

# Community News

A Newsletter for Friends of Residential Resources, Inc.

September 2015

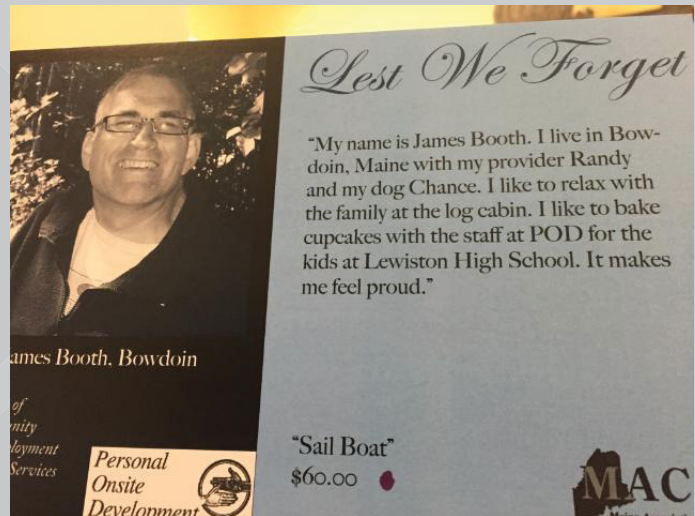
## LEST WE FORGET

Claude Elliott  
Scarborough, ME

May 19<sup>th</sup> was the date for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Lest We Forget Art Show, hosted by, the Maine Association for Community Service Providers. Individuals with disabilities from all areas of Maine are encouraged to exhibit their artwork for one day in the Hall of Flags, in the State House. The exhibit is a reminder for people to celebrate the 1996 closure of the state institution, The Pineland Center.

The exhibit is also meant to bring awareness to the Legislature as they work on budgets and funding and draw attention to individuals with disabilities whose voices are heard through their artwork. The artwork can range from painting and drawing to photography, small sculptures, textile work, and jewelry.

This year, Jim decided to enter his artwork in the exhibit. With support from his staff at his day program, Personal Onsite Development, he stayed after program many Friday afternoons to work on his art piece. The painting that he did is a true reflection of who he is. For anyone who knows Jim, he is never seen without holding a pencil or two in his hands. The picture taken at the exhibit shows his beautiful painting. The icing on the cake is that he sold his painting!



## A Celebration!

JoAnn Burger, ILST & Service Coordinator  
Ballston Lake, NY

In 2007, I decided to go back to college after obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hunter College in New York City many years ago. I asked myself, "Are you crazy or what?" My inner voice told me, "Yes, you can do this." Despite reservations I enrolled and graduated in 2009 from The College of Saint Rose with a Masters of Education in Elementary and Special Education. It was a celebration!

This endeavor granted me opportunities to teach children challenged with learning and developmental disabilities. I would always encourage them with the phrase "You can do this!" Each child had their own set of strengths and weakness, with support from educational settings, and often from their families, to excel.

Over the next eight years I had the pleasure to get to know and provide support to individuals with developmental disabilities. We engaged in positive interactions - learning skills of daily living, community integration, and consolidated supports services to maintain independent living. It was a mutual learning experience and touched our lives in such a special way. Although a challenge, together we developed willpower to maintain a positive "I can do" attitude. We celebrated accomplishments big and small.

In February 2015, I accepted a position as an Independent Skills Trainer (ILST) and subsequently, a Service Coordination position at Residential Resources in Ballston Lake, NY. My efforts are devoted to a continual learning curve and navigating between responsibilities in ILST and Service Coordination. The office support, morale, and positive work environment inspires me to set realistic goals and a "Can Do" attitude. Yes, I do have those difficult days too!

Positive outcomes are possible and do prevail despite many obstacles TBI waiver participants experience. With the goal of building trusting relationships, setting attainable goals, and providing support the confidence of "Can Do" attitudes becomes reality.

