

Woodfords' World

The Newsletter of Woodfords Family Services Vol 20, Issue 2 Fall 2019

700 People Attend 4th Annual Family Fun Day

Woodfords hosted its 4th annual Family Fun Day at the Maine Wildlife Park in July, welcoming 700 people through the park gates. Family Fun Day is a lively celebration that welcomes consumers, employees, and their families to enjoy a fun-filled day of community, connection, and inclusion. The event is a chance for Woodfords' community members to meet, share experiences, celebrate similarities and differences, and forge new connections. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and participated in making this a great day.



New EnRICHment Program Fills Service Gaps During School Breaks

The agency's new EnRICHment Program, located in the Kennebunk, finished its first 6-week summer session and is transitioning to after-school programming. The EnRICHment Program, named in honor of Woodfords' late founder, Alan Rich, provides supported clinical, social, and recreational programming for school-age children with autism and related disabilities in York County.

The program is currently enrolling children for the 2019-2020 school year. Flexible schedules and transportation are available.

FMI or to enroll, contact Nick Hammond, PhD, BCBA, Director of In-Home Support and School-Based Day Treatment at 207-878-9663 or nhammond@woodfords.org.

Awards, Grants, Of Note

- ▶ The Maine Health Access Foundation (\$5,000) and the Simmons Foundation (\$2,500) awarded the EnRICHment Program a combined total of \$7,500 to support the purchase of therapeutic supplies and equipment to outfit the new clinic space.
- ▶ The Davis Family Foundation awarded the agency \$25,000 to support the transition to the use of Credible Behavioral Health Software.
- ▶ The Eunice Frye Home Foundation awarded Sibshops \$4,500 to support its 2019-2020 session in Southern Maine.
- ▶ Elsmere Barbeque and Wood Grill's new Portland location hosted a Nonprofit Night in July to support the Therapeutic Foster Care, Adoption, and Post-Adoption Program. The restaurant donated 8% of all dinner sales for a total gift of \$267. Thank you to Elsmere for hosting this event and to all of the members of the Woodfords Community who joined us that night!

Fall Trainings

Supported Transitions to Kindergarten

The move from preschool to kindergarten is a big step for all children, especially those with special needs. It's a big step for parents too! At this free training you will learn what you can do at home to prepare for your child's transition into public school, your role in the transition process, and the responsibilities of your child's preschool, public school, and other service providers. Join us Wednesday, November 6, from 5:30pm-7:30pm at the agency's Training and Resource Center, at 15 Saunders Way, Ste. 700, Westbrook.

CPR and First Aid

Train to save a life with Woodfords this fall at one of our American Heart Association CPR and First Aid training course sessions.

October 23	12:00pm-4:00pm	Westbrook
November 15	12:00pm-4:00pm	Westbrook
November 26	8:30am-12:30pm	Westbrook
December 4	8:30am-12:30pm	Westbrook
December 11	8:30am-12:30pm	Waterville
December 12	12:00pm-4:00pm	Westbrook

FMI about trainings or to register contact Maria Romano, Training Coordinator at 207-878-9663 or mromano@woodfords.org.

Donor Spotlight: Red Knights Maine Chapter 13



Each year the Red Knights Maine Chapter 13, a Central Maine motorcycle club, organizes an autism awareness ride that raises funds to support the Waterville Preschool. The ride was started by Club President Carl Chapman, whose grandson is a Waterville Preschool graduate. This June, the club held its 4th annual ride, raising more than \$800, and contributing to their lifetime total donation of almost \$3,000 to benefit the agency's Waterville preschool. Thank you to the Red Knights for their continued generosity!

FMI or if you are interested in learning more about hosting a benefit fundraiser on behalf of Woodfords, contact Cathy McGuckin, Development Manager at 207-878-9663 or cmcguckin@woodfords.org.

“You Can Get There From Here!” One Family’s Journey with Autism



Zemrak Family

Maureen and Wes Zemrak are the proud parents of three young children. Their first child hit every developmental milestone ahead of schedule. Two years later, they had a second child who developed on a different schedule. They didn’t worry—every child grows differently.

