

Woodfords' World

The Newsletter of Woodfords Family Services Vol 21, Issue 3 Fall 2020

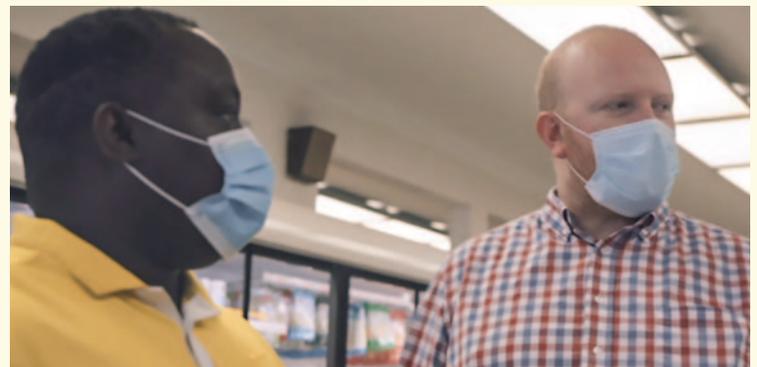
The First Day of School Brings New Grades to Woodfords



More than 50 years ago, Woodfords began as a school for children with special needs. Since then the agency has grown to provide a wide array of programs and services, including an early childhood preschool program with three locations throughout the state. This fall, Woodfords went back to its educational roots and opened a special purpose Kindergarten through 2nd grade program. Despite the challenges of opening a new program in a pandemic, Woodfords welcomed 9 new students and the class continues to grow with new referrals. The agency is excited to be able to provide this service to the community and to have made this step forward in achieving its mission.

See the Agency's Response to COVID-19 in Our Annual Video

This past year has been anything but typical. However, in keeping with our annual tradition, we bring to you our signature video for 2020. To honor the exceptional challenges faced, celebrate the dedication and commitment of our staff, and to shed some light on the agency's experiences and efforts, this year's video focuses on the initial and ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the agency and its community members. Please join us in recognizing these incredible efforts by taking a moment to watch the video at www.tinyurl.com/WFSVvideo.



Awards, Grants, of Note

- ▶ **Michele Gasco**, President of the Board of Trustees since 2016, has transitioned out of her position as President for the final year of her term. We thank Michele for her years of leadership.
- ▶ **Peter Hall**, member of the Board of Trustees since 2017, and recent Board Vice President, has been selected as Woodfords' new Board President. Peter is an Audit Manager for Smith & Associates, CPA and is excited for his new role on the Board.
- ▶ The **Marcia Brady Tucker Foundation** has awarded the agency \$20,000 towards the purchase and installation of state-of-the-art air purification systems in each of its three preschool facilities.
- ▶ The **United Way** of York County has awarded the Summer and After-School EnRICHment Program \$4,250 to support its efforts in 2021.
- ▶ The **Waterville Area Women's Club** has awarded the Waterville Preschool \$1,000 towards the purchase of educational resources for students.
- ▶ Registration will be live for the **2021 Superhero 5k** at midnight on January 1, 2021; to register visit www.runsignup.com/Race/ME/Westbrook/WoodfordsSuperhero5K

Donor Spotlight: Red Knights Ride



Our friends at the Red Knights Motorcycle Club Maine Chapter 13 have done it again, raising more than \$920 this past July to support our Waterville Preschool. Over the past five years, the Red Knights have raised more than \$4,000 to support our preschoolers. Funds have helped purchase playground equipment, educational materials, and toys

for the program. We appreciate the continued support of the Chapter and look forward to next year's ride!

FMI about hosting a benefit fundraiser, contact Cathy McGuckin, Development Manager, at cmckguckin@woodfords.org, or 207-878-9663 Ext 4109.



National Adoption Awareness Month



Each November we celebrate National Adoption Awareness Month. Woodfords is proud to be Maine's only provider of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption's Wendy's Wonderful Kids Program. The program uses child-focused recruitment to find permanent loving homes for Maine's longest waiting children and teens in foster care. Open your heart and home to a youth in care.

