Waban Opens Autism Therapy Wing

Waban’s Fraser-Ford Child Development Center celebrated the opening of the new Autism Therapy Wing Thursday evening, November 2nd, with a gathering of major donors, key participants, teachers, Board members and Senior Staff. After 5 years of planning, several years of fundraising, a $2 million capital campaign, and the generosity of hundreds of individuals, businesses, corporations, organizations, and community members, the day finally arrived to open Waban’s new 7,000 square foot Autism Therapy Wing at the Fraser-Ford Child Development Center.

The Center will expand services for Pre-K to 2nd Grade students with autism. With statistics on the rise for autism in the state of Maine and across the country, programs such as those offered by Waban are more critical than ever. This new wing will facilitate these essential programs and will serve the children and families of southern Maine.

The original school, then called the Child Development Center, opened in 1972, followed by an expansion in 1988 to add square footage and additional program space. Jan Fraser was the Executive Director at the time and with (Continued on page 10)
Our extended summer season has finally ended and in some ways, was punctuated by the wind and rain storms and resulting power outages that impacted the entire state. We were fortunate here at Waban and could keep our residential programs going with generators where necessary. The Main Office remained open throughout the outages and kept providing services and information while the Fraser-Ford Child Development Center was closed for 3 days. We were thrilled when late in the afternoon on third day without power the electricity was restored and things could get back to normal.

At the Fraser-Ford Child Development Center we had a wonderful graduation ceremony in August for 20 children who were mainstreamed into public schools. The new school year is well underway including our new Kindergarten through Second Grade program, and the halls and classrooms are filled with laughter and creative energy.

At Life Works there is never a dull moment and some of our more “outdoorsy” folks have gone on several, multi-day backpacking trips. What an adventure and accomplishment for them.

Being able to have a meaningful job is important to all of us, including the adults that Waban supports. After 22 years at Hannaford, Jane recently retired while Jeff has expanded his work in food services and now has a new job at Applebee’s in Biddeford. In our Residential programs, life rolls on and everyone is starting to eagerly await the upcoming holiday season. Be sure to read about this and more in the following pages.

Finally, this is the time of year to reflect on what has occurred, take stock of where we are, and most of all be thankful. I wish each of you and your families a happy and healthy holiday season, and thanks for all your ongoing support.

Neal Meltzer
Executive Director
Happenings

A Dream Fulfilled

WABAN was started 50 years ago with a dream of creating a place where children and adults with disabilities would have opportunities to succeed. Five decades later, that dream has been nurtured, grown and flourished into the broad array of comprehensive and essential services that Waban provides to thousands of people in southern Maine each year.

Ten years ago, we had another dream. We dreamt of creating a center of excellence in southern Maine where children with autism and other intellectual disabilities and their families could come and in one place get the therapies, specialized instruction, case-management, and counseling services that they would need.

After many years of hard work increasing our skills, partnering with the New England Center for Children and adopting their ABA based autism curriculum, planning and designing, and then raising and finding the funding necessary, on November 2 that dream became a reality with the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of Waban’s Autism Therapy Wing.

We are very grateful to each of you for helping to make this possible. Please read more about this in the following pages.
Our new school year is underway and we are having lots of fun! All the children are making new friends, as we had over 20 children graduate in August and head into Kindergarten. A graduation ceremony was held at Waban’s Wormwood Banquet Hall where teachers spoke about the wonderful successes that the children had accomplished and gave out diplomas and books! Cupcakes were eaten and smiles were worn by all who attended. It was great to see all the family and friends join us on such a special day. We wish all our graduates much success as they continue to grow and learn on their new journey.

For the first time, we had School Picture Day at school. This was a great experience for our students and everyone dressed up for the occasion. We have so many wonderful photos of our students that will be sent home to parents. We will be doing School Picture Day again in the springtime and we will be able to see how the students have grown. Thank you to Autumn Dupuis for taking the photos!

Fire Safety Prevention week was made spectacular by a visit from the Sanford Fire Department. They welcomed all the children with hats and let the children explore the fire engine. Each child was able to climb onto the truck and get their picture taken. For some, this was a new experience and for others it was yet again one
Development Center

of their favorite “special activities” at school. Every year, the fire department volunteers their time to bring a fire engine to the center to allow the children this opportunity. We want to thank the Sanford Fire Department and send a special thank-you to the firefighters who came to the center. We appreciate it and look forward to seeing you again next year!

