

Hope Connection

June 2009



From the Desk of the Executive Director...

Imagine being a legislator when it comes time to develop a budget and you don't have enough money. You have to find savings by making cuts in existing programs that serve the citizens of your state and your district. These are the people who are going to vote for you (OR NOT) in the next election.

people as making cuts in schools, roads, or health care.

You have read in your newspapers that the Maine state budget has been passed. That budget was described by the Portland Press Herald as "loaded with 'heartbreaking' reductions." This is the first state budget in over three decades that is smaller than the one preceding it. Lawmakers have been working on this budget for about five months. It kept changing because of decreasing revenues. State law requires that the budget be balanced. So, if you are going to balance the budget and you have less money coming in, you need to make cuts somewhere.

Enter Matthew Peterson. And, oh, what the heck, bring in Margaret Craven too.

Matthew Peterson is our state representative. He serves on the Health and Human Services Committee. During the long budget process which included significant cuts in funding services for people with developmental disabilities Matt consistently opposed all cuts to the DD waiver program and the effect it would have had on the number of people on the waiting list for services. Mary Lou Dyer, the lobbyist of the Maine Association of Community Service Providers (MACSP), sent an email in which she described Representative

Peterson as "unfailingly supportive of services to people with developmental disabilities." I hope that if you know Matt and if you see him, that you will thank him for his hard work. I sent him a note to express our appreciation for his support. You may want to do so too. His address is: 600 Hancock Street, Rumford, ME 04276.

In the Maine Senate, it was Margaret Craven who fought long and hard for people with developmental disabilities. In fact, Mary Lou called her our hero. I sent Senator Craven an email message thanking her for her work and support. She responded saying that she appreciated the feedback. She is the senator from District 16, which consists of the city of Lewiston. Margaret is a great advocate for the elderly, health care and people with disabilities. Her home address is: 41 Russell Street, Lewiston, ME 04240. She can be reached by email by typing "Senator Margaret Craven."

People with developmental disabilities don't make up a large voting bloc but there are legislators like Representative Peterson and Senator Craven who make sure that they are not forgotten. They deserve our thanks.

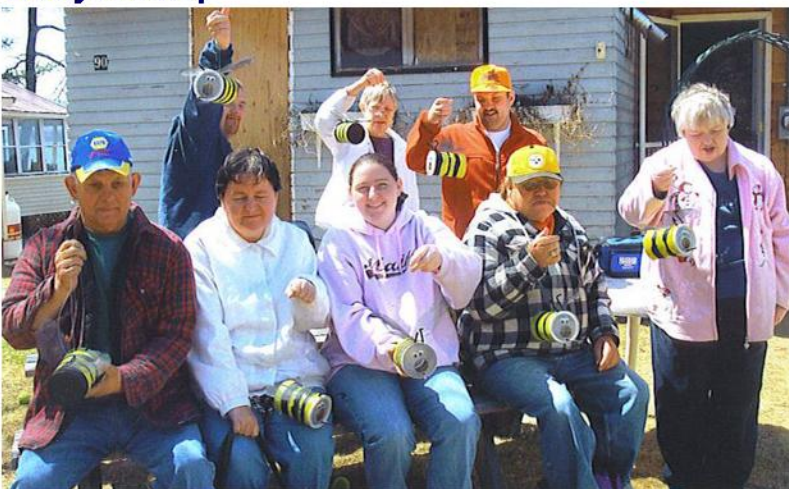


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We are in a recession and unemployment in Maine is hovering close to 9%. Do you cut safety net programs for those who have lost jobs and have families to feed? Do you cut programs that many low income elderly rely on? That's a pretty big voting bloc. And they vote. Do you cut aid to families with dependent children? Do you make further cuts to the infrastructure budget; money needed to repair our roads and highways? What the heck, there are so many potholes out there that, maybe, no one will notice a few more. Of course, most of us drive or ride on Maine's roads so we, together, make up a very large voting bloc. Maybe you can make cuts in schools, education, health care. Or, how about mental health services? Oh, here it is! Cut funding for developmental disabilities services. That won't affect as many

A Day at Camp



Joe

During a beautiful day in May, a group from Hope Association traveled to a camp at Roxbury Pond. While they were there they made bumble bee bird houses and enjoyed a wonderful picnic.

Submitted by Jessica Archer, Patty Flaherty and Debbie Averill

Pictured back row, left to right: Nick Gross, Pat Koertge, and Jacob Bates.

Pictured front row, left to right: Melvin Henley, Louise LeBlanc, Jodi Sincyr, Frank Sweatt and Debbie Blaisdell.



WHAT'S HAPPENING...

