47th Annual Telethon

The 47th Annual Waban Telethon was held on Saturday, March 17, at the St. Ignatius Gym on Riverside Avenue in Sanford. The Telethon was sponsored by the St. Thérèse of Lisieux Parish. Individuals, businesses, clubs and organizations once again came together as a community in support of Waban to raise $95,562!

It was a St. Patrick’s Day celebration with donors, volunteers, visitors and entertainers gathering to kick off activities at 10am. The Returnables band opened the Telethon with some upbeat rock ‘n roll on the stage. Guests and viewers enjoyed the children from Fraser Ford Child Development Center as they performed an adorable rendition of Old MacDonald’s Farm, complete with costumes and pictures. Ben Guillemette and his band of fiddlers gave the Irish flavor needed for the day, and musical groups, To Be Determined, Brian Wardwell, Pretty Girls Sing Soprano, Joe Sailor, Long Road Home and MECA kept everyone entertained throughout the afternoon.

(cont. on pg. 10)
Waban

Well, after a long, wet, and wild winter that was complete with blizzards, power outages, and outrageously both cold and then warm days, spring has finally arrived. The trees are leafing out, the grass is rapidly turning green, the flowers are blooming, and the black flies are thinking about biting. It is definitely spring time in Maine!! In addition to leaving winter behind us, we are also moving beyond this year’s Telethon which was a great success. Once again, our community demonstrated how important our services are to them. Please see the accompanying message on the next page and all the Telethon pictures throughout this issue.

Spring also brings many exciting things here at Waban. The children at the Fraser-Ford Child Development Center had a great visit from the Sanford Fire Department, are learning about planting seeds and watching things grow, and are thrilled to be able to go outside and run around the playground without their bulky snowsuits.

At Life Works, there is always a bustle of activity with outings throughout the community as well as numerous ways to “pay it forward.” Many of the adults at Life Works volunteer at a variety of nonprofits, working to take care of animals, bring meals and flowers to seniors, build and maintain trails, and bring smiles to the faces of those that they meet.

It is also getting to be time for the Special Olympics and our athletes are increasing their training and preparing for this year’s games in June. Once again, we will be sending an entire busload of Special Olympians to Orono where they will compete, make new friends, and demonstrate how everyone can be a champion.

Life in our Residential programs is never dull and things are always in motion. Many of our residents work at various businesses, go on trips to warm places with family and friends, expand and challenge their skills through rock climbing, and at other times just hang out listening to music and being with friends. After a long winter, everyone is ready for all the wonderful things that spring and summer will bring. As always, I am very grateful for your ongoing generosity and support of our work. Thanks for all that you do. Enjoy spring!!

Neal Meltzer,
Executive Director

www.waban.org
Happenings

A Community Speaks

There is something about traditions that binds us together, helps us see past our differences, and enables us to recognize the good that lies within. This characteristic is often displayed during the holidays where it is common to both the sender and receiver of warm wishes and acts of kindness.

One tradition where these traits were on full display was the 47th Annual Waban Telethon. On Saturday, March 17th, St. Patrick’s Day, the community came together to help celebrate this harbinger of spring. And what a celebration it was. By the time the counting was done on Monday morning, the grand total raised was $95,562 that will be used to help fund specialized services for children with autism and other intellectual disabilities.

After being welcomed by Father Phil Tracy, the rest of the lively day was filled with musicians, dancers, and testimonials from legislators, community members, and parents about the incredibly essential and impactful work that Waban does. Many people spoke to how Waban is the “standard bearer of excellence” and how its services provide care, comfort, and opportunity throughout a lifetime.

In addition to being broadcast on Metrocast/Atlantic Broadband Cablevision and simulcast on The Legends radio station, this year the event was also “live-streamed” via a link on Waban’s website. While we had a few technical challenges and at times the sound quality wasn’t as good as it needs to be (we’ll do better next year), over 1,900 people live-streamed the event.