Our most exciting news this fall is that we have officially moved into the new Autism Therapy Wing! The additional space allows us to be able to serve a larger population of students. We have received our school approval for Kindergarten through Second grade and have started serving students in this classroom. Students will also be starting to have gym class in the new Multi-Purpose Room twice per week, which they are very excited about. Our old conference room will be converted into a library and students will be able to go to the library weekly to pick out books for the week. We are very excited about the new opportunities that the Autism Therapy Wing brings to the Fraser-Ford Child Development Center!

Sarah Mehlhorn
Director
Life Works

Over the past few months the backpacking group worked hard training for their final trip, a 13.6 mile hike along the Appalachian Trail. In preparation for the trip, members hiked nearby mountains such as Abbott, Sawyer, and Knox. The three-day trip started with a long drive to Millinocket and a hike traveling northbound towards Rainbow Springs Lean-to. The group enjoyed delicious homemade mac and cheese for dinner while thru-hikers joined to share their stories. One hiker told of a deer that guided his way along an unclear section of trail. The next day the group packed up and continued to travel to Rainbow Lake Tent Site, crossing many sections of water, mud and rocks. While enjoying the view, the group saw a water plane land on the lake. At their site, they heard a man yell, “Bear, Bear!” Everyone’s heart began to race as they prepared to encounter a bear. Then a dog ran out of the woods towards the man. He greeted the dog by saying, “Good boy, Bear!” The group laughed with relief that it was only a dog not a black bear! On the last day, the group hiked southbound starting the trek wearing headlamps as it was before sunrise. Highlights of the trip from our hikers Brianna, Damien and Jackie, were sleeping under the stars, eating new foods, watching the sunrise, watching the loons on Rainbow Lake and spending time with friends.

While the backpackers were training hard, other Adventure Members were having fun in the sun! The Fishing Group caught many different fish species including catfish, and pumpkin sunfish. The Outdoor Exploration group collected data on the ages of the trees in the TREE Center forest. The Rock ON Climbing group
& Company

trained throughout the summer to build the skills needed to repel from the top of the climbing tower. Chris and Amy were proud when they made it to the top of the climbing tower and successfully repelled themselves down from the top, 35 feet!

The Seashore Trolley Museum Volunteer group ended the season on a high note by successfully clearing a new trail and picking pumpkins from the pumpkin patch. A smaller group will continue volunteering after the season closing until next year’s opening season. Stephen is proud of the volunteer work he does at the York County Shelter Program Bakery each week. As a thank you for his work, YCSP provided him with a choice of birthday cakes and he chose cookie dough cheesecake. We have several members working on initiating some donation drives for the upcoming months, thinking about animals, families and children in need. Many members answered the call of a local child battling brain cancer and helped him celebrate one of his favorite holidays by creating and mailing Halloween cards to lift his spirits.

Members of the Performing Arts group are honing their singing talents, practicing and performing with their peers from the Book Club. They are gearing up for the Holiday Choral group, collaborating with Waban employees to share cheer and joy with music over the holidays to come. The Dance Revolution group members have their dance shoes warmed up and are preparing for the next talent show to show off new moves to the music of Footloose, Uptown Funk and Thriller.

Highlights from Friday Fun Day include: apple picking at Giles and McDougal’s Orchards, touring of Flagship Cinema in Wells, visiting the Way Way Store and the Heath hiking trail, visiting the local Fire Department and playing and watching football and tennis at the local parks.

Until next time, be safe and be well,
Melissa Hall, Life Works Director

Visit us on Facebook
Waban Works

There was a lot of excitement this month with Waban Works. Things are always changing and that is part of the excitement.

This Month Jeff Araujo started working at Applebee’s in Biddeford. Jeff is working twelve hours a week portioning out various food items for Applebee’s. The restaurant manager and all the cooks are very excited to have Jeff’s help. If ever at Applebee’s, try some of the chicken nuggets - one of Jeff’s specialties.

Jane Hazlett made the decision to retire and try her hand at a life of leisure. On October 12th, the Hannaford’s store in Sanford threw a huge retirement party for Jane to celebrate her twenty-two years of loyal employment. Being employed for twenty-two years by the same company is an achievement that not many people are able to claim!

