

# HELP US NAME OUR NEWSLETTER



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

## SUPER BOWL XLIX, CATERED PARTY FOR 20 FOOTBALL FANS

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### Upcoming Events

- Applebee's Fundraiser
- Social Media Takeover
- Crowd Funding
- Paint the Town
- Clynk- Bottle Drive

### Did you know we cater?

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

We do it all!  
Call Molly at  
207-743-8049 x 213



Pictured: Sandi Shorey

### **Our Director of Services, Sandi Shorey, lives in a house full of Patriots fans.**

And rightly so, she lives in the middle of Patriots Nations, USA. Knowing how dedicated her fellow Pats fans are and the high likelihood that her team would make it all the way to Phoenix Stadium she knew there was a fundraiser hidden in there somewhere!

Deflate-gate or otherwise there is no denying that the New England Patriots have some impressive stats. Here at The Progress Center

we're looking at coming up with some impressive stats of our own. Fundraising stats that is!

As a non-profit we rely on the kindness of others to assist the agency with filling in the gaps that other funding sources cannot fill. For example, did you know that the Community Kitchen is in the process of adding more seating? Every Thursday night from 4:30 to 6 The Progress Center operates a community dinner open to the public. All of the meals are prepared by Liz Blaquiere and her dedicated team of volunteers and TPC participants. These meals are free to anyone who chooses to attend. Luckily, we have a dedicated Director of Services who came up with the idea for a Super Bowl themed fundraiser! From mid December to January 28th Progress Center employees sold Raffle Tickets for a Catered Super Bowl Party for up to 20 people (Patriots fans or other-

wise).

The meal included: pulled pork sandwiches, cheese and crackers, meatballs, kielbasa, chips and dip, buffalo wings, brownies and more!

The Progress Center would like to congratulate our 2015 Super Bowl Party Winner—**Joe Newbert.**

If you or your loved one would like to take a tour of any one of our residential or shared living homes or our Norway campus please don't hesitate. Give Sandi a call and she and her team will show you all that The Progress Center has to offer!

Sandi Shorey—  
Director of Services  
207-743-8049 x 202  
Sandishorey@progress  
centermaine.org



## TPC LEADING THE CHARGE IN EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS PROGRAMMING

**Each person with a disability has a desire for a rich and varied life, including a physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual dimension.**

The Progress Center supports adults and children in Oxford County meet their needs by providing high quality, person centered programming. Some of the services provided to our clients include employment support which assists those that want to work find quality,

paying jobs within the community.

The Progress Center is proud to offer a new service to Oxford Hills.

Cont. on page 2



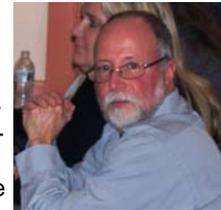
# 2014 ANNUAL DINNER HELD ON NOVEMBER 19TH

The 2014 Annual Dinner had the largest turnout in recent memory. According to Jennifer Putnam, Executive Director the Community Kitchen seated just over 70 people.

The atmosphere was certainly one of joy on the night of November 19th. Lisa Gallant filled the room with beautiful guitar music while staff, their families and special guests mingled and reminisced over the last year and all that has been

accomplished. Jennifer spoke briefly to thank the guests for their continued support and dedication to The Progress Center. The Annual Report for 2014 was provided for those who were interested in reviewing 2014 and our plans for moving forward.

Next, Jennifer presented staff awards for years of service and a new award for The Progress Center's Unsung Hero. The nights big honor was presented to Larry Jordan. Larry is a veteran employee and has dedicated 17 years of services to our agency. Larry's



peers had the following things to say about him: "Larry Jordan, he does so much for us

maintenance wise he is great, always positive, always happy, always willing to help anyone who needs it", "[he] does his job without much fanfare or complaint and without him the roof falls down", "Nothing is too small a request for him to deal with and he is almost always in an upbeat mood". Well deserved Larry!



The Progress Center Annual Report | 2014



You can review the report on our website:



*Offering the Discovering Personal Genius program is just one of many ways we support our clients live a meaningful life.*

## BUSINESS AFTER HOURS HOSTED ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH.

**The Progress Center was proud to host the Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours.** The staff of TPC and chamber members were pleased to be joined by Jim Hamper, Senator for District 18, fresh off his most recent election.

Liz Blaquiere and her dedicated volunteers, along with the participates of TCP's culinary program provided

the evenings hor'devours. The crowd was certainly pleased by the spread and grateful for the delicious handmade treats.

Jennifer Putnam, Executive Director gave a short speech on the history of The Progress Center's 40 year legacy. She also shared the most recent updates on TPC programming, funding and future goals.

