

LOCAL SOLUTIONS

Fall Newsletter 2024

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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For More Information:
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Your donations
are welcome:

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

Stock contributions
are accepted.

Amazing Staff

Local Solutions was thrilled to learn that two members of the Parish House leadership team won awards recently from Volunteers of America Northern New England.

Erin Bull, the Parish House Manager, received the **Team Spirit Award**. Erin moved here over a year ago from Texas to take over the leadership reins at the Parish House. **Donovan Desrosiers**, the Parish House Assistant Manager, received the **Integrity & Humility Award**. Donovan hails from Unity, Maine and has worked for Volunteers

of America for three years, and at the Parish House for one year.

Erin and Donovan were each nominated out of a pool of about 270 eligible employees. According to Maria Cameron, VOANNE's VP of Behavioral Health and Disability Services, "To have two individuals from the same program receive awards at the event was quite incredible, and I absolutely agree that these two individuals are remarkable."

Congratulations Erin and Donovan!



(Note: Volunteers of America - VOA - is the organization that staffs the Parish House).

Home Supports Available

VOA Northern New England is now offering Home Support Services one-on-one to individuals receiving Section 21 or 29. For more information contact: Erin Bull erin.bull@voanne.org (214) 973-6618

A Calming Space

The approach of winter means less time spent outside, and less ability to find quiet and peaceful spaces in a busy shared household. The Parish House residents and staff came up with the idea of creating an indoor space where they could be assured of peace and quiet, away from distractions. A place to feel calm, with comfortable chairs, soft lighting, and no electronic devices. Hence, the Parish House's new Sensory Room was developed.



Colin "chilling" in the Sensory Room

An Extraordinary Accomplishment

This past Spring, Sara received her diploma from Eastern Maine Community College. Congratulations Sara!



Sara with her proud father, John.

Camping Fun

Lamoine State Park was the spectacular setting for the first ever Parish House overnight camping trip this past summer. Residents (accompanied by staff members Donovan and Susan) enjoyed a picnic lunch, swimming, tree house exploring and relaxing at the beach where bald eagles, blue herons and egrets were spotted.

After tents were set up and supper prepared, everyone sat around the campfire and made s'mores. In the morning a yummy breakfast was shared amid stories of the owl that was heard in the night. The trip was a huge success, and everybody is ready to try two nights next year. Lamoine State Park's group camping site is a treasure!!



Residents dubbed their tents "Apart-tents."



Annie

Thanks to Susan for the information for this story.



Local Solutions

Creating inspired housing for those with special needs.

PO Box 512, Bar Harbor, ME 04609

Dear Friends,

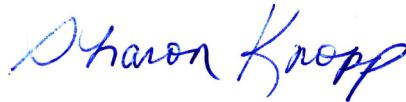
As another year winds down, our Fall newsletter is filled with pictures of activities, trips, gatherings and celebrations. But life at the Parish House isn't all about fun and games. Many of the residents are employed at such locations as the MDI YMCA, Dunkin' Donuts and Flexit Cafe. Residents also volunteer in various settings including Willowind Therapeutic Riding Center and the Bar Harbor Food Pantry. They take classes, and study and learn. The supportive nurturing environment at the Parish House allows these individuals to live productive fulfilling lives as valuable members of the broader community.

This past year has seen increased collaboration between Local Solutions and the FUN (Families with Unique Needs) group. Young adults with disabilities from throughout the community and their family members participated in multiple potluck meals, game nights, movies at Reel Pizza, and a summer picnic at Echo Lake beach. These events were well attended and provided opportunities for socialization, networking, and fun. We look forward to more shared activities in the future!

We hope we can count on your support for the Parish House and for our work to develop more program opportunities for those with unique needs in the community.



Dee Karnofsky
Local Solutions President



Sharon Knopp
Local Solutions Vice President



Residents participated in the Sea of Blue event for Autism Awareness.
Front Row: Zach, Pauline, Susan (staff), Sara
Back Row: Annie, Norman & Chris Heel (event organizer)



Annie and Norman painting buoys
for a food pantry fundraiser



Nick (doing karaoke) and Zach

Spring Clean-Up

Local Solutions Board members worked together to clean up winter's debris from the Parish House grounds.

Right: Carmen, Mary, Enoch, Sharon, Dee and Roberta



New Board Members

Local Solutions is pleased to welcome **Jessie Greenbaum** of Mount Desert and **Vivien Igras** of Otter Creek to our Board of Directors.

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Artwork by Ellen Kappes

Seeking:

A Gathering Place

For: Individuals with unique needs in the community

Why? There is a tremendous need for a place where individuals can gather, socialize, network and participate in programs.

Must have:

- handicap accessibility
- a kitchen
- space for creative projects & activities
- access to a bathroom

If you know of such a place,
please contact
deekarnofsky@gmail.com



Top: Aaron, Jessie and William playing Bingo

Bottom: Heather (staff), Pauline, Norman, Donovan (staff), Zach's artwork

Thank You!!

A Heartfelt Thank You to the wonderful Parish House staff.