



# HELP US NAME OUR NEWSLETTER

THE PROGRESS CENTER, INC.  
*community. opportunity. growth.*

Volume 1, Issue 2

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Your ideas are needed!  
\*See page 4 to help us name our newsletter!

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## Upcoming Events

- Lest We Forget
- Yard Sale



## DETERMINATION: THE FRANK HEMMINGWAY AWARD

The Progress Center family would like introduce you to Robert, our featured Special Olympian for 2015. Robert was honored at the 2015 Winter Special Olympics Games at Sugarloaf for earning the Frank Hemmingway Award for snowshoeing.



Robert was presented the award for his outstanding display of courage and sportsmanship. Robert's determination during the 2015 Winter Games served as an excellent example of what Special Olympics is all about.

This was Roberts first time competing during the Winter Games. However, he is a seasoned summer competitor and usually competes in bowling, the 50 meter walk and the softball throw. When not attending The Progress Center's Community Support program Robert enjoys meal prep for the community soup kitchen.

Robert was so proud of his award and has shared it and his story to anyone willing to lend an ear. Robert's TPC peers celebrated

him with an award presentation ceremony in February.



Pictured: Robert

### Did you know we cater?

- Business meeting?
- Bridal Party?
- Birthday Party?
- Super Bowl Party?

We do it all!  
Call Sandi at  
207-743-8049 x 202

## DONNIE AND DONNIE: HARLEM SUPERSTARS

Everyone in Maine knows that cabin fever sets in right around March. Luckily for our crew we were able to get out and about and have fun at a local event thanks to the Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School.

The Progress Center would like to say thank you to the Oxford Hills Athletic Boosters. Their generous support allowed 15 of our participants and staff to attend the Harlem Superstars event, at a reduced rate, on March 14.

Sarah participated in the first event of the evening. She competed against another spectator and two Superstars in a free-throw contest.

*Pictured to the Left: Our Donnie posed for photos with Razzmatazz (Donnie Seale) during the halftime show.*





Pictured L to R: Nicholas Graham, Lynne Wheeler, Melanie Barker

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES

been an issue. The Progress Center, with the promotion of Lynne and the addition of two Children's Service Coordinators, Melanie Barker and Nick Graham and their 15 Behavioral Health Professionals are now well situated to meet that need.

Lynne, Melanie and Nick are enthusiastic about the future of the program and what that means for children in rural Maine. TPC currently serve within an hour radius of Norway and plan to increase that by adding satellite offices.

The program is intended to support children and their families in the home and community. BHP's assist children to develop social and independent living skills by addressing behavioral issues that interfere with the child's ability to adequately function within the home and/or the community.

Lynne and her team are confident that they have a well structured program worth building and expanding. New and exciting opportunities are on the horizon for the Children's Services Program so check back soon for updates.

Referrals can be made online  
[progresscentermaine.org](http://progresscentermaine.org)  
 or call Lynne at  
 743-8049 x 218



*Our mission is to promote independence and freedom of choice for the individuals we serve, and help them discover their own dream for a meaningful life.*

**"In July 2014 we served a handful of children. It's nine months later and we are now providing services to 22 children"** says Lynne Wheeler, Children's Services Manager, LSX. Why the big change for the Children's Services Program? The need for in home support for children has always

## LEST WE FORGET AT THE HALL OF FLAGS

**The Progress Center participated in the 2015 "Lest We Forget" exhibit.**

The "Lest We Forget" event was hosted by The Maine Association for Community Service Providers (MACSP) on May 19th from 10 to 2 at the Hall of Flags at the State Capital Building in Augusta.

The idea behind campaign is to give a voice to the individuals with disabilities whose voices are heard through their artwork. 2015 marks the 19th anniversary of the closing of Pineland in Gray, Maine.

TPC sponsored four individuals artwork in the event:

Many of you may remember that Pineland was built in 1908 as the Maine School for the Feeble Minded. It closed in 1996 following years of scandal due to the inappropriate treatment and care of its residents.

