

Woodfords' World

The Newsletter of Woodfords Family Services

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Spring 2017

Community Celebrates Waterville Preschool



Woodfords relocated and expanded its Central Maine Preschool for children with autism and related disabilities to Waterville in January. More than 80 community members celebrated the school's opening with an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony organized by the MidMaine Chamber of Commerce. The opening of the new school, located on the site of the former Seton Hospital, caps a successful year-long fundraising campaign, and will allow Woodfords to more than double student capacity and create 12 to 15 new full-time jobs in Waterville.



To learn more about the Waterville Preschool program, contact Carrie Campbell, Educational Director, at cacampbell@woodfords.org.

Donor Spotlight

Meet Betsy and Jerry Tipper, Waterville Preschool Donors

"When we learned about plans for a newly expanded preschool for children on the autism spectrum in Waterville, we knew we would support it. First, there had been an unmet need in our area of Central Maine for an early intervention program targeting these children. Preparing them for school, helping them thrive at their unique pace, and working with their families have many benefits. Second, our family has a child with special needs. We believe the positive outcomes of her targeted early childhood education helped her overcome challenges and grow into the delightful teenager she is now.

We gathered interested stakeholders in our home, including parents, educators, legislators, doctors, youth leaders and community members. After they viewed a presentation about the project, we engaged in a discussion which confirmed the need and explored ways to work as a community on this issue. We are grateful for the generous financial support for the preschool from those who attended and we applaud the work that Woodfords Family Services does in Maine."

Thank you to Betsy and Jerry for helping Woodfords raise more than \$11,500 for the Waterville Preschool!



For more information on how to support Woodfords' Preschools, contact Kerry de Bree, Director of Development, at kdebree@woodfords.org.

Awards, Grants, Of Note

Woodfords is pleased to welcome Kelly Lannon Worden and Peter Hall to the Board of Trustees. Kelly is the Associate Vice President, Enrollment Management Solutions, for Liaison, an organization that helps higher education institutions better identify, recruit, and enroll best-fit students. Peter is an Audit Manager with Smith & Associates, CPAs.

Woodfords earned re-accreditation from the Council on Accreditation (COA) whose program of quality improvement is designed to identify providers that have met high performance standards and have made a commitment to their stakeholders to deliver the very best quality services. This is a three-year award.

Woodfords was awarded a two-year contract to administer the Behavioral Health Professional (BHP) and Otherwise Qualified Mental Health Provider (OQMHP) Training and Certificate Programs on a statewide basis by Maine's Department of Health and Human Services. This contract will build upon the work Woodfords has done administering the BHP Training and Certificate Program since 2014.

Woodfords' Community Case Management Services for Children has a new name and expanded support services. Now called Behavioral Health Home Services for Children, this service builds on and replaces the Case Management Services that were offered for many years. In addition to helping families identify natural supports and collaborate with community service providers in order to support children with special needs, the BHH program can now help manage physical and behavioral health through a nurse that is part of the care team.

Why Not Today? Foster Parents Video Encourages More to Foster

Every two minutes, a child in the U.S. enters foster care. There are 2,000 Maine children in the foster care system. Hear from Woodfords' therapeutic foster parents on why they foster, what they give and get from being a foster parent, and why they work with Woodfords. May is Foster Care Awareness month, and there has never been a better time to make a difference in the life of a child in your community. Visit <http://youtu.be/uDjT0-1jZBk>.

FMI about foster parenting, contact Tonya Dearborn, Recruitment & Licensing Coordinator, at (207) 878-9663, x 4160, or tdearborn@woodfords.org.



Now Recruiting People Who Like People!

Are you interested in working with children? With adults?
Are you passionate about making a difference?
Do you work well independently?
Do you have patience? A sense of humor?
Apply to join Woodfords' team today!

Behavioral Health Professionals (BHPs) work directly with children with autism, intellectual disabilities and other special needs in their homes. Working as a BHP is a great way to gain or build your experience in the fields of education, psychology, social work and behavior analysis.

