

Local Solutions

Summer 2015

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

Our Board of Directors:
Dee Karnofsky
Marty Lyons
Roberta Raymond
Lara Horner
Linda Foster
Tim Fleck
Roger Wilson
Dick Brown, CWC
Sharon Knopp
Enock Albert
Erica Merrill

Dear Friends,

We are nearing the highly anticipated time to commence renovations for our Local Solutions house. This will repurpose the beautiful St. Saviour's Parish House of Bar Harbor into six apartments and community space for individuals with special needs. The building exterior will be restored, and the inside will be rearranged but have its historic features such as the beautiful wainscoting and staircases in place. This is what we have been working towards for the past four years.

We could not have come to this place without the generosity and support of the St. Saviour's Episcopal Church, Community Housing of Maine, The Charlotte White Center, and many wonderful individuals and local businesses. This process has been both complicated and lengthy and we take pride in all we and our partners have accomplished this year:

- *Obtaining subdivision approval from the Bar Harbor Planning Board and Certificate of Appropriateness from the Design Review Board.*
- *Securing a buyer for State and Federal Historic Tax Credits.*
- *Finalizing the boundary survey and property division with the church.*
- *Obtaining a construction estimate.*
- *Working with the DHHS on future services for our residents.*

In the next few months we expect to have completed architectural specifications and construction plans and are planning a ground-breaking this fall. Thank you for all your support. We couldn't do this without you and are thrilled to be closing in on our goals.

Sincerely,

Dee Karnofsky

Board President of Local Solutions



Poster by Nicholas DuPont



**Please join us at our Second
Annual Garden Party
at St. Saviour's Church,
41 Mount Desert Street, Bar Harbor
WEDNESDAY**

August 12th 5 - 7 PM
to celebrate and learn about our
remarkable successes toward our
Parish House Renovations.
Refreshments
Music by Acadia Ukelele Society



Building the Steps Beyond...

Local Solutions' vision stretches beyond the foundation of apartment housing. We are committed to creating an environment in which individuals with disabilities can flourish. Local Solutions will provide a setting that offers opportunities for personal growth in self-sufficiency, developing a healthy lifestyle, opportunities for friendship, social engagement, workforce readiness, economic empowerment, community involvement, creativity, personal management of health services, recreation and life long learning.

In pursuit of our ideal we have been working with our distinguished Representative Brian Hubbell, who has attended our meetings with the DHHS and expressed willingness to work with the legislature on our behalf. We are happy to report that at this time Local Solutions sees no statutory impediment to developing our operating plan.

We have met twice in Augusta with Gary Wolcott, the Department of Health and Human Services Director of Aging and Disability Services, whose advice, experience, guidance, and boundless patience have all been invaluable. We will continue work with DHHS in development of our program.

Many Hands Make Light Work on MDIHS Community Service Day



Saturday, May 16 was a productive and heartwarming day when eight freshmen from MDIHS worked side by side with LS Board members to clean the Parish House inside and out. **Thank you students of MDIHS for helping us get ready for our renovations.**



*** MDIHS GUIDING PRINCIPLE: RESPONSIBLE AND INVOLVED CITIZENS**



Leaders of the Local Solutions Board spoke with parishioners at **Bar Harbor Congregational** and **St. John's Church of SWH** about our project. If you are interested in inviting us to talk to your organization, please contact Tim Fleck, Rector, St. Saviour's Episcopal Church, 288-4215 Left: Tim Fleck tim@mdi-episcopal.org



Many thanks to the Acadia Ukulele Society (AUkeS) for making magic with their music at our Garden



BOARD MEMBER NEWS



Patty Ryan has retired from the board of Local Solutions. She and her husband David Westphal were instrumental in founding the organization and remain valued advisors.

We are happy to welcome **Lara Horner** and **Erica Merrill** as new board members. **Lara**, Vice President and Trust Operations Officer for Bar Harbor Bankshares, brings a wealth of financial experience to her role as Local Solutions treasurer.

Erica, recently retired Special Education Tech III at MDES in NEH, has a great passion for improving the lives of those with special needs.

