governor Paul LePage gave Local Solutions \$30,000** from his contingency fund to help with the renovations of St. Saviour's Parish House.

Dee Karnofsky and Lee Haynes met with Governor LePage and staff of the D.H.H.S. and Community Housing of Maine to discuss our plans and to ask for their support. We are honored that Governor LePage responded with this donation. He commented, "The Parish House will provide a safe environment in which these adults will enjoy independence, the ability to care for themselves and for others."

## We are reaching for a goal of \$1.3 million to fund renovations of the Parish House.

Cost of renovating the Parish House into fully accessible apartments and community areas for shared living is estimated at \$1.3 million dollars. All funds must be acquired before work on the building may begin. CHOM has begun work applying for significant federal

grants. Locally we must raise at least \$300,000 toward renovations. We hope that renovations can begin late this fall.

The more quickly funds are secured, the sooner work can begin.



CHOM has begun preliminary work on our site. Environmental studies, site survey and other behind the scene work is underway.



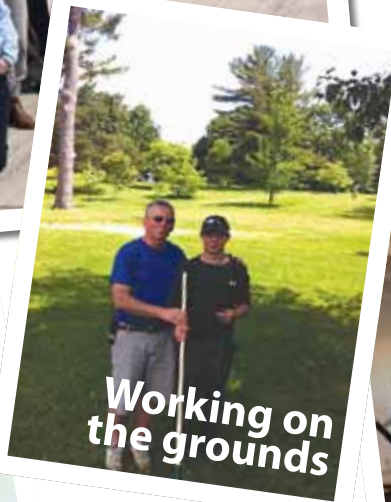
# LIVING, WORKING AND BEING PART OF THE MDI COMMUNITY



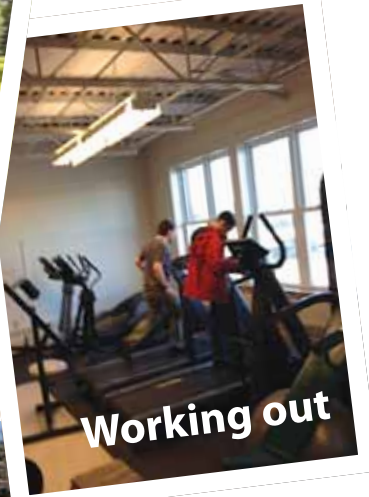
Eddie Monet and "His People"



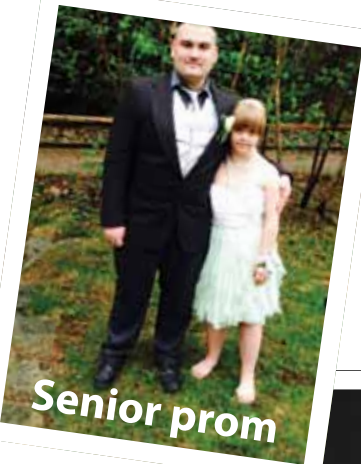
Chris and Norman



Working on the grounds



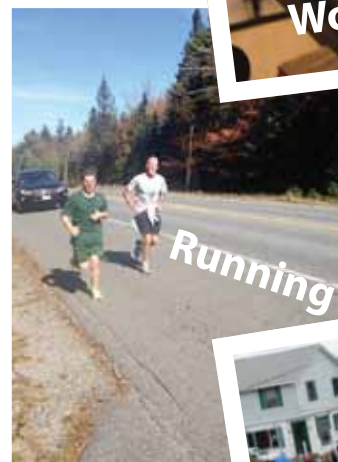
Working out



Senior prom



Making my lunch



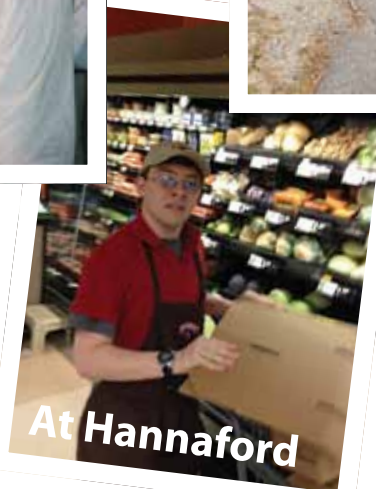
Running



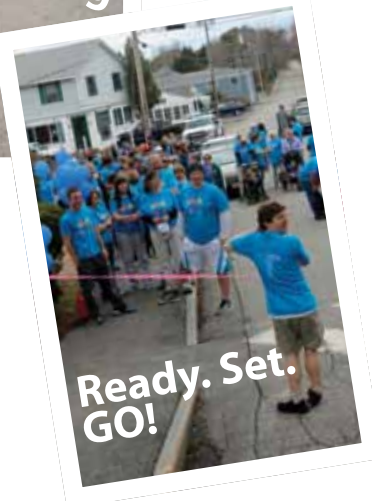
Celebrating Graduation



Crafting Together



At Hannaford



Ready. Set. GO!