Hannaford’s management team laid out a delicious spread of Chinese food and cupcakes to celebrate this important milestone in Jane’s life. For the last two hours of her shift, everyone came by to wish her well and thank her. It appeared to be a moment of mixed emotions as everyone wished Jane well. Her co-workers insisted that Jane return to say hello on a frequent basis.

Shannon Hartmann
Manager of Employment Supports and Career Planning
School Street Home

Summer time in Maine is always too short but the School St. ladies made the most of it. Donna, Danielle and Lynn kicked off summer by spending a weekend up in Orono participating in the Maine Special Olympics, with a parade, events, and a dance. Other summer activities were having picnics in the park, stopping at local yard sales, walking down to the local farmers market, watching the waterski shows, and riding to the beach on warm summer afternoons. Wanda hosted the ladies group for several of her friends who spend time together making a craft and socializing with each other. They spent one fun-filled afternoon at the Seashore Trolley museum then stopped for an ice cream on the way home. Donna and her family invited all of the staff and ladies to their camp on Square Pond where they had a fun afternoon of games, great food, a pontoon boat ride and, of course, ice cream! As the weather gets cooler, the ladies are still keeping busy. Wanda, Donna, Pam and Lynn have started their fall bowling league. Danielle enjoys her weekly visit to Safe Haven to play with the cats and to the farm to spend time with the horses. Some of the ladies enjoy a weekly date night with their significant others. The ladies also spent an afternoon down at Number One Pond for the Fall Festival. Winter will be on our doorstep soon and there will be lots of winter activities to look forward to and enjoy as well.

Heidi Reed
School Street Home Administrator

Visit us on Facebook
Charlene Ford, Assistant Executive Director, oversaw the expansion. A few years after their retirements, the building was dedicated to them in 2011 and re-named the Fraser-Ford Child Development Center. Emblazoned on the dedication plaque were Fraser’s words, “Given the opportunity, every child can succeed.”

Both Jan Fraser and Charlene Ford Ralston were in attendance and toured the new Autism Therapy Wing, as well as the original part of the building. Four new classrooms are set up and furnished, and several students
Child Development Center

have already enrolled and begun classes in the new wing. The school’s main entrance has been moved and offices and therapy spaces have been added. The new multi-purpose room, a gymnasium-like space with a built-in climbing structure and special cushioned flooring, was used as a gathering place for the event.

Major donors for the Autism Therapy Wing were SIS Bank, Kennebunk Savings, Joseph Sevick, Elmina B. Sewell Foundation, PATCO Construction, Max Kagan Family Foundation, Sanford Springvale Rotary, Greg and Christa Silva, DLMC Foundation, Roberta Milo, Jean Butler, Saint Thérèse of Lisieux Parish, Jan and Bruce Fraser, Charlene and Michael Ralston, and the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Through generous donations from hundreds of individuals, businesses and organizations, the critically needed Autism Therapy Wing has transformed from blueprint to reality.

An Open House for the public has been planned for December 6, 3pm to 6pm, with refreshments and tours. Come and see how your support will make a difference in the lives of children with autism and developmental disabilities.
Waban Staff Appreciation

Waban celebrated their employees with the Annual Staff Appreciation BBQ held in the heart of Waban’s main campus, Camp Waban. The theme of the day was Family Field Day and the lakeside activities included kayaking, a corn hole tournament, a classic Tug ‘O War challenge, rubber ducky races and other games, treats and face painting, followed by a BBQ lunch of burgers, dogs, pulled pork and all the fixin’s in the Wormwood Banquet and Conference Center.

Throughout the day, live music from “The Returnables” entertained staff and their families. Participants enjoyed toasted marshmallows at the fire pit, popcorn and cotton candy, or having a theme photo taken at the free photo booth.

The event coincided with National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week, recognizing the dedication and accomplishments of outstanding Direct Support Professionals and expressing appreciation for their vital contribution to Waban. In addition to DSPs, Waban staff from all programs gathered to be recognized with gifts, free raffles and service awards.
Courtney graduated from Waban’s Child Development Center and has been passionate about raising funds for Waban ever since. She hand-delivers her annual donation to the Telethon every year. Courtney now holds a steady job at Waban’s social enterprise, SecureRMS, and donates a significant amount of her weekly wages to Waban.

Courtney was recently invited to participate in the cutting of the ribbon at the opening of Waban’s new Autism Therapy Wing for her continued generosity and on-going support of Waban.

