

LOCAL SOLUTIONS

Fall Newsletter 2025

localsolutionsformaine.org



Our Mission:

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

Board of Directors

Dee Karnofsky, *President*
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**Your donations
are welcome:**

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

Stock contributions
are accepted.

Local Solutions Strong!

Before the Parish House opened in 2017, we had no way of knowing what the future held. We were a group of parents and community members. We had a mission and a vision. We were offered a century old historic building in major need of repair. How to proceed? We reached out, and the response from the broader community was overwhelming. Other nonprofits partnered with us; we wrote grants; we wrote letters; we gave public talks; we raised funds. And now, eight years after the Parish House opened, we still marvel at what has been created. Local Solutions continues strong!

This year with an expanded Board, renewed energy and a more inclusive mission, Local Solutions continues to provide opportunities for Parish House residents and individuals with unique needs and their families in the broader MDI community. There have been monthly potlucks, art projects, picnics, games, holiday activities, music therapy, bocce at the Lompoc, a rock concert at the Criterion and movies at Reel Pizza. We are offering a support group for parents and family members of individuals with unique needs.

As we expand our vision beyond the Parish House, we see the need for more housing, work and activities to help individuals with unique needs in our communities live life with joy and purpose. We are actively looking for real estate and resources to develop more housing and to establish program opportunities that meet our communities' needs. *Any and all ideas are welcome.*

Volunteers of America (VOA) continues to be a steadfast provider of 24/7 staff who offer amazing support for the residents. We are ever grateful to St. Saviour's Church for giving the gift of the Parish House and offering their Library and Parish Hall for meetings and pot lucks. Community Housing of Maine continues to provide resources supporting our beautiful Parish House building and grounds.

And we can't do it without our many wonderful donors. Thank you for supporting this important local work!

Dee Karnofsky *Sharon Knopp*

Dee Karnofsky
President

Sharon Knopp
Vice President



Local Solutions Board of Directors (Not pictured: Vivien Igras)

In Loving Memory of Kebo

(2013-2025)



Kebo the Goldendoodle has brought joy to the Parish House residents since it opened in 2017. He was part of Colin's family and visited frequently, bringing smiles and comfort to all who greeted him. His death in September at age 12 1/2 left a gaping hole in his family's life. Colin shared, "I really miss him. Best dog ever. He's watching over us and fills my heart with unbreakable love."



Residents of the Parish House shared fond memories of Kebo. Sara said, "He was so soft. I loved his curly soft fur. He would come watch my show right next to me." Norman recalled, "When I worked outside at the Y, I would see Kebo walking with Enoch. I would take a little break to go see Kebo. It would make my day!"

Now Colin and his family are looking forward eagerly to mid November when Dorra the Goldendoodle puppy will become part of their lives, and continue the tradition of bringing smiles and delight to the Parish House residents and staff.

A Poem for Kebo

by Colin



He was only six weeks old when
I first met him.

He chose us and we chose him.
When he was eight weeks old
we brought him home with
us.

With his big brown eyes and his
golden curly hair,
He was our angel and he will
always be in my heart.

Artistic Creativity



Somesville Union
Meeting House UCC hosting
us in wreath making

Support Group

for Guardians, Parents and Family Members of Adults with Unique Needs

Are you a parent, family member, or guardian of an adult with developmental delays, ID/D or Autism?

Would you like support?

We are a parent run support group organized by Local Solutions. Join a community of parents and guardians helping each other with problem

solving, understanding adult services, advocacy and policy awareness. Our group includes parents and guardians of high school age and older. Grandparents, siblings and all family members are welcome. We meet at St. Saviour's Episcopal Hall in Bar Harbor at 4:30 every 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month.

At Work



At Play



Top: Sara working at Sherman's Bookstore
Bottom: Norman with Abe at Willowind Therapeutic Stables
and Pauline at Dunkin' Donuts

Top: Norman, and Annie with Tuna
Bottom: Pauline in her cat costume
and Annie at Thompson's Island

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Artwork by Ellen Kappes

We Need Your Input

Local Solutions is conducting a survey to assess the needs and challenges facing young adults with disabilities and their family members in our local communities. We invite you to complete our survey and share your story.

The survey can be accessed on the home page of our website at: Localsolutionsformaine.org or by scanning the QR code below:



<https://www.localsolutionsformaine.org/>



Top: Local Solutions staff appreciation day

Bottom Left: Potluck and music session Bottom Right: Zach the Hershey Park adventurer

Thank You!!

A Heartfelt Thank You to the wonderful Parish House staff.