June: 5th - S.O. Track and Field at Orono

6th - S.O. Track and Field at Orono

7th - S.O. Track and Field at Orono

17th - Alzheimer's Support Group Meeting, 7:00pm @ AAC. Contact Joe FMI @ 3644561

19th - Hot Lunch - BBQ Hamburger and Hot dogs. Meals come w/ soda and dessert for \$4.00

Do You Know Frank Sweatt?



Frank Sweatt receives community support services through Hope Association 2 days a week. Frank helps deliver meals to people on Mondays during Meals on Wheels. Frank enjoys taking the meals right to the person's door.

On Wednesdays Frank is scheduled in the Briar Patch Greenhouse. Lucky for us because Frank has a "green thumb" and Frank's plants takes root and turns into a strong plant!

Frank has many strengths and abilities beyond Meals on Wheels and the Greenhouse. Frank has worked at Bethel Furniture in the past and was a waste wood processor for Made in Maine products on Rt 2 in Rumford.

Pictured above is Frank Sweatt.

Ladies Meet for Lunch



Lea Walker and friends met on May 20th at GRAMPS for a spaghetti lunch. They enjoyed each others company while they chatted over dessert.

Pictured from left to right: Mary Meltzer, Marie Fowler, Missy Goodwin, Lea Walker and Ellen Halpin.

Submitted by Marie Fowler



MVHS Peer Helpers

Mountain Valley High School Peer Helpers sold raffle tickets for a basket filled with gift certificates to local businesses. The money raised from the raffle was donated to Hope Association on May 1st. The total money raised and donated was \$300.00.

Everyone at Hope Association would like to thank the MVHS Peer Helpers and advisor Craig Dilman for this donation. We know this was a lot of work to put together and we appreciate this donation very much!

Pictured below is Donna Landry accepting the donation from the MVHS Peer Helpers.



Gold Diggin'



Participant's from Hope Association went on a guided tour of the Swift River in Byron. They were taught the technique of gold panning from guides Rosey and Bob.

The cold water did not stop anyone from getting the gold. Everyone came home with at least one piece. The luckier ones had two or three pieces.

A picnic lunch followed at Coos Canyon and everyone had a chance to visit the Gem Shop while they were there.

Pictured back row, left to right: Debbie Averill, Bob the guide, Michelle Selleck, Patty Flaherty and Ray McLean.

Pictured front row, left to right: Jodi Sincyr, Ross Bean, Ken Tillberg and Nick Gross.

Sewing is Fun



Pat Koertge's first priorities is making the greenhouse a success. After that is accomplished she likes to do any type of sewing. She is very detailed and focused when she is doing a project. Here she is holding up one of her most recent projects. Very nice work Pat!

Submitted by Victoria Cyr

Greenhouse Adventure

On May 19th, a group from the Chisolm Early Head Start toured the Briar Patch greenhouse. The children were given pots to fill and Marigolds to plant. They did an excellent job and were very enthusiastic during the project.

Pictured below are the children proudly showing their finished project.



Memorial Day Parade

On May 25th, a group from Horizons Unlimited watched the Memorial Day parade with some friends from Fourth St.

They enjoyed watching all of the different participants in the parade as well as listening to their friend Mary Turnbull sing with RAAPA. Everyone received a small flag and waved them proudly during the parade. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to honor our country's veterans on such a beautiful day.

Pictured below in the back from left to right: Annette Demers, Mary Meltzer, Jim Watson, Mike Jenkins and Amanda Blood
Pictured in the front from left to right: Mary Turnbull and Amber Downs.

Submitted by Amber Downs



Hope Association
85 Lincoln Ave
Rumford, Me 04276

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Fax: 207-369-0141

**Providing quality services
for over 40 years.**

Congratulations...

Congratulations to the following employees who will be adding on another year of service in June.

Sheila Bartlett - 17 yrs

Karen Sinclair-Belyea - 15 yrs

Tena Bennett - 12yrs

Joyce Giasson - 6 yrs

Alfred Goff - 2 yrs

Courtney Johnson - 1yr

Thank you for your dedication and hard work!



Riley Mae Windover was born on March 31, 2009 She weighed 5lbs 3 oz. and was 19 inches long. She is the daughter of Jim and Cathy Windover and the granddaughter of Gerry Ramsdell. If you see this proud family be sure to congratulate them on their newest edition.



Briar Patch Greenhouse

85 Lincoln Ave. Rumford, ME 04276

364-2388

Hours of Operation:

Tuesday through Sunday

10am to 4pm

Closed on Mondays



WHAT NOT SHOP

Monday - Friday 9am - 4pm

SATURDAYS 9am - 1pm

85 Lincoln Ave, Rumford

364-2139