The most exciting moments of the evening came when door prizes were raffled off. The "in demand" prize of the night was the handcrafted cheese platter made by Tree Works. Don't fright if you didn't win! You can still purchase any of the products seen at the Buisness After Hours by visiting our website for prices:

[www.progresscentermaine.org](http://www.progresscentermaine.org)  
207-743-8049 x 213

## Continued from page 1 DISCOVERING PERSONAL GENIUS: TPC

**The Progress Center is proud to offer a new service to our participants.** George Young, a veteran employee of The Progress Center, was one of the first Employment Specialists in Maine to train and become certified in the Discovering Personal Genius program. This brand new program works intensively with those that want to work by following a curriculum that focuses

on career planning by identifying strengths and needs and using those to the client's benefit. George was recently joined by Tia Danforth who attended the most recent training and is now certified to provide the same quality services.

*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.*



George Young



**SOCIAL MEDIA TAKE OVER!**

**The Progress Center is taking over social media.**

If you actively use Facebook or visit our website you'll notice we've been moving to increase our presence on the web. Our purpose for this is twofold; one, we offer many services to our participants and the community and we want you to know about them. Second, fundraising, fundraising, fundraising! We are a non-profit organization and much of our funding comes from Medicaid reimbursements for the services we provide to our participants. In order for us to continue to provide new and exciting programs and activities we require support from our funders.

**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 need people willing to sell raffle tickets, share our facebook posts with their friends, to stand out side of local businesses for donations and to join us in other fun events and activities.

Call Celeste Wideman 743-8049 x 206 for details

**DINING TO DONATE**

**JOIN US FOR DINNER!**

The Progress Center will be hosting a Dining to Donate evening at Applebee's in Oxford on Thursday, February 19th. 15% of your total bill will be donated to TPC. Just bring in the flyer attached to this newsletter, present it to your server on 2/19/15 and enjoy your meal. It really is that simple.

**HELP US IN OUR GOAL TO RAISE \$200!**

See you on February 19th!



**MASONIC \$2000 GRANT**

Visit:

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

Vote once per day until 2/28 to help increase The Progress Center's chance to win \$2000 from the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation!

Every Year the Mason's nominate local non-profits to a chance to win \$2000. Each agency is assigned a district number and asked to advertise the website. *Those wishing to support TPC can go to the website, search for District 16, click The Progress Center radial button and then click VOTE.*

**IN A COZY LITTLE CABIN, THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, 2014**

**2014 Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade was held on Saturday, November 29th.** The Progress Center staff, participants and volunteers joined the throngs of onlookers at 11am, despite the chilly November temperatures.



The Progress Center would like to give a special thanks to the following people for their time and immense effort: Josh White, Chelsea Roy, Cottage Street Storage, Greg Durgin, Scott Holt, Laura Roy, Diane Howe, participants from TPC community supports for the decoration, TPC resi-

dence for the cookies and popcorn rope and to everyone else not mentioned. Your kindness and generosity has not gone unnoticed— We thank you for all that you do.

People like you make us who we are!



Night Before Christmas 2014

**2014 DECA HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR**

**What a fantastic turnout at the 2014 DECA Holiday Craft Fair.** This was our first year at the craft fair and we are so pleased with all of the wonderful attention our products received. Items for sale from Tree Works, our wood working program, included cutting boards and cribbage games. Also featured were handmade glass beaded bracelets and painted Christmas

ornaments.

Pictured to the right is Noelle and one of her handmade Holiday Wreath, also sold at the craft fair.



Works. Our beautiful, handcrafted cutting boards, cribbage games, platters and more are all still available for purchase. The best part is that all of the proceeds go back to the wonderful programs offered by TPC.

If you missed the fair this year give us a call 207-743-8049 and ask for Tree

*Not only are you giving the perfect gift you're also giving back to your community.*





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

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

Would you like a copy mailed to your home or business? We'd be happy to oblige! Call 743-8049 x 266 and we'll add you to our newsletter mailing.

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

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

## A NOTE FROM JENNIFER

Winter and the season's accompanying snowstorms are keeping us busy at The Progress Center! Many are taking advantage of the powder, especially our Special Olympics Team, who made us all very proud at the Winter Games held at Sugarloaf in January.

Our Community & Employment Supports Program and our Children's Services Program are growing at a rapid clip. Community Supports offers individuals with intellectual disabilities some unique opportunities for exploring and learning new skills in the specialty areas of Arts, Volunteering and Culinary. Some activities include learning



how to cook various dishes, attending the symphony in Portland or delivering Meals on Wheels. Employment Supports now includes a unique assessment of personal career options for individuals with disabilities and we are excited to be able to offer this through our agency now. Children's Services

is now providing in-home support to children and families across Western Maine. Behavioral Health Professionals work closely with families to support each child's individual needs.

Our minds and hearts have turned to thoughts of spring, however muddy it might be! We wish everyone safe travels and welcome you stop by and pay us a visit, volunteer in the kitchen or to teach a skill, or make a donation to help us continue serving our community.

Jennifer Putnam,  
Executive Director

