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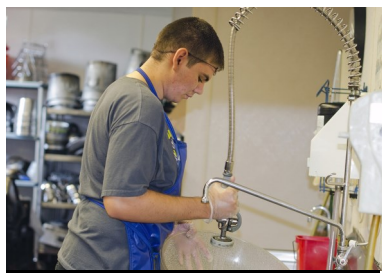
You do not have to be superhuman to do what you believe in.

Debbi Fields



## KFI Partners with UMaine and VR for Summer Youth Employment Project at Eastern Maine Community College in Bangor

“Paid work experience in high school is a strong predictor of positive adult employment outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities” (Summer Work for ME grant proposal). Janet May of University of Maine’s Center for Community Inclusion & Disability Studies asked KFI to partner on their “Summer Work for ME” grant funded by the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council in an effort to provide area students with disabilities a paid summer work experience. This unique collaboration al-



Raymond Sickler working side by side with the kitchen staff

lowed adolescents to experience a variety of work settings first hand. Jeff Hooke, KFI Vocational Coordinator, hired and supervised the job coaches as well as acted as liaison for all participants. Liz Saucier, Transition Counselor with the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (VR) was also a key partner in the pro-



Damian Higgins working in the library

ject, identifying the participating school and students. VR generously funded all the wages for the entire six weeks.

Students had a six-week experience

earning up to \$800 each. This involved three different two-week work assignments which were spread across departments throughout the college. At the end of the project, Terri Adam,

Special Assistant to President and Human Resources at EMCC re-



Nathan Norris works the copier in the President's Office

marked, “Each of our departments not only enjoyed the students and (KFI Partners Cont. on page 3 )



Shirley prepares the ingredients for one of her products.

## Everyone Can Work !

### Simple Solutions

Shirley Christensen has come up with a simple solution for starting her own business. Actually **"Simple Solutions"** is the name of her business. After exploring various creative projects and a new found love of Pinterest, Shirley has developed her own line of cleaning and natural beauty products.

Shirley's first product to hit the market was her handcrafted laundry soap. Since then she has introduced her natural body scrubs in four signature scents, cinnamon, peppermint, lavender and vanilla.

Shirley has already set her sights on expanding her product line to include an all-natural moisturizer, lip balm, shower bombs, all-purpose household cleaner, dishwashing soap and toilet bowl bombs.

Look for Shirley and her **"Simple Solutions"** products at a local market or fair in the Lincoln/Howland area coming soon!



## DSP SPOTLIGHT



Julie Hamm, Millinocket DSP

The phone rings; "Hey, I know staff is out today; how can I help?" "Where do you need me to be?" "What do you need me to do?" "Swap time? Not a problem." "Sure, I can do that." "Yes, I can be there." "How about I switch this to that and

do this instead, would that work better?" Those are the words one can always count on hearing from Julie Hamm. Always willing to go the extra mile,

Julie has been a dependable KFI employee for more than 14 years while at the same time holding down two other jobs. Her tenacity and her spunk have benefited many but especially Corey and Jody whom she has supported for 12+ years. Whether it's taking it upon herself to drive to Fenway Park when a bus trip is canceled, or making her way to, through and around the massive crowds at Loudon NH without hesitation, or somehow managing a smile when Beano night falls on her shift, Julie always finds a way to make things happen for those who count on her to do so and for others just because.....

(KFI Partners cont.) job coaches, but we benefited from the work they did. All of you did a fabulous job ensuring the students were engaged and that they communicated with us. Most of all, you really did make this easy for us.”



Sean McEvoy working in the kitchen

*To read a more detailed description of this project please visit our website and look for “Current Happenings”.*



KFI is pleased to announce the addition of Heidi Hedstrom as our new Assistant Support Coordinator for KFI South!

## Membership has its Rewards

Christina Mailhot has just started her second year of going to Optimal Self Community Health and Wellness Center, a gym that encourages the balance of mind and body. She learned about the gym after talking to one of her favorite Metro bus drivers. Christina has gone to other gyms but likes Optimal Self better. She said that Eric is calming and he plays Zen music in the gym and she likes the atmosphere there. She enjoys walking on the treadmill and doing arm stretches with resistance bands. She has made positive connections there and says that she feels better mentally and physically after going. She encourages others to go to this gym because it's not like other gyms and says even though it may be scary to try a new place it is worth it!



Christina with her coach Eric.





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Visit us on the web  
[www.kfmaine.org](http://www.kfmaine.org)

## KFI...LEAVING OUR MARK ON THE NATION

In addition to providing award-winning customized supports to people with disabilities, KFI is often called upon to lend its considerable talent and expertise on a national scale. Recently KFI has acted as mentor for agencies and states seeking to effect change in their service delivery system. Agencies from Kentucky, Ohio, Utah, and Tennessee have visited Maine to see first hand what a difference individualized services can make.

The latest visitors from Utah included three Utah state employees who learned about KFI's fully inclusive and personalized supports. They are eager to rethink Utah's policies and practices that keep people with disa-

bilities in institutions, day programs, sheltered workshops, and congregate living situations in their state. The provider representatives came to KFI thinking that "some people don't belong in our day program." When they left KFI after two days of being imbedded in our services, they were committed to shutting their day program down.

**KFI...supporting people to live valued lives  
and leaving our mark on the nation.**

*To learn more about KFI's role as mentor of provider transformation across the country, visit our website:*

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

