

LOCAL SOLUTIONS

Fall Newsletter 2022

localsolutionsformaine.org



Our Mission:

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

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**Your donations
are welcome:**

Local Solutions
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P.O. Box 400
Bar Harbor, Maine
04609

Stock contributions
are accepted.

The Parish House Welcomes New Staff



Linda Hodgkins, the new Program Manager, has decades of experience in management. She has worked with individuals who have intellectual and developmental disabilities and in mental health settings. Linda lives in Trenton with her husband and a pug named Darci. They have 5 children and 8 grandchildren. She looks forward to working at the Parish House and ensuring the continued growth of the residents while supporting the wonderful staff.

Amanda Randall is the new Assistant Program Manager. She graduated from the University of Maine at Farmington with a Bachelor's Degree in Community Health Education in 2014 and has been working with children and adults with mental health disabilities ever since. Amanda lives in Blue Hill with her husband and 7 year old daughter, and looks forward to being a part of the Parish House community.



Along with the excitement of welcoming new staff comes the sadness of bidding goodbye to others. Both Ravon Palmer and Michael Wright have been with us since we opened our doors in 2017, Ravon in the roles of Assistant Program Manager and then Program Manager, and Michael as Assistant Program Manager. We thank them for their commitment and wish them well in their future endeavors. They will be missed.



We were sorry that we had to cancel our 5 year garden party celebration due to Covid. We plan to reschedule for late Spring 2023. Stay tuned for details!

“What did you say? I can’t make it out!”

This refrain has been heard repeatedly since the Parish House opened whenever residents, friends and families gathered for meals and activities. Many of us noticed a great deal of sound distortion and reverberation in the downstairs kitchen area and upstairs living room. Some residents avoided these areas.

Local architect Carla Haskell of Design Group Collaborative met

with us, visited the Parish House to assess the situation, and designed a solution of acoustic panels to be applied to ceilings and walls. After receiving several proposals,



Ace Acoustics of Scarborough was hired to install the panels, paint, and add trim for a harmonious appearance. The outcome is a vast improvement in sound quality and ease of conversation.

Our thanks to Carla Haskell for her expertise and guidance throughout this complicated process, and to Ace Acoustics for their outstanding work (and great employees!)



Craft Evenings

For several months now, residents have been enjoying Thursday night craft activities at the Parish House with Mary Swift, a retired ed tech from the MDI High School life skills program. They have hand dipped beeswax candles, made unscented soap, dyed scarves and napkins, felted cat toys and sewn microwavable rice bags. These crafts will be sold at various events, and the revenues will go toward group activities.

The Garden

This was the third year of the Parish House garden, and the best yet.

Soil amendments and more rain made a huge difference in our raised beds.

The abundant strawberries overflowed their bed and trailed down the sides and rooted on the paths. New this summer was spaghetti squash, a favorite of the residents. We also grew zucchini, summer and delicata squash, different kinds of tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, carrots, beans, and herbs. These fresh vegetables were a great addition to Parish House dinners.

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PO Box 512, Bar Harbor, ME 04609

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe it's been five years since the Parish House opened its doors in 2017. What an amazing journey it's been.

Staffing shortages and Covid outbreaks have presented significant challenges at the Parish House this past year. Yet through it all, Volunteers of America Northern New England (VOANNE) has provided strong steady leadership.

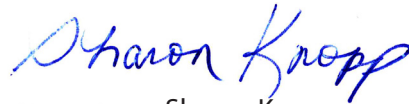
Local Solutions has continued to collaborate with VOANNE to provide that next layer of support for the Parish House, with funding for activities, games, bicycle repairs, musical evenings with Birch Bay's music therapy interns, acoustical improvements to the common gathering spaces, a garden program, arts and crafts, and special suppers. The list goes on. When there is a need, Local Solutions steps in to fill it.

Now we are bidding a sad farewell to two key staff members who have been with us since we opened, and welcoming a new Manager and Assistant who bring new skills, experiences and energy. Truly the future feels bright. Your donations make it all possible! Please continue to support us to ensure that this good work continues.

Thank you for your generosity.



Dee Karnofsky
Local Solutions President



Sharon Knopp
Local Solutions Vice President



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Artwork by Ellen Kappes



***Thank
You!!***



A Heartfelt Thank You to the Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) who have dedicated themselves to caring for and supporting the Parish House residents through Covid and trying times. A shout out to: Jordan, Sonia, Michelle, Lisa, Natalie, Heather, and our volunteer Mara. A warm welcome back to Naomi and John.