At two years, Grady was delayed in his speech. He did not make eye contact, acknowledge others or desire touch. Two days after the birth of their third child, Grady was diagnosed with autism. It was a time of intense emotion.

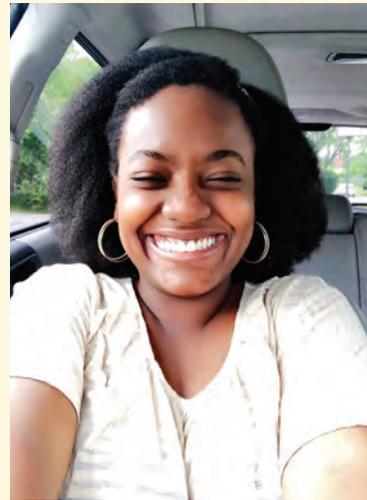
Grady began receiving early intervention services from Woodfords in his home five days a week, beginning a journey that has lasted years, and touched all members of the Zemrak family. All three children graduated from Woodfords’ Westbrook Preschool. The two girls were in inclusion classrooms, where typically developing children naturally learn alongside children with special needs. Grady made gains in receptive language and social skills. He graduated to public elementary school. Grady continues to receive services in his home, focusing on expressive language, using a communication device and tasks of daily living, such as toileting and dressing.

To learn more about the Zemraks’ journey with autism, visit woodfords.org and click on videos.

RICH Moments

Named after Woodfords’ founder Alan Rich, Rich Moments celebrate the dedication of our staff to the agency’s mission, and the successes, big and small, of the individuals with whom we work.

Meet Annah: A BHP Helping Along the Way



Annah is a Behavioral Health Professional who works with Grady and the Zemrak family in their home after school each week. Annah and Grady have developed a strong bond through months of working together. Grady lights up when Annah arrives, greeting her with excitement and encouraging her to play. Grady regularly communicates with Annah

using an iPad while working on his communication goals. Annah treasures the moments she and Grady communicate verbally and is often caught by surprise when he begins to speak, finding herself naturally engaging in the conversation before realizing he is using his new skills. Grady’s parents are grateful for the bond Annah and Grady have developed, knowing that her support and guidance have significantly contributed to Grady’s progress.

Annah learned about Woodfords through her Social Work program at Southern Maine Community College. She felt empowered learning about how she could make such a difference in the life of a child with autism while in school. Nearly a year later, what a difference she has made! Annah aspires to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker through her studies. Keep up the great work, Annah!

Woodfords Celebrates 80 Preschool Graduates

Woodfords graduated 80 children statewide from its early intervention preschool programs in August. Students celebrated with songs and skits as they received their diplomas and prepared for the transition to Kindergarten this fall. Thank you to the Insurance Professionals of Greater Portland for kindly donating this year’s graduation backpacks.

Thank You 2019 Corporate Sponsors

We appreciate your continued support of Woodfords events throughout the year!



J.B. BROWN & SONS



FMI about sponsorship opportunities, contact Cathy McGuckin, Development Manager, at 207-878-9663, x 4109, or cmcguckin@woodfords.org.

Our Mission

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



Woodfords Family Services is accredited by 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.



15 Saunders Way, Ste. 900
Westbrook, ME 04092

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Portland, ME
Permit 277

They Came, They Bid, They Raised \$88,000 for Woodfords!



More than 300 people joined Woodfords in celebrating the successes of children and adults with special needs at the agency's annual Auction Gala in September. Together, attendees, along with 33 sponsors and more than 250 auction item donors, raised \$88,000 to support the agency. State Representative Drew Gattine served as the evening's host, and Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap served as auctioneer. Special thanks to the event's Platinum Sponsors: Aerus, Capozza Flooring Company & Family, Clark Insurance, Desmond & Rand, Dirigo Capital Advisors and Nappi Distributors.