- \* Brenda– Photograph of the Japanese Beetle
- \* Bruce and Greg– Large handmade wooden platter (pictured R).
- \* Gail– Acrylic painting of a loon.



Items like the one pictured above, made by Tree Works, are for sale. Please visit our website for details:

[www.progresscentermaine.org](http://www.progresscentermaine.org)



## BRENDA'S NEW ADVENTURE

Brenda Andrews– Our receptionist is embarking on a new adventure. Brenda has been em-

ployed by The Progress Center for over 6 years answering phones, directing visitors and completing other office related

tasks. She will be utilizing the new Career Planning program.

**Good Luck Brenda!**

## BOTTLE DRIVE

**The Progress Center is hosting a bottle drive.**

The Progress Center is working on raising funds in many different ways. We realize that making a cash donation may not be possible for all families. There are many ways you can support TPC and our participants. One of those ways is to donate your cans and bottle.

*There are two ways you can donate bottles:* One, stop by our office and pick up our Clynk bags and drop them off at Hannaford. Two, visit Don's Redemption on Cottage Street ask that all funds go to The Progress Center account.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**In 2015 you will see us embarking on some brand new fundraising events, including dinners at local restaurants, raffles, affinity marketing, crowd funding and a fundraising walk.**

To make these events successful we need to build our volunteer base. We are looking for people willing to sell raffle tickets, share our facebook posts with their friends, and to join us in other fun events and activities.

Call Celeste Wideman  
743-8049 x 206 for details

## ★ YARD SALE ★

Our Norway Campus is just a block away from Main Street. It makes us an ideal location to host a yard sale!

**Join us at 35 Cottage Street on June 27th from 8:00 to 1:00pm for a do it yourself YARD SALE!**

Register Online or call  
743-8049 x 266 to reserve your space.

\$20- Table Provided  
\$15-BYO Table

**Donate your unwanted, good condition items. They will be sold by TPC to raise funds for our various programs.**

**Call 743-8049 x 266**

## JOB SEEKERS WANTED

**Sign on BONUS Available\***

Are you compassionate?  
Do you want to make a difference?  
Do you like working with kids?

**APPLY ONLINE**  
progresscentermaine.org

The Progress Center is looking to hire a Behavioral Health Professional to support children and families in multiple counties in Maine.

Apply online or contact Human Resources at:  
207.743.8049 x 206

\*Some conditions may apply

## OXFORD HILLS ROTARY

On March 16th, St. Patrick's Day, the Rotary Club of Oxford Hills hosted a free meal for area seniors 55+.

Attendees were treated to a traditional boiled dinner cooked by the kitchen staff at The Progress Center. Guests also received a green carnation donated by Green Gardens in South Paris.

The Oxford Hills Rotary has been a staple in the community for over 30 years and support the community in various ways. Most well known events are the Lobster and Steak Fest and May Day Play Day.

Rotary and Kiwanis also host the Ray Brown Memorial Benefit Dance in April. Those proceeds are donated to The Progress Center's Special Olympics Team.



## WWW.PROGRESSCENTERMAINE.ORG

**Engineers and scientists** as early as World War II had visions of a "massive digital library as a new approach to managing information" and communicating to people a world away (Smithsonian).

To make that happen different machines and operating systems needed to understand each other which was done through creating of a set of standard protocols. Fast forward 30 or

so years and our very own Marketing and Development Manager can purchase, download, and create a brand new website using widgets, posts, and short codes (techy lingo).

The internet is all about communication. We, at The Progress Center, with the development of our brand new website, can now share up-to-date information about our programs, services and special events. You can

donate online with PayPal, you can apply for a job online or make a referral for any one of our program.

Why does this matter to you? Answer this questions: What do people who operate with different set of protocols do when they want to communicate but can't? Sometimes there may be disconnect in place. Utilizing other modes of communication is imperative to ensuring that their wants

and needs are known. Computers, the internet and technology can all be used to help facilitate communication for our participants. Speak to any one of our eight case managers to learn more about Assistive Technology available to those who have Section 21/29 funding.