FMI about the program or to learn more about becoming a foster parent contact Rachel Newcomb, Recruitment and Licensing Coordinator at , or 207-878-9663 Ext. 4160.

RICH Moments

Named after Woodfords' founders Alan and Katrina 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.

One Family's Dream Comes True: A Very Special Pool for a Very Special Boy

Anthony, a young consumer in our Behavioral Health Homes Program, has experienced many challenges in his short life. When the Pittiglio Family met Anthony at just three months old, he had already experienced significant abuse and neglect that lead to his irreversible medical conditions and concerns. Today at just four years old, Anthony has undergone more than 30 brain surgeries, experiences challenges with mobility, is nonverbal, and continues to live with a life-threatening brain condition. The Pittiglio Family and Anthony's care team, including Woodfords' Case Manager, Phyllis-Anne Munro, LSW, remain diligently committed to providing Anthony the treatment and support he needs to continue to grow and thrive despite his conditions.

One place Anthony thrives is in the water. The water provides him a freedom he is unable to experience anywhere else. When he gets in the water, his personality brightens, his body relaxes, and he is able to strengthen muscle groups he cannot move outside of the water. Unfortunately, with Anthony's life threatening condition and being immunocompromised, he cannot access public pools. It became clear Anthony would most benefit from his own adaptive pool. Anthony's family and care team approached Make-A-Wish Maine, which generously granted the wish to install a pool for Anthony and held a celebratory pool opening this summer!



Help Us Spread Joy This Holiday Season

This year especially has been extremely difficult for many members of the Woodfords community. With the holiday season approaching, please consider making a gift to the agency's COVID-19 Emergency Fund and Holiday Gift Fund. Your gift will help us spread joy to individuals and families who need it most this holiday season.

FMI or questions about making a donation contact Cathy McGuckin, Development Manager at cmguckin@woodfords.org or 207-878-9663 Ext. 4109. To make a gift, please visit www.woodfords.org/donate or use the enclosed envelope.



Thank You 2020 Corporate Sponsors

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

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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.



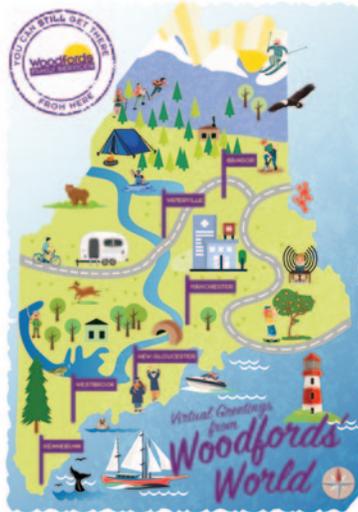
Woodfords Family Services is accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA), whose program of quality improvement is designed to identify providers that have met high performance standards and have made a commitment to their stakeholders to deliver the very best quality services.



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Virtual Auction 2020 Is a Success!



Since gathered events were not possible this year, we took our annual auction gala on a virtual journey. At the Kick-Off Party, we honored many of our usual traditions including capturing guest's photos, this year through selfies, and hearing from some familiar faces, including Rep. Drew Gattine and Secretary of State Matt Dunlap. We also were honored to welcome a very special guest, Dr. Nirav Shah, Director of the Maine Centers for Disease Control and Prevention who had a message for our community. More than 250 people joined us for this virtual live event and participated in the auction over the weekend raising more than \$50,000 for our families.

We couldn't have done this without the support of our generous sponsors including our presenting sponsor:

Clark Insurance; our platinum sponsors: Aerus, Capozza Tile & Floor Covering, Cross Benefit Solutions, Desmond & Rand, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, and Phoenix Welding; and our gold levels sponsors: Boulos Asset Management, Brookewood Realty, Great East Butcher Co., J.B. Brown & Sons, Locations Real Estate Group, People's United Bank, Philadelphia Insurance Companies, Runyon Kersteen Ouellette, Taylor, McCormack, & Frame, and Wipfli.



If you are interested in watching the recording of the Kick-Off Party, visit www.tinyurl.com/WFSKickOff

If you are interested in watching the recording of Dr. Shah's message, visit www.tinyurl.com/WFSDr-Shah