

# Community News

A Newsletter for Friends of Residential Resources, Inc.

February 2021

## Kevin and Sharon Go To The Dogs

Sharon Cleary, QA Specialist  
Emerald St., Keene, NH

A few days before Christmas Kevin was talking about memories of his family and his family dog, Cocoa. He stated he really missed Cocoa and would like to see some dogs. I had just read in one of our local papers that Monadnock Humane Society had partnered with One Stop Country Pet store to hold a wish list drive. I had bought some dog food and I asked Kevin if he'd like to help get some supplies that the animals needed.

We went onto MHS's website and found that they needed bedding and specifically small blankets. So Kevin and I went to Walmart and together we purchased six small, very soft, fleece blankets for the animals. Here he is putting the bag of blankets into the MHS donation bin. The activity was beneficial to the animals and to us. When we delivered the blankets and dog food there were some big dogs out in the exercise pen. Even though it was a chilly day we spoke to them and watched them from inside my car. The animals got some needed supplies and Kevin and I got our dog fix!!



## Keeping Busy

Amir Barakat, Participant & Gina Ocasio, Program Manager  
Londonderry, NH

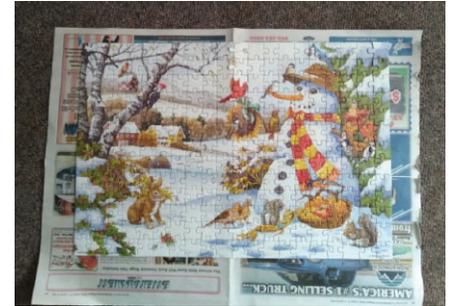
Trying to keep myself busy playing video games and watching my favorite shows. I am the biggest fan of Pokémon & Power Rangers & Yugioh & Harry Potter. Games are so popular that brings me joy & feel happy inside me. I am excited that Valentine's Day is coming - I get to have some sweet chocolate candies. It also means Spring is coming soon!

I have been working on my Valentine's Day cards. I can't wait to give them out to the people I care about.

## Puzzles by Chelly

Chelly Leger, Participant  
Emerald St., Keene, NH

My staff, Vikki, Christina, Debra, and I are busy putting puzzles together. We have done 12 so far and will keep going. It is so much fun. Some people ask me which one is my favorite and I really don't know. Some people really like the cats and others like the church one. You do have to have patience, but sometimes if I can't find a piece one of my staff will help me find it.



## The Light At The End Of The Tunnel

Dan McAllister, Program Manager  
Westbrook, ME

We have all been living through a year of COVID life. We have had to change and alter so many things that we considered our normal routines to try and keep ourselves and others safe from this virus. The folks that we support have also had to change their lives. COVID has made a dramatic change in the lives of those we support. Day programs, as they knew them, are gone. Recreational activities, family gatherings, social events, all things that many really look forward to were gone. The question was often asked, by guardians and residents alike, "when are we going to get the vaccine?" Well, the day finally arrived!



Monday, 2/1/21. With a lot of planning by Kristen Peterson, Ellis Baum, and Walgreens, all residents and staff in Maine were offered the vaccine. Coordinating this feat to roll out in one day was pretty impressive. All were very happy to have this opportunity. The day went off with barely a hitch. Even the most squeamish stepped up, looked the other way, and got their shot. Lots of positivity that day, and it seemed like maybe, just maybe, we are turning the corner and heading back to some type of normality. I think this day gave all who participated some renewed hope!

## Right to Employment

Judy Belrose, QI/Incident Management Coordinator  
Plattsburgh, NY

All individuals, regardless of disability, have the right to find employment that will provide them with purpose, self-worth and a source of pride. Having a job helps to improve the individual's finances and encourages inclusion in their community.<sup>2</sup>

WIOA, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, was signed into law on July 22, 2014.<sup>1</sup> Part of this act improves services to Individuals with Disabilities. WIOA prepares individuals with disabilities for competitive integrated employment and increases access to high quality workforce services:

- American Job Centers will provide programmatic and physical accessibility to training services and employment for individuals with disabilities.
- Students with disabilities will receive pre-employment transition services so they can successfully obtain competitive integrated employment.
- 15% of Federal awards to State Vocational Rehabilitation agencies will be set aside to provide pre-employment transition services to students with disabilities.
- A committee will advise the Secretary of Labor on strategies to increase competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities.
- State Vocational Rehabilitation agencies will engage employers to improve participants employment outcomes.<sup>1</sup>

The WIOA Final Rules were made available publicly on June 30, 2016 and they enable the workforce development system to make available career pathways to Americans of all walks of life.<sup>1</sup>

The WIOA Final Rules improve access to education and workforce services for individuals with significant barriers to employment—including individuals with disabilities and other populations of workers.<sup>1</sup> Individuals with I/DD who have jobs reported that they enjoyed what they were doing, were satisfied with their working hours and wages. In addition, employers often value individuals with I/DD for their job performance, giving high ratings for dependability, engagement, integration with co-workers, motivation, attendance, work quality and productivity.<sup>2</sup> All individuals have a right to enjoy having a job that allows them to benefit from increased social interaction, an income, development of self-esteem, and to be a productive and valued member of their community.

[1] <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/wioa/about>

[2] <https://www.autism-society.org/>

## Extra Extra! Tablet News!

Rahmee Gerjes, Program Manager  
Londonderry, NH

This month has been a crazy month to say the least. However, we were able to get through it. My client and I were able to go out and purchase a tablet with the money she got from a grant. She had never owned one before and was very worried about how to use it, however she was a quick learner. With my help she was able to navigate through very quickly. She was able to download apps that will help her with daily living such as banking, eating healthy, reading, and learning new things. She also loves to take pictures of her bird with it. She said she cannot wait for warmer weather so she can go outside and sip her coffee and enjoy reading on her tablet and taking pictures of the pretty flowers. She said learning is fun at any age, and that you learn something new every day.

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

Articles are due by the second Friday of each month for that month's newsletter. The newsletter will be posted at [www.resresources.com](http://www.resresources.com) on the last 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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### **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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