During Waban’s Annual Fund Drive, please join Courtney in her mission to support Waban’s programs for children and adults with autism, developmental and other disabilities by donating today!
Old Mill Road Home

The word of the day at Old Mill is "Go". You can find the residents just about anywhere that isn't home.

Walter stays busy at day programing, and volunteering in the kitchen at the Curtis Lake Church, helping prepare the Monday evening community dinners. A big sports fan, he attended a Red Sox game; he supports his local team, the Sanford Mainers; and he even went to a wrestling event at Bonney Eagle.

Bobby has been spending as much time with his family as he can, and celebrated his friendship with one Miss Lindsey with a commitment ceremony held in his back yard that was attended by friends and family from all over.

James continues his work at Market Basket, entering his third year there. Jim has been excited to join Life Work's Adventure Group and add the TREE Center to his schedule. He was able to walk trails in the White Mountains to see the foliage at its peak and have a picnic at a waterfall.

Stasha has broken the Old Mill's all boys club as the newest resident. Stasha enjoys video games, horse back riding, and visiting family as often as she can.

All the residents look forward to the upcoming holidays, and not letting winter slow the go, go, go!

Ralph Desjardins
Old Mill Road Home Administrator
Whitcomb Avenue

The ladies at Whitcomb Avenue are all ready for the holiday season. They hosted a ladies' group in October and invited their guests to help decorate spooky cupcakes in light of Halloween and reports indicate it was a rousing success. All three ladies enjoy attending church supper twice a week and it is a continued topic of conversation throughout the week.

Rachael is the resident football fan and was fortunate to be able to attend a recent screening of a Patriots' game at Smitty's Cinema. She enjoyed seeing the game on the big screen and hopes to host her own football party at the house before football season wraps up.

Melissa and Rachael paired up for a ladies' day out and went clothes shopping followed by a lunch at Applebee's. The duo also attended the Halloween Dance at Wormwood and enjoyed dressing up so much that they decided to also dress up and pass out candy on Halloween, much to the delight of the trick-or-treaters.

Nancy went to the free showing of The Nightmare Before Christmas at Smitty's in October and attended several ladies' group gatherings recently. Nancy is looking forward to the holiday season for visits with her family and the seasonal community events, especially the parades.

Season's Greetings from Whitcomb Avenue!

Shaleen McWhirk
Residential Program Administrator
Day Street Home

Day Street has been a very busy home this year. There has been a lot of coming and going and we are looking forward to slowing down and settling in for the upcoming colder months.

Sadly, we had to say goodbye to several members this year. Nikki passed in February, Michelle in May, and Betty in June. This has changed the dynamic of the home and has been very difficult, but everyone has done the best to move on while cherishing the memories that we have of all of them.

With that, we have also welcomed several new faces to the home! Wayne moved in at the beginning of July, Cathy joined us in September, and Elaine joined us in October. Each has brought their own personalities to the mix. Jon is still here and all seem to get along and enjoy each other’s presence.

Until the ladies moved in, Jon and Wayne had the run of the house and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They stayed busy with lots of activities in the community including the Acton Fair, visits to Rogers Pond, picnic lunches, and swimming at the YMCA. Wayne seems to be enjoying his new home and continues to grow familiar with the new community that he is living in.

The ladies have brought their own interests to the home. They enjoy coloring, crafts, cooking, and visits to the animal shelter. Both Elaine and Cathy lived in the upstairs apartments previously, so they were already familiar with the home. They both maintained a connection with another member that still lives in the apartments, so they are able to enjoy visits with their old friend. They have a great sense of humor and have not sheltered anyone from their more mischievous side. It has been refreshing to have a full house again!

Stephanie Edwards, Day Street Home Administrator
Lenox Street Home

The Lenox Ladies are always on the move. They enjoy being a part of church suppers, taking drives to the beach and on backroads to enjoy the fall foliage, and any opportunity to get out and join in the community. Jane has been particularly busy. She attended the SUFU conference and began a new chapter in her life as a lady of leisure, having retired from Hannaford’s after 22 years. Currently she is celebrating with a trip to Memphis.