**207-743-8049 x 226**

**Visit our website to see the updates and for more details on Case Management services for Assistive Technology details.**

Smithsonian. "Birth of the Internet." (Jan. 20, 2011)  
http://Smithsonian.yahoo.com/arpanet2.htm





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*Our mission is to promote independence and freedom of choice for the individuals we serve.*

The Progress Center has revamped how our newsletter is presented to the community. Not only are we available online via e-mail we now offer an option of printed copies. Along with those changes comes a new page layout, a new color scheme and a new name. We are looking to our readership for help on the latter.

**We would like your input in naming our newsletter**

If you have a unique name, a clever moniker, or a snappy title we want to hear from you!

Call or e-mail Miranda, Marketing and Development Manager with your ideas:  
743-8049 x 266 or  
[development@progresscentermaine.org](mailto:development@progresscentermaine.org)

The winning name will receive a prize so don't hesitate to let the creativity flow!

**The Progress Center would like to send a heartfelt thank you** to Kim Preble, Executive Director at the United Way of Oxford County. Kim coordinated with the Woodstock Elementary School staff and students to participate in a food drive to benefit local non-profits .

**Together they donated 83lbs of food to the Community Kitchen.**

The Community Kitchen offers free meals to the public every Thursday evening from 4:30 to 6:00pm.

Typically, the Community Kitchen feeds anywhere between 175 to 200 people.

If you would like to support the Community Kitchen by making a donate please contact Sandi Shorey at 207-743-8049 x 202.

You can also make a secure, online donation using PayPal:

[www.progresscentermaine.org/donate](http://www.progresscentermaine.org/donate)

Pictured: Kim Preble (right), Jennifer Putnam, Executive Director TPC (middle), Liz Blaquiére, Kitchen Manager (left) in the kitchen storage room.

## A NOTE FROM JENNIFER

The system that supports adult Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) called the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver Section 21 is changing. A new assessment tool called Support Intensity Scale (SIS) is being given to every individual to measure his/her need for supports. The score will fall into one of five levels. Each level corresponds to a service package menu and a funding allocation for each individual based on three rate tiers. These changes in the HCBS waiver rules are to occur this spring with an implementation plan to follow.

These are significant changes. They will not only affect those being served now but those who will be served in the future. The families, guardians, caretakers, direct support staff and agencies

will be impacted for years to come. Being educated about the changes and providing feedback before the changes are final provides the opportunity for all involved to shape this new system.

Informing families who will be affected by this new rule and encouraging them to understand what it will mean for them is an important step. If families are uninformed, encourage them to speak with their case managers and agencies now to gain insight about how the system will work for them. More information can be found in the list of resources provided below:

Maine Coalition of Housing and Quality Services is an excellent resource for staying informed about timely events such as this and also is a great way to connect with other individuals, families and stakeholders. A link and how to join are

here: Maine Coalition of Housing and Quality Services (MCHQS) <http://www.maineparentcoalition.org> click "JOIN" to be included on a statewide distribution list or join by sending an e-mail to [Vicky@chomhousing.org](mailto:Vicky@chomhousing.org)

DHHS: Contact SIS Manager, Office of Aging and Disability Services, Augusta: Jennifer K. Fales, LSW, E-mail: [Jennifer.Fales@maine.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Fales@maine.gov) Telephone: 207-287-4227  
Friday Morning Conference Calls about the SIS: DHHS has weekly SIS calls with stakeholders to answer questions, hear feedback and provide updates. This call takes place at 8 am; please call 1-877-455-0244 conference code: 207-287-6642

Join Office of Aging and Disabilities (OADS) listserv: Click link, submit e-mail then select types of info you wish to receive: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oads>

(Special thanks to parent Kim Humphrey, MPH for providing this information)

