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*The wings of  
transformation are  
born of patience  
and struggle.*

Janet S Dickens



## A LIFE TRANSFORMED !

Laura says that taking responsibility for her own life with supports from KFI is hard... but it is worth it! Laura chose to change support agencies in May of 2014, even though choosing KFI meant a massive reduction in support hours. Although she had to make some big compromises, Laura is happy with the new life she is building with support from her KFI team in the Portland area.

KFI's formula for support is pretty easy on the surface, and much different from supports Laura has known before. We don't try to make her someone she isn't, but take her from where she is, achieving new heights in building her own life. Laura points out the specialty of each member of her team. Laurie is known for holding her accountable, Val for al-



Laura Son loves to sing with her friends in the *Clearwater Benders* at local venues around Portland

ways being on time (not a small compliment from Laura), (Cont. on page 3)

## NEW Career Planning Service to Roll Out in October!

Best practice in the field of disability services suggests that people with disabilities can, and should, work. Employment is often the cornerstone of a valued and full life; helping to build esteem, create opportunities for relationships, and combat poverty. However, statistics demonstrate that we are not doing a good enough job at achieving employment outcomes for people with intellectual disabilities in Maine.

To that end, The Office of Aging and Disability Services (OADS) at the Maine Department of Health & Human Services

(DHHS) has added a NEW service to their MaineCare waivers. **"Career Planning & Discovery"** will be available starting in October, to any person supported with MaineCare funds who has *a goal of discovery and career planning with the outcome of employment* written into their person-centered plan.

The Career Planning service is based on "Discovering Personal Genius" - a very successful approach to customized employment developed by Griffin-Hammis Associates. Career (Cont. on page 3)



Marco navigates the MaineCare billing system known as MIHMS as part of his weekly job responsibilities.

## Everyone Can Work !

Marco Orlando prides himself on a job well done as the Administrative Assistant for *Behavioral Health Solutions of Maine* in Brewer. His attention to detail and facility with numbers makes him the perfect man for this job. He is skilled in using Peachtree accounting software and entering billing information in the MIHMS Health PAS Online Portal. Despite all of Marco's significant skills, he still benefits from his Job Coach, Torrey Courtemarche, to help stay on task and maximize productivity.



## VOLUNTEER BRIGHTSPOT



Most people in Millinocket know Robert Tyler. One of the reasons is because Robert is one of the busiest people in town when it comes to volunteering his time. In addition to working 2 part time jobs Robert spends an average of 23 hours per week volunteering! Some of the groups that benefit from Robert's

generous spirit are *Meals for ME, I Care Ministries Food Bank, Knights of Columbus, & St. Martin's Thrift Store*. Robert is known as a "go to" person when you need a helping hand. He is always there with a smile and his quiet gentle presence willing to pitch in. **Thank you** Robert for all you do!



Robert believes in "giving back".



## DSP SPOTLIGHT



Patti....enjoying her retirement and benefitting KFI.

Patti Woolley "retired" in September of 2012, from a lifelong career in education and soon she was looking for something satisfying to do. She started as a per diem Community Advocate in Bangor and fell in love with the work! She felt that as an advocate she could support people to live more meaningful lives in tangible ways. Now Patti works part time and serves as advisor to small groups of people concerned

with self-advocacy, employment and community living. She has a gift for connecting people to volunteer opportunities, community resources or new experiences. Patti will be certified to provide the new one-to-one Career Planning & Discovery service in October. KFI is fortunate to have someone with Patti's experience and skills. Thank you Patti for all you do!

(A Life Transformed” from page 1) Jodi for helping her find a new career path, and Lois for being able to find cool and funky stuff to do. Most of all, not one of them is a “chair sitter”, something Laura used to complain about with other providers.

In just four short months, Laura has barreled into a new life. Sometimes she says she feels scared, sometimes she has definite setbacks, but every day she grows in resilience and abilities. For starters she has begun to build a circle of friends. She connected with a friend from high school and is meeting up with another new friend who lives in her community. She even reconnected with one old friend who has become her boyfriend! She started to get herself moving too, with weekly swimming, taking the bus to new locations, getting back to drumming and checking out lots of local events and live music.

Next up, Laura is ready to jump into Career Planning and Discovery to find the right job for her. Laura has been enrolled in a more traditional job search program for several years with no results. KFI will support her to discover her “personal genius” and match that genius with a job that fits her skills and interests, while at the same time, fulfilling the needs of one lucky employer.



Laura and Jodi Benvie, her Career Planning Coach, take a refreshing break while out on the town.

## Our Employment Team

KFI believes everyone can and should work! To support that effort we have a highly trained and qualified staff to support all different employment opportunities.

**\*13 CERTIFIED EMPLOYMENT SPECIALISTS**

**\*8 CERTIFIED CAREER PLANNING &  
DISCOVERY SPECIALISTS**

**\*9 CERTIFIED JOB COACHES**

**\*23 CERTIFIED STAFF TO PROVIDE  
WAIVER FUNDED WORK SUPPORTS**

**OVERALL THAT IS 53 TRAINED AND  
CERTIFIED KFI STAFF READY TO  
SUPPORT EMPLOYMENT!**

( Career Planning cont. from page 1) Planning is limited to 60 hours annually, to be delivered in a period of up to six (6) months, and **can only be provided as a one-to-one service**. Only certified staff will be able to provide this service, and KFI is pleased to announce that we have six staff currently certified, and two more staff registered for the upcoming certification training on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

KFI welcomes Vendor Calls for **Career Planning & Discovery** from community case managers and Individual Support Coordinators in the greater Bangor, Lincoln, Millinocket, and Portland areas.

In a remarkable example of inter-agency collaboration and partnership, Vocational Rehabilitation in Portland worked closely with DHHS to ensure that funding was in place for Laura to begin **Career Planning & Discovery** at the time that was right for her in September.





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## "BIGGEST FAN" HONORED



Liesel Neubauer receives her recognition while Curvin Farnham (Conductor ) and Emily Libby (DSP) look on.

Summer is Liesel's favorite season largely because she is such a devoted fan of the Bangor Band! She looks forward to their concerts all year and makes her plans around their schedule. Her devotion has not gone unnoticed. This year at their final summer concert the Bangor Band presented Liesel with a framed picture of the entire band naming her their "Biggest Fan". "Her enthusiasm can be felt on stage" said Sue McKay, announcer, treasurer and trumpet player for the Bangor Band. "Liesel is the listener that every musician yearns for. She embodies why we do what we do." said Curvin Farnham. Liesel was surprised and delighted by the presentation.