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## Our "New" Executive Director

Beginning over 36 years ago, Gail Fanjoy's career entered a new phase as KFI's Executive Director in May 2012.

Gail has been instrumental in the organization's transformation to one with a national reputation for excellence and cutting edge services. As part of KFI's core leadership, she has tirelessly and passionately advocated for the rights of people with disabilities to lead regular lives; that is, to live, work and participate in their communities in the same way as any other citizen. This strongly held belief has resulted in KFI earning two national awards for its impact on people becoming fully participating members of their communities.

Gail is a gifted speaker and national consultant who has presented at conferences in more than 20 states. She serves on the TASH National Board of Directors where she chairs the Community Living Committee; she is Co-President of TASH New England. She also



serves on the Maine APSE Board of Directors, the Maine Employment First Task Force, and the Maine Partnership for Values-Based Practice. Gail is active in her hometown of Millinocket, serving on various committees and Boards in order to improve community living for all its citizens, is still married to her college sweetheart, and is the proud grandmother of a darling six year old grandson on the autism spectrum.

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## Courtney Goes To College



Courtney Cyr attended Washington County Community College Open House for a day. She was invited by two of her friends to come and experience what college is like. She spent time in the dorm lounge with her friends, visited classrooms, shopped in the bookstore, and ate lunch on campus. She enjoyed mingling and interacting with other college students. She now wears her WCCC t-shirt with pride.



## DRC 2012 Business of the Year

KFI is proud to announce that we have been honored by the Disability Rights Center of ME as the 2012 Business of the Year.

The Disability Rights Center of Maine is Maine's federally recognized protection and advocacy organization for people with disabilities. It is a non-profit agency independent of state and federal gov-

ernment. DRC provides individuals with information about their rights and service systems, and represents individuals at meetings and hearings by providing legal services to individuals and groups. In addition, DRC works for systemic change and offers trainings on individual rights and developing advocacy skills.

Each year DRC recognizes a Maine business that exemplifies inclusion and outstanding support for citizens with disabilities. This year the DRC was honored to recognize KFI for its exemplary work and for improving the lives of Maine citizens with disabilities with its 2012 Business Award.





## Everyone Can Work !

Corey recently celebrated 5 years of owning his own recycling business by giving personalized magnets and pens to his commercial and residential customers - quite an accomplishment for a young man who some would think could only work in a sheltered workshop!

**Everybody Needs....**  
 Someone to love,  
 Something to do,  
 Something to look forward to!



Dan loves to sing and he loves how music can make people feel better. He volunteers his time and talent singing for the residents at two local facilities, Care Ridge in Lee and Lakeview Terrace in Lincoln. Using his own Karaoke equipment he specializes in Oldies, Gospel, and Country & Western classics.

## Good Neighbor

When Marie moved into a new apartment complex staff made sure that neighbors got to know her on an individual basis. Marie then hosted an "omelet in a bag" breakfast and all of her neighbors attended. The neighbors so enjoyed the get-together that they initiated the next gathering which was a spaghetti feed. Marie was first on the list of invitees. Since then Marie has hosted two Christmas parties, a birthday barbecue, a dessert swap and a

casserole social. Marie's desire to get to know her neighbors strengthened this close-knit community. Neighbors stop in for coffee, she visits at their home or they all meet at the picnic table. Even the maintenance man stops to visit Marie if he has not seen her out and about. Marie's life at one time was segregated and lonely. She didn't have any neighbors, typical friends or a sense of belonging. Look at her now!!



## Shared Gifts



Gloria has a passion and gift for painting. She likes trying out new mediums and techniques and does so through the art lessons she receives from Marsha Donahue, owner of Northlight Gallery in Millinocket. Gloria loves sharing her talents where they can be appreciated. The Meals for ME program in Millinocket is the lucky recipient of two wall murals (pictured above), compliments of Gloria and Marsha's collaborative efforts!



## DSP SPOTLIGHT

Self advocacy groups in Bangor have come and gone over the years and efforts to get people engaged have most often fallen flat. Enter KFI Community Advocate CJ Bearce. In the past six months CJ has acted as advisor to the Bangor SUFU (Speaking Up for Us) chapter, and in that time, has taken his passion for civic involvement and supported the group to become



three people registered to vote for the first time! engaged in the current election activities. Membership and participation in the group have soared. The group has hosted four different candidates running for state office and continues to work on educating themselves about other issues on the ballot this November. As a result of these efforts two

**People do not resist change—they resist being changed**

### KFI Outcomes

**Community Supports**  
 93% of people supported choose to maintain a membership in a group, club or class  
 84% of people supported volunteer in their community  
 33% of people supported are competitively employed  
**95%** of people supported rate their supports as Good/Very Good

**Home Supports**  
 96% of people supported choose to maintain a membership in a group, club or class  
 78% of people supported volunteer in their community  
 26% of people supported are competitively employed  
**98%** of people supported rate their supports as Good/Very Good

Do you have an idea or something you would like to submit for our next issue? We would love to hear from you!

Questions or comments about our newsletter may be sent to:

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