For me, it is always humbling to see the outpouring of support that spans multiple generations, political persuasion, and people’s economic situation. The generosity that was demonstrated speaks to the power, magnitude, and unifying force that a true community-raising event can bring to bear.

My heartfelt gratitude and appreciation goes out to all the volunteers, entertainers, local organizations, businesses, and individuals who helped make the day such a tremendous success and carried on a wonderful tradition.

Respectfully,
Neal Meltzer, Executive Director

Visit us on Facebook
Fraser-Ford Child

We have had a very busy winter at the Fraser-Ford Child Development Center! Students and staff had a wonderful time participating in Waban’s 47th Annual Telethon this year. The children’s performance of “Old MacDonald Had a Farm” was full of energy and captivated the attention of all in attendance. Thank you very much to Allison and Amy for taking the lead and ensuring this year’s performance was a success! And thank you, families, for your commitment to attend the weekend event!

The children had their annual visit from the Dentist, which went very well. They were exposed to the dental hygiene process and had the opportunity to interact with equipment, as well as practice good oral hygiene skills. Many thanks to Children’s Dentistry of Sanford for providing this opportunity to our students.

A “leprechaun” must have visited the FFCDC over St. Patrick’s Day!? The children found proof of his visit! They found treats and confetti all over, so it must have been a leprechaun!
Development Center

Just a couple weeks after finding evidence of a leprechaun visit, we found Easter eggs in lots of interesting places! Who will visit next?

We are thankful that the frigid winter and snow storms are behind us, but this article wouldn’t be complete without mention of the fun we had in the snow this winter! The children enjoyed sledding and lots of outdoor winter play!

Several new Educational Technicians / Behavioral Health Professionals have joined our team as we have continued to grow and accept additional student referrals. We are looking forward to a comprehensive training week for all staff in April. We appreciate the opportunity to provide high level training and support to our staff throughout the year and during our training weeks. Many thanks to Becca for organizing the week as well as providing many of the training modules!

Finally, we would like to welcome Sarah Mehlborn, Director of FFCDC, back to FFCDC! She has been on leave and we are thrilled to have Sarah back. Welcome back! We missed you!

Tiffany Haskell,
Director of Clinical Treatment Services
Like all of you, we are all awaiting the warmer weather and sunshine of spring. In the meantime, we are keeping the “cabin fever” away with several new and exciting adventures!

Adventure Group has welcomed the start of Spring with many new projects and activities. The Hiking group has remained active by searching for geocaches along the trails. The group has been successful at finding treasures at both Rachel Carson and Shaker Woods Reserve. The slow ice melt has not stopped the fishing group from being active! The fishing group members have been assisting with important research projects and experiments including understanding the effects of land erosion and oil spills.

Outdoor Exploration and Mind, Body Adventure members have been learning how to keep their bodies healthy for adventure activities. A favorite group activity was an experiment that demonstrated how the body digested different foods. One member stated, “It has made me think twice about my food choices.”

Rock On has been participating in activities such as Rock Climbing Jeopardy and cardio kickboxing. The climbers were delighted when the snow melted around the low ropes course. The low ropes course is a favorite activity among the group which helps to keep their climbing skills sharp.

A recent group highlight was a collaborative program with Colby-Sawyer College. The Adventure Group had the opportunity to participate in two outings to Colby-Sawyer College. Members who participated in these outings learned about sustainability practices such as the use of solar energy and food composting. They also took a tour of the campus gardens and learned how to grow food sustainably. The members will take the skills they learned from these trips and help implement new sustainable practices in the different adventure programs.
& Company

Our creative artists have been busy with various projects. Four Artists recently submitted art work for display at the “Lest We Forget” art show held at the Hall of Flags in Augusta.

The Performing Arts group has scheduled their next singing performance and will be working on their comedic skills for an upcoming Comedy Show. Our photographers have new photos on display at Life Works, representing the themes of Water, Blue and the holidays. Artists involved in the Textiles program have made new pillows, koozies for water bottles, pot holders, tote bags, and small purses, as well as dog beds to donate to a local shelter. The Culinary Arts program has started the new Life Works Café, in which members are preparing a tasty, affordable lunch menu two times per month.