PLANNING BOARD APPROVES LOCAL SOLUTIONS PROJECT

On June 3rd, the Local Solutions (LS) project took a major leap forward when the Bar Harbor Planning Board granted unanimous approval to our project. Prior to the Planning Board vote, a public hearing was held to discuss the project. This hearing was the end of a process that involved several planning board meetings, a site review visit, and approval by Bar Harbor's Design Review Board. Present were representatives of Community Housing of Maine (CHOM), our partner in this project, as well as LS Board members and community members.



Ezra Halkett

Board members spoke passionately about the grassroots origin of the project, and the urgent need for housing for young adults with disabilities in a location where they can walk to community services and live independent lives while having the support they need. Tim Fleck talked about the enthusiastic response of church members for the donation of the building. Ezra Halkett, future resident of the house, talked about the loneliness of living on his own and the positive aspects of moving into the LS house. Terry Kelley of the Housing Authority talked about the importance of creating housing in the community for people with disabilities. Neighbors and community members expressed support for this worthwhile project. One person shared that Bar Harbor has many things of which to be proud, and this project is one more.

At the end of the public hearing, the Planning Board voted unanimously to approve the project. They commented about overwhelming community support for this project, and Mr. Ivan Rasmussen, Chair, shared his strong feelings about preserving historic buildings, and how gratified he was that this project will provide benefits on so many levels.

2ND ANNUAL AUTISM AWARENESS WALK/RUN A BIG SUCCESS

NEXT YEAR THE 3RD ANNUAL AUTISM WALK/RUN WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 30TH

On May 3rd over 175 walkers and 150 runners participated in the Second Annual Autism Walk in Northeast Harbor, Maine. Chris Heel orchestrated another successful fundraiser for Autism of Maine with the assistance of his family. In 2014 he raised \$3000.00 and this year he raised over \$6,000.00!

Many volunteers came forward for this annual event including State Representative Brian Hubbell, MDI High School Interact Club, Mount Desert Finest (Police MD), Neighborhood House staff, and local running clubs as well as teachers, students and many friends. Darling's Ice Cream truck contributed to the fundraising festivities. **WAY TO GO CHRIS!**

Special Thanks to Manager Jennifer Worcester and the staff at Sips for our successful "Summer of Fun" Fundraiser

Gifts from Island Quilters



Local Solutions has been the recipient of quilts raffles from two local groups. **Healing Hands Quilt Group** from MDI Hospital generously donated the proceeds from their raffle at the hospital Christmas fair. **MDI Quilt Guild** presented a quilt to Local Solutions at their annual quilt show to be displayed and raffled at different events this summer and fall. Drawing of the winning ticket will be on **December 14, 2015**. Special thanks to Fabricate, Bar Harbor, for making a home for the quilt when it is not on display at an event.

Our Address:

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Website: www.localsolutionsofmaine.org

Facebook: Local Solutions of Maine

Your donations are welcome

Stock contributions are accepted:

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

COA COLLABORATION SPARKS ZEAL

This winter Local Solutions (LS) participated in an exciting collaboration with Dru Colbert's introductory graphic design class at College of the Atlantic. After completing an application, LS was chosen as one of three area nonprofits to participate with students in the design and creation of publicity posters. Over the course of several weeks, LS board members Enoch Albert, Sharon Knopp, and Dee Karnofsky met with five students from the class (Madeline Motley, Arabella Karamesic, Michelle Pazmino, Nicholas DuPont, and Tina Franco) and their instructor and explained our mission and goals while helping them develop and refine their creative ideas. The excitement and enthusiasm of the students was contagious; LS members enjoyed participating in this creative educational process. The students ultimately provided Local Solutions with five large colorful posters. Look for them at our Garden Party August 12, at various fundraisers in the months to come, and on the walls of the Parish House when renovations are completed!



Posters from left to right: L. Madeline Motley, K. Arabella Karamesic, Michelle Pazmino, and Tina Franco

MDI Quilt Guild & Healing Hands Quilt Group



Summer of Fun Fundraiser

