



Like us on
facebook

ERICA COOPER ACCEPTS NEW POSITION

Everyone Can Work	2
Service with a smile	2
DSP Spotlight	2
Knit Nite	3
We want to know....	4

We are pleased to announce that Erica Cooper has accepted the new position of “**Customized Employment Coordinator**” for KFI, beginning her new duties in April 2013. Formerly a Support Coordinator for KFI since 2008, Erica is also a fully certified Employment Specialist. Erica will be working with people currently served by KFI who have a goal related to employment. Who wouldn’t want to earn income doing something they enjoy?!



Erica and Raket Arthers brainstorm ways to turn her training in culinary arts into a customized job in food preparation in the Lincoln area.

Erica will facilitate the “Discovery” process with people on the pathway to employment and will encourage the participation of family members, friends and neighbors, as well as KFI staff teams.

She will also be meeting with area employers to match their needs in a very individualized way with the skills and interests of people seeking employment.

“Everything
you can
imagine is
real.”

Pablo Picasso

Career Exploration Workshop Kick-Off in Bangor

KFI believes that everyone can work. In addition to a paycheck, work offers opportunities which open doors to living real and valued lives. KFI is working hard to make employment a reality for more people with disabilities.

CEW supports people to learn what kind of work they want to do. The class helps people find what they’re good at. It also helps people think about what they’re interested in and learn how their interests can lead to work. CEW helps people develop employment goals which will assist us to help them find work in their communities.

In addition to appointing Erica Cooper as our Customized Employment Coordinator KFI will be sponsoring employment groups in each office to support people in career exploration. These groups offer a certificate in VR’s Career Exploration Workshop (CEW) Bridge Class. The first such group was launched in Bangor in April. In fact there are two concurrent groups running in Bangor serving the needs of nine people.

A big **Thank You** to Bangor Area Transportation for providing training passes to our employees assisting people to access the community through the “Community Connector”.





Kris Theriault is a friendly face in a friendly place! He has been working stocking shelves at "Steaks 'N Stuff" in Lincoln for 11 years. Kris loves his job and work is clearly the cornerstone of his life.

Kris still has his coat on after stocking the ice cream freezer!

Everyone Can Work!

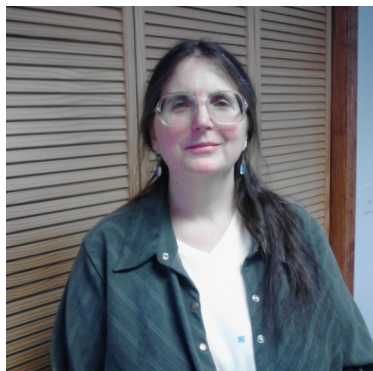


Kris and "Steaks 'N Stuff" manager Diane Champion have a great working relationship.

Service with a Smile

Cheryl Ann was looking for a new purpose. She wanted something that would provide her with two things; a social atmosphere and a way to help people. Keeping in mind those gifts and strengths she so naturally possesses, staff sought out opportunities for her to volunteer within her community. As it turned out, a local church thrift store had just undergone some changes and the volunteers there were seeking additional help. Initially Cheryl Ann volunteered there with staff support. It wasn't long before the other volunteers saw the benefits of having her there and how quick she caught on to the work.

Soon, Cheryl Ann was volunteering with natural supports provided by the other volunteers. She has been doing this for two years now and plans to continue. Why? "Because I like it and they need me!"



DSP SPOTLIGHT



Kara Schreiber has been working as a Direct Support Professional for over three years at KFI. In that time she has supported many different individuals in numerous settings. No matter where Kara is working or who she is supporting she consistently demonstrates an uncanny ability to teach by example and gently support people to take chances and try new things. See the article on "Knit Nite" as one example of her ability to weave skill building, community connections and personal growth into a beautiful tapestry.

Community Knit Nite at Bangor Public Library

Every Thursday night, the Bangor Public Library hosts the Knit Nite Club, a group of people interested in yarn crafts, mainly knitting. Experienced knitter, embroidery worker, and crossticher Liesel Neubauer noticed the event when a KFI staff person pointed it out to her in "The Weekly". Liesel was excited to have an opportunity to meet with fellow yarn crafters and became a regular attendee in September 2012. She told her friend, Melissa Stewart, about Knit Nite Club and invited Melissa to attend with her. Melissa was unfamiliar with yarn crafts and hesitated, but Liesel encouraged Melissa to give



Stories & stitches—a winning combination!



Liesel always has a project going.

it a try and let Melissa know that it was a place for learning. Melissa quickly picked up the needed skills with the help of Liesel and other club members.

The club members share more than yarn lore. They share jokes, advice, and problem solve personal issues. Liesel is pleased that members are improving their skills at interpreting her communication style and that she does not always need to rely on support staff to participate in conversations. Mem-

bers are pleased to be learning some sign language and other alternative communication skills. One member makes hats for premature infants, which inspired Liesel to make and donate hats for children impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Both Liesel and Melissa have stated it is one of the highlights of their week!

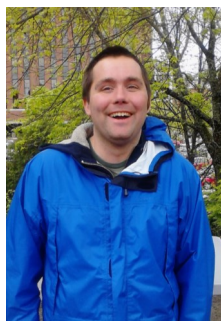
What is your dream job?

(Continued from page 4)



David Knights

Working with horses at a stable.



Ricky Rackliffe

Being a video game tester.



1024 Central St., Ste. A
Millinocket, ME 04462
723-9466

9 Main St., Ste. A
Lincoln, ME 04457
794-2979

175 Exchange St., Ste. 260
Bangor, ME 04401
945-9828

P.O. Box 6816
Portland, ME 04103
619-2534

Visit us on the web at:
www.kfimaine.org

We want to know.... What is your dream job?

(see more on page 3)



Melissa Stewart

***Working
with
children.***



Bennet Pearson

***Working
in a TV
studio.***

***Something with
music or
writing.***



Charles Rogan

A chef!



Julie Hendsbee