Candidates for BHP positions must have:

- ▶ GED or high school diploma
- ▶ Valid Maine driver's license
- ▶ Use of a reliable vehicle
- ▶ Flexible schedule

Experience with autism and/or developmental disabilities is helpful but not required. Training and supervision is provided. BHP positions are part- and full-time. Shifts are typically in the late afternoon, early evenings and/or on weekends.



Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) work directly with adults with developmental or intellectual disabilities in the adult's home. DSPs work as part of a team to help consumers learn daily living skills, participate in community activities and work on achievement of their goals.

Candidates for DSP must have:

- ▶ GED or high school diploma
- ▶ Valid Maine driver's license and use of reliable vehicle
- ▶ DSP certification or successful completion of the full DSP course within 6 months of hire (paid by Woodfords)
- ▶ CRMA certification or successful completion of CRMA course (paid by Woodfords) within 6 months of hire
- ▶ Willingness to assist with personal care, basic cooking skills
- ▶ Good physical strength, positive attitude and high energy level
- ▶ Good documentation skills

Careers at Woodfords are anything but ordinary. If you are looking for a challenging and rewarding position, we invite you to learn more today! FMI about open positions at Woodfords, visit jobsinme.com and enter "Woodfords" as the keyword, contact Jana Allain, HR & Marketing Associate, at (207) 878-9663, x 4227, or jallain@woodfords.org, or visit <https://www.woodfords.org/careers/>.

► Join Us for Family Fun Day—Save the Date

Last summer more than 300 consumers, consumer families, employees and employee families enjoyed a BBQ together at Smiling Hill Farm. Back by popular demand, Woodfords is eagerly planning this year's Family Fun Day to be held on Saturday, July 29 at Maine Wildlife Park in Gray.



**Please join us on Saturday, July 29
at Maine Wildlife Park in Gray.**

Activities will include a
Live Animal Show and BBQ.
Look for your invitation with
all the details in the mail
in mid-June!



**Look for race results and photos in our next
issue of Woodfords' World.**

► Summer Rockland Ride to Support Topsham Preschool

Join the St. Pierre Family for a summer motorcycle ride to Rockland Breakwater on Saturday, July 8. The three to four hour ride will loop up to Rockland Breakwater along the coast, turn inland through Augusta and ride back to Cripps Creek Disc Golf, Middlesex Road in Topsham.

Cripps will hold a tournament to benefit the ride. Raffle drawings and prizes will be awarded there. There is no fee to participate in the ride; 100% of donations and raffle monies will benefit Woodfords' Topsham Preschool and young children with autism and developmental disabilities.

Rain date Sunday, July 9. Look for information on start time and location in postings on Ridin Steel, Ride Maine and on Woodfords' Facebook page and website at woodfords.org.





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Our Mission

Woodfords Family Services is committed to the support and inclusion of people with special needs and their families in Maine communities.

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Celebrating 50 Years

Woodfords Family Services was founded in 1967 by a small group of parents who had the vision and determination to enrich the lives of their children with special needs. They started a school in the basement of the Woodfords Congregational Church in Portland and opened with five students. The school was a place where children with varying special needs could learn and be free to interact with their peers. This was a radical departure from the options available.

Fifty years later, Woodfords offers a continuum of services to support children and adults with special needs and their families. Each year our staff work with more than 1,500 consumers and families across the state. Our staff and trustees continue to embrace the vision of our founding families—that people with special needs can reach their potential, be appreciated members of their communities, have positive relationships, live safely, and lead lives allowing for choice.



Annual Auction Offers Golden Opportunity to Celebrate Anniversary

Woodfords will be hosting the “Families in Focus” Auction on Saturday evening, September 23, 2017, at the Marriott at Sable Oaks in South Portland. The event will include live music, hors d’oeuvres, cash bar, dinner, and silent and live auctions. The Wall of Wine will be back by popular demand. Save the date and plan to celebrate 50 years with Woodfords.

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