



KFI Expands to Portland !

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KFI is excited to announce our newest venture; expanding our support for real work and community inclusion outside of the Millinocket / Lincoln / Bangor area. We began offering services in Greater Portland in January 2013.

Laurie Kimball has joined the KFI team as Director of Outreach and Expansion and will take the lead in designing new services to meet the needs identified in Southern Maine. With nearly 25 years of experience, most recently as a Training Coordinator at OADS, Laurie is ready to hear from people who are looking for something different, and to begin discovering with them how to create it.

KFI will start offering Community Case Management Services in the Portland area



this March, offering case management as a link to work and communities wherever possible. In addition, KFI will offer innovative Supported Living services and plans to build partnerships to increase Customized Employment Opportunities in Southern Maine.

EMPLOYMENT FIRST MAINE INTRODUCES LEGISLATION

Today, a significant body of research provides proof that youth and adults with disabilities, including those with the most significant disabilities can work. Yet, despite the positive effect this would have on the economy, the unemployment rate for persons with disabilities remains high across the country.

Therefore, a coalition of cross-disability state agencies and representatives from people with disabilities, families, and providers have formed to propose legislation to ensure that employment in the general workforce is the *first and preferred out-*

come in the provision of publicly funded services for all working age citizens with disabilities.

Gail Fanjoy, KFI Executive Director, is a member of *Employment First Maine* and was recently named as a national subject matter expert. KFI continues to be at the forefront of what is sure to be one of the most important issues of the decade for people with disabilities who are looking to be contributing members of the community. You are sure to hear more about this vital issue as it unfolds.

Assisting people to define and pursue a desirable future tests one's clarity, commitment, and courage





Everyone Can Work !

Drew Lint is very proud of his work and he has every reason to be, he has been helping to maintain the Cyr Bus Lines fleet of school buses for over 10 years!

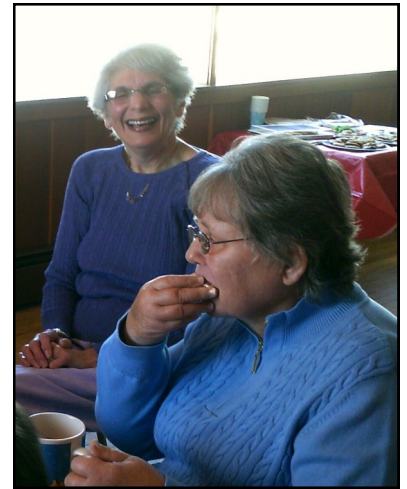
Good Neighbors

“The best laid plans of mice and men sometimes go awry”.....but that didn’t stop two Millinocket women from doing what they had



Dorothy loves to host her guests

set out to do. First the weather, and then being under-the-weather, had kept roommates Barb Noyes and Dorothy Johnston’s Christmas Cookie Swap from happening in December. Not to be defeated by those setbacks, they made a new plan and set a new date for a winter Cookie Swap. In preparation for the party, both ladies eagerly baked and decorated a variety of cookies. On the day of the swap the table was set for the cookie display, the punch was made and the tea was brewed. The gracious hostesses welcomed their guests as they arrived bearing their own goodies to swap. While seasonal music played in the back-



Barb and her neighbor Shirley

ground, the noises most heard were the voices of friends and neighbors gathered around as both cookies and conversation were enjoyed by all who attended.



DSP SPOTLIGHT



Maynard Robinson has had many jobs over the years. Everything from running heavy machinery to running long haul trucks, but his latest career is the one of which he is most proud. Maynard is a Community Advocate in Millinocket and it is a natural fit for him. He has been at it for just over a year and right from the start he has

shown the natural ability to give people the encouragement and support they need to be successful. Maynard has proven to be a natural connector and his willingness to seek out new volunteer and employment opportunities for people has yielded new customers for Corey, as well as new work and volunteer opportunities for many others.

Shared Gifts



Kathy enjoys baking the muffins as much as sharing them!

When Lincoln Community Advocate, Teri Farinaro, asked “How can Kathy contribute more to her church community?” a new ministry was born. Kathy Pryor is a member of the Lincoln Christian Fellowship, loves to bake and has the gift of time. Thanks in part to the generosity of her church she bakes and delivers dozens of muf-

fins to various people throughout her community once a week. Her visit each week has become a touchpoint for many who otherwise don't get out or have anyone to say hello to. This simple act of kindness has resulted in not only general community-building but also meaningful friendships for Kathy and the people she serves.

Service with a Smile

Sandy Stevens' life has really changed since she stopped attending a day program and started making her own choices about how to spend her days. Sandy and her staff explored volunteer options to ensure some continued structure in her day, and when she found one she liked, she made the

switch. Currently she has all sorts of things going on in her life. When she is not volunteering at the Senior Café she might be practicing her cooking with her friend Henry, volunteering at the animal shelter or working out in a Zumba fitness class. Sandy's next challenge: learning to swim!



Sandy enjoys serving her “regulars” at the EAAA Senior Café hosted by All Soul's Congregational Church in Bangor



Brent and his faithful companion Lizzie

(continued from page 4) at nursing homes, attending church and spending time with his friends. He also has experience presenting at conferences locally and regionally on what it means to be in charge of his own life!

He tells everyone how much he loves his life and thanks KFI for supporting him through it all.

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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It's My Life!

After years in Pineland and being shuffled from group home to group home, Brent Savage was left feeling utterly powerless. Brent's mother, acting as guardian and rep payee, contacted KFI out of frustration as Brent constantly called her with his every concern. With KFI's approach Brent learned to trust the staff who supported him to un-

derstand that he could be in control of his life. His first big decision was setting up a payment plan to purchase his boyhood home in Howland. Soon after that he applied for and was granted his own guardianship as well as control of his own finances. Today Brent is an active valued community member, volunteering (cont. on page 3)



Good friends Pastor John & Jeannie Fennel and Brent



Brent's newly renovated home