I want to introduce a participant named Glenn who is challenged with a TBI injury and vision impairments. He told me his birthday was approaching and I asked him what he wanted to do for his birthday. He replied "to make a decorated strawberry cake with white frosting". Mission accomplished. A proud endeavor of "Yes I can!"

A celebration!

***"The effect you have on others is the most valuable currency you can have"***  
- Jim Carey



## June, a very different month for me.

Teresa Amero  
Scarborough, ME

June 2<sup>nd</sup> I left for Florida with Paul and Deb Nolette and new friends. We took a limo service to Boston where we got on a plane to fly to Orlando. I slept on the plane so I would have lots of energy when we got to Florida. We stayed in a house with a pool so we got to go swimming. I shared a room with Clair, one of my new friends.

We went to Disney World where I rode on lots of rides but my favorite was the roller coaster. Paul and I were the only ones who dared to go on it. We went on a safari ride where we saw lions, hippos, elephants, and lots of other animals. I loved it!!

We saw Mickey Mouse, who kissed me on the cheek. We also saw Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck, Pluto, and Goofy. I hugged Goofy, he is my favorite. They all signed my autograph book. Paul took lots of pictures and I bought a photo album to put mine in when I get them printed. I also bought a baseball cap with Mickey Mouse on it.

We ate lots of good food and saw parades and fireworks that had a lot of pretty colors. On June 6<sup>th</sup> we flew home, tired but happy.



Then I got sick and spent a week in the hospital and had some surgery. That wasn't so much fun but I met a lot of nurses who took terrific care of me. I slept some and pushed myself around in a wheelchair. When I was better and could go back to program I was very happy.

Last weekend my sister Dorothy and I went to Canada to spend time with our sister Eileen and her family. While we were driving there we saw lots of pretty rainbows. We went swimming in Spednic Lake where I learned to swim when I was little. I played games with the kids and cooked marshmallows and made s'mores with graham crackers, marshmallows and chocolate, yummy! So that was June, except for the sick part it was a very good month.

### Direct Support Professional Yellow Flag Recognition Day

Toni Pulli, Program Manager  
Manchester, NH

September 11, 2015 on the State House lawn in Concord, NH there will be an all-day event honoring the work of DSPs across New Hampshire. Hundreds of yellow flags are flown to express thanks and gratitude to all the DSPs who work so hard to enhance the lives of the individuals they support. Anyone can make a flag for someone they feel has made a difference in someone else's life. Manchester has been hard at work creating flags to represent our extraordinary DSPs here in Manchester.



## Swanzy Old Home Days

Michelle Leger  
Emerald St., Keene, NH

Cheryl and I went to the Swanzy Old Home Day on July 18<sup>th</sup> and saw the parade, a magic show, and Rob was in the reenactment of the Civil War. Rob showed the people all about the Civil War. They let kids line up and showed them how to shoot with fake guns. They also showed the kids how to march like they did in the Civil War. There were horses, oxen, and three bands. There were a lot of craft presenters. I liked the wooden pens, bowls, and bench. They had line dancing. There was a girl on stilts dressed as a bird. I had a fun day.

## Maine Job Fair

Bridget McCabe, Associate Director  
Scarborough, ME

The weather in Maine has been great, sunny and warm on the whole, a time for vacations and fun with family and friends. Although the weather has been great, this summer has been of particular challenge in relation to staffing our group homes. Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are working extra hours, managers are covering shifts, it is vacation season and applicants are slow coming in; I think everyone wants to enjoy time off and warm weather. We have been working hard to come up with ideas to bring in new DSPs, office staff are working together to process applications as quickly as possible, DSPs are encouraging friends to apply, everyone is working together to address this situation.