Pam has been enjoying CHEERS dances, meeting friends at church dinners, going on drives to see what the foliage fall has to offer, and going for walks with staff in the afternoon. Elsie enjoys going to McDonald’s to get an iced coffee when she gets a chance. She goes on rides every Saturday with her peers to see what nature has to offer. Elsie also enjoyed the beach, the birds, and the kids playing in the sand this summer. She enjoys participating in ladies group every Thursday and Senior Lunches with her peers on Mondays.

Lorraine has been working very hard on being more active. She enjoys yoga with her staff, going grocery shopping, going for short walks and scenic rides. She has been participating in CHEERS dances and church dinners every week. Ruth enjoys most everything she does. She loves music and dancing and participates in CHEERS. Ruth also enjoys returning her bottles at the redemption center, going for walks around the block, and helping out in the kitchen.

Jeannine has been enjoying Senior Lunch, Bingo, and Ladies Group on Thursdays. She has been spending a lot of time coloring everyone she knows a picture. She even did a little incognito Halloween shopping!

Liz Gile
Lenox Home Administrator
Golfers Tee Up for Waban

It was a chilly morning that bloomed into a perfect day on the golf course for participants in the 6th Annual Tee Up & Drive for Waban’s Special Olympians on Friday, September 29 at the Sanford Country Club. Seventeen teams arrived for the shotgun start at 8:30 and played through the morning until gathering for a BBQ chicken lunch and prizes and raffles.

Gold sponsors for the day were Garnsey Brothers Insurance, SIS Bank, and TPx Communications. Sponsors at the Silver level were MEDLINE, MEMIC and CGI Business Solutions. Bronze sponsors were Advanced Heating, Genest Concrete Works, Inc., Hanover Insurance Group, and Webb Law Firm. Tee and Hole sponsors were Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Back to Health Chiropractic, PATCO Construction, BEU, H.A. Mapes, Jeffrey A Simpson, Inc., Landry’s Furniture Barn, Peoples Choice Credit Union, and Dan Duchette.

Teams followed the Best Ball format and the team from Anthem came in first place, with the team from Garnsey Brothers second. Marc Motors parked a beautiful 2017 Nissan Sentra at the start of the course as the prize for a hole-in-one at Hole #16, but none of the golfers were able to drive it home. Maybe next year!

Together the sponsors and golfers raised over $7,700 to benefit Waban’s athletes who attend the Special Olympics. Several of Waban’s Special Olympians were on hand to meet the golfers and help hand out goodie bags, carry golf bags and wish the golfers good luck on the course. These athletes attend the Summer Games at the University of Maine at Orono in June and travel by coach bus. Proceeds from the golf tournament cover the expenses of travel and training, allowing athletes to look forward to the competition and camaraderie of the games.
2017 Telethon Wall of Supporters

With the generous support of the businesses and organizations below, Waban will continue to provide much needed services to the adults and children we serve. Without them we would not have exceeded our expectations this year!!

Visit us on Facebook
COMING EVENTS

Nov 23/24 Waban Day Programs Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 6 Fraser-Ford Child Development Center Open House 3-6pm
Dec 14 Waban Projects, Inc. Board of Directors meets at 4:30pm at the Main Office
Dec 25 Waban Day Programs Closed for Christmas Holiday
Jan 1 Waban Day Programs Closed for New Year Holiday
Jan 11 Waban Projects, Inc. Board of Directors meets at 4:30pm at the Main Office
Jan 15 Waban Day Programs Closed for Martin Luther King Holiday
Feb 8 Waban Projects, Inc. Board of Directors meets at 4:30pm at the Main Office
Mar 8 Waban Projects, Inc. Board of Directors meets at 4:30pm at the Main Office
Mar 17 Annual Waban Telethon

WABAN WINDOWS is the quarterly newsletter of WABAN ASSOCIATION, a membership organization whose mission is to promote the welfare of individuals with developmental disabilities, to foster the development of programs in concert with WABAN, the agency that administers the programs; to educate; and to raise funds for the accomplishment of these purposes.

Send comments, requests, address changes, and all correspondence to:

Waban Association  
Neal Meltzer, Editor  
Selena Brock, Assistant Editor  
Waban Windows  
5 Dunaway Drive  
Sanford, ME 04073  
Tel: (207) 324-7955  
Fax: (207) 324-6050  
Website: www.waban.org  
Email: waban@waban.org  
Twitter: @wabanmatters  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/WabanProjects

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Portland, ME  
Permit No. 284