

Woodfords' World

The Newsletter of Woodfords Family Services

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Summer 2020

COVID-19 Brings Out the Best in Staff During Difficult Times

These past several months have been difficult for everyone, and Woodfords is no exception. Like others, the agency has learned how to continue to provide quality services while at the same time ensuring the health and safety of our staff and consumers in this new environment. Despite these challenges, Woodfords has continued to meet our mission and, we have seen firsthand the power of connection, generosity, and compassion. We did big things, like keeping open essential services, and committing to bring back every single staff we had to furlough when several programs temporarily closed. We did small things, like 'sparing a square' and distributing excess toilet paper from the agency's closed facilities to those having trouble finding it. Throughout it all, we have been fortunate to celebrate the creative ways our staff and consumers are working together, the willingness of the community to support families in need, and the generosity of funders who have helped offset the increased cost of all this work. To our Woodfords community, thank you. We've done all of this by continuing to stick together.



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.

DSPs Demonstrate Selflessness and Bring Mission to Life During Pandemic

A very special thank you to Wendy Dore and Jean de Dieu Birangwa, pictured below, for their many contributions these past few months, we couldn't have done it without you.



Wendy Dore



Jean de Dieu Birangwa

Like many group home and residential facilities throughout the state, Woodfords' Residential Services Program never stopped delivering services to consumers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Woodfords is proud of the way the Residential staff, particularly our House Managers and Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) never missed a beat. They learned about Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), immediately implemented new health and safety protocols, signed up for longer shifts when necessary, and supported consumers to understand the changing world around them, while keeping everyone as safe as possible. From helping consumers cook their favorite meals, to doing special craft projects, having movie nights, and exploring new at home activities, DSPs have been there to listen, share a laugh, and provide comfort. They have gone above and beyond in their duties for months. We appreciate the incredible work of our dedicated staff in the Residential Services Program. Thank you for meeting this call to action and living out the agency's mission through your work each and every day.

Awards, Grants, Of Note

- ▶ The **Department of Health and Human Services Office of Child and Families Services** awarded the Training and Resource Center a contract expansion for the existing Behavioral Health Professional Training and Certificate Program. Under the expansion, the Program will implement enhanced recruitment and retention efforts to increase the availability of Behavioral Health Professionals throughout the state to meet the growing need of Maine's children.
- ▶ The **Virginia Hodgkins Somers Foundation** awarded \$21,360 to the Southern Maine Rehabilitative and Community Support Program to facilitate its transition to telehealth at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ▶ The **Sam L. Cohen Foundation** awarded \$10,000 to the agency's Family Wellness Programming efforts.
- ▶ The **Maine Community Foundation's Community Building Grant Program** awarded \$8,600 to the agency's Family Wellness Programming efforts from their **Cumberland County and Lydia Lyman Funds**.
- ▶ The **United Way of Greater Portland's COVID-19 Community Relief Fund** awarded \$2,800 to the Residential Services Program and a total of \$5,500 to the COVID-19 Family Emergency Fund.
- ▶ The **United Way of York County's COVID-19 Relief Fund** awarded \$2,000 to the Residential Services Program, \$2,000 to the COVID-19 Family Emergency Fund, and \$3,000 to the Behavioral Health Homes Program.
- ▶ The **People's United Bank Community Foundation** awarded \$2,500 to the agency's Family Wellness Programming efforts.
- ▶ The **Early Childhood Services Program**, traditionally offering center-based clinical preschool services to young children with special needs, is expanding to provide a kindergarten through second grade special purpose educational program to better support the young school-age children with special needs in our community.

Donor Spotlight: COVID-19 Emergency Fund for Staff and Consumers

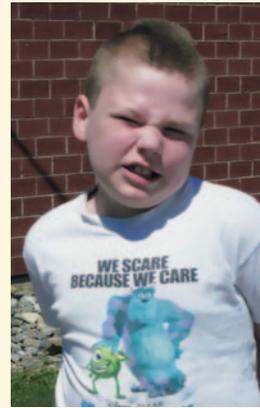


With the generous support of our community over these past few months, Woodfords has been able to expand its traditional Family Emergency Fund to include a COVID-19 Emergency Fund. This fund has provided immediate financial relief to more than 30 employees, individuals, and families in our community who have been most affected by the impacts of the pandemic by providing supplemental assistance for basic necessities such as housing, utilities, transportation, food, hygiene products, clothing, safety equipment, and much more to ensure that they have been able to remain safe, healthy, and stable during these unprecedented times. We appreciate the support of the United Way of York County, the United Way of Greater Portland, and the many individuals and families who have made contributions to this fund, we could not continue to offer this support without you.

Sticking With Woodfords: Preschool Alums Graduate High School

Spring graduations were anything but traditional this year, but the accomplishments of high school graduates are no less exciting! This year, three current consumers, who are also 2005 and 2006 alumni of the Woodfords Waterville Preschool, joined the class of 2020 as they graduated from high school. A big congratulations to Colby Brann, Alaina “Ali” Hayward, and Andrew Needham, pictured below, for all your hard work. Colby works at Tradewinds Market and enjoys spending time with his family. In the fall he is looking forward to attending

the University of Maine at Orono. Ali loves everything pink, video games, and taking walks in her community. She is looking forward to moving into her own apartment soon. Andrew likes comic books, music, art, trivia, and movies and loves spending time at High Hopes Clubhouse in Waterville. We are excited to see what comes next for our graduates. Just like these alumni did many years ago, 66 Woodfords preschoolers across the state are getting ready for their own graduation and transition to Kindergarten this month.



Colby Brann, Lawrence High School

Alaina Hayward, Lawrence High School

Andrew Needham, Messalonskee High School

Despite the Odds, The Superheroes Returned

We just couldn't wait another year to celebrate our superheroes and super supporters, so we came together, while staying apart, for our first ever virtual Superhero 5K last month. More than 175 superheroes and their sidekicks came out to show their support for people with special needs and super abilities raising more than \$7,500 to support the agency's COVID-19 response efforts. A huge thank you to our runners, walkers, and donors who made this event so successful. Special thanks to event sponsors Clark Insurance, J.B. Brown & Sons, Locations Real Estate and Machias Savings Bank. We can't wait to see you next year, hopefully in person, at our 2021 Superhero 5K on Saturday, June 5th at Pineland Farms!



Thank You 2020 Corporate Sponsors

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

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People's United Bank

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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The 2020 Auction Gala Goes Virtual

Although we won't be able to gather together for a night out like we usually would, we still want to bring the glitz and glam of the agency's annual Auction Gala to the comfort of your living room! That's right, for 2020, Woodfords' Auction Gala is going virtual! Get your fanciest at-home attire and prepare for a night 'out' filled with great speakers, a video premiere, and an online auction with many of the items you have grown to love, along with some new ones too! If you are interested in attending or to learn more about this event, please visit www.woodfords.org or check out our Facebook page in early September for more details.