We hadn't had a job fair in many years and thought this might be a way of bringing in some potential employees. The job fair/open house was Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup>. Staff and Managers at the Scarborough office worked together to plan this job fair, making posters and distributing them in a variety of communities and colleges as well as around our building in Scarborough. The office was arranged to accommodate and welcome visitors, screen applicants, check references, and hire all in one session. The office looked great and given the major renovations on the exterior of the building, the outside looked great too, with signage and balloons. We ordered a sandwich board sign which arrived the next day and has been out by Route 1 to attract potential employees. We are still on a serious mission to hire enthusiastic and motivated people to support the amazing folks we work with in their homes in a variety of communities in Southern Maine. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact us, we are ready and waiting. 1-888-715-8086, 51 US Rte. 1, Suite G, Scarborough, ME 04074. Come see us and have a great summer!

## Greetings from Sandown, NH!

Joe Bamford, Program Manager  
Manchester, NH

On August 9, 2015 Sandown was the place to be as house-mates, staff friends, and family gathered to celebrate 48 years of John "Oz" Osborne.

People from Oz's past and present brought warm greetings and gifts to a cookout that featured barbecue chicken, macaroni and cheese, hot dogs, brownies, and hamburgers. All of Oz's favorite foods. Oz sported his new mohawk haircut courtesy of his daughter and spent his time smiling and laughing while his favorite tunes were played in the background.

After stories were traded about escapades from "back in the day" in Lynn, MA, everyone sang a hearty "Happy Birthday" and managed to find room for cake.

All in all it was a day into evening of giving for Oz. He took it all in and then gave back with his smiles of appreciation for today's party and the fond remembrances.

## Fireworks in Hancock

Kaitlin Rooney  
Emerald St., Keene, NH

My home provider invited her son's family over to see the Hancock fireworks and to have a picnic. Sharon's son has two sons, Liam and Owen. I finally got to meet Sharon's grandsons. They are cute.

Before the fireworks we went to an ice cream social. I ordered everything on my sundae except nuts.

We sat on top of the hill looking at Norway Pond. The fireworks were beautiful. We got to see them in the sky and reflecting in the pond. They were not as loud as I thought they would be.

Sharon's son's family stayed overnight and we had breakfast together the next morning.





## A Special Gift

Victoria Felio, Service Coordinator  
Plattsburgh, NY

Residential Resources has been lucky enough to have Kevin Defayette as our NY State Director for the last 9 years. Words cannot express how much he will be missed and we wanted to get him something extra special as his farewell gift. Thomas Mullen is an amazing artist who loves to paint using his mouth and his talents are undeniable as soon as you see his work. Needless to say Kevin loved his gift and we hope it will remind him of his WKS family whenever he sees it.



**Thank you to everyone who contributes articles and pictures to the newsletter.**

Articles are due by the second Friday of each month for the following month's newsletter. The newsletter will be posted at [www.resresources.com](http://www.resresources.com) on the first business day of each month.

If you do not have access to the internet and would like a copy of the newsletter mailed to you, please contact your local Residential Resources office to make arrangements.

### **Community News**

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Layout by Mary Lynch

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**William K. Schofield, Ph.D**

*Founder and Owner*

## Our Guiding Principles

**Creativity** We foster creativity by exploring and learning, embracing change, and pursuing best practice. We always ask ourselves, 'Is there a better way?'

**Truth / Honesty** We foster an environment where open and honest feedback and sharing are expected, encouraged, and supported. We honor commitments; and we share feelings, opinions, experiences, ideas, and information in order to optimize each individual's personal and professional growth and development.

**Empowerment** We empower people through a process which includes giving them the opportunities, the authority, the information, and the examples necessary to become successful decision makers.

**Diversity** We welcome and value different perspectives, contributions, and capabilities. We promote growth, opportunity, and experience.

**Quality** We continually improve our services by: Promoting positive change; Increasing knowledge and skills; Encouraging personal growth; Valuing individual differences; Learning from our experiences.

**Respect** We believe that respect is a right, and we conduct ourselves accordingly. Our standards include the exercise of human dignity; the honoring and valuing of self and others; and communication that is clear, direct, and honest.

**Trust** We create trust by being consistent, stable, honest, and reliable. Trust also requires sincerity, knowledge, and capability.



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