We are thrilled to have coordinated a visit for three new volunteers at the Animal Welfare Society! Our new volunteers are thoroughly enjoying caring for the animals and spending some quality snuggle time with furry friends. In addition, we have new group volunteering at Anchor Senior Care Residence, where they have facilitated a BINGO game and have plans for a variety of other group activities.

’Tis the season that our athletes are preparing for the Special Olympics Summer Games in June. This year we have scheduled multiple training days for our athletes in preparation for their selected events, so stay tuned for highlights!

Until next time, be safe and be well,
Melissa Hall. Life Works Director
Essex Street Home

The residents at Essex Street have had an eventful winter/spring. They enjoyed football season, watching the Super Bowl and cheering on our Patriots team, even hosting a party with friends. They made their own fun with the late snow accumulations we had by making lots of snowmen and warming up with cocoa and puzzles.

Paul continues to attend Life Works and loves seeing his friends there. He enjoys family time going to church and going on shopping trips, and he especially likes venturing into the community to socialize. He found a new hobby in bowling, which he enjoys so much he shares his scores with everyone. He’s looking forward to the warmer weather so he can get outside and go fishing or just enjoy the warm temperatures.

Rose recently celebrated her birthday, hosting family and friends for a party, followed by some quality time out to dinner with her family. She also enjoys dinner in, and often invites friends to join her at home for a meal. She continues to work at Metrocast/Atlantic Broadband, and looks forward to going out to lunch with friends with the money she has been earning. She enjoys expressing her creative side — can’t wait to spend time on the deck in the sunshine.

Nicole Hannel
Essex Street Home Administrator
Whitcomb Avenue Home

The ladies at Whitcomb are excited for the promise of spring! Here’s Nancy enjoying a favorite movie at home… *The Wizard of Oz*. She’s been spotted attending Ladies Group more frequently and attended Senior Lunch at Curtis Lake Church last month. She didn’t have much interest in playing Bingo, but she most definitely enjoyed the mini-concert the day care children put on for all the seniors.

Melissa and Rachael are looking forward to joining the Tuesday Bowling League that starts up this month. Melissa’s big spring plans are to get a nice haircut and manicure at a local salon.

Rachael showed her Patriot Spirit at the football party at Life Works in anticipation of the Super Bowl, and she enjoyed the photo booth on Carnival Day. She’s looking forward to fishing and bringing the yard games out of the basement. Bean Bag Toss, anyone?! The ladies at Whitcomb are all in agreement that the warmer weather is welcome!

Shaleen McWhirk
Whitcomb Home Administrator
Dancers from Steppin’ Out Dance Centre and Northern Explosion Dance Studio added sparkle and energy with over 80 dancers performing jazz, hip hop, lyrical and clogging routines.

Waban staff members Libby Ricker and Bonnie Leslie received the *Waban Making a Difference Award* for their committed and passionate service to Waban. In the community category, the *Waban Making a Difference Award* was given to the City of Sanford and graciously accepted by Tom Cote, Mayor of Sanford.

Mayor Cote expressed thanks to Waban in conjunction with the city’s 250th anniversary celebration and stated that, “The City of Sanford should be giving Waban an award for all the great work that Waban does for the children and adults of our community.”

The Telethon was produced by Cremmen Creative and broadcast by Metrocast/Atlantic Broadband, simulcast on The Legends radio 1220 AM and 102.3 FM and live-streamed via a link on Waban’s webpage. The phone bank was provided by TPx Communications and staffed by volunteers from Southern Maine Health Care, SIS Bank, Kennebunk Savings and the Altrusa Club. This year’s hosts were long-time volunteers RJ and Jim Legere, Kim LaChance from SMHC, and Waban’s Melissa Hall joining Neal Meltzer and Gervaise Flynn, Waban’s Executive and Deputy Directors. Some of the larger donors were:

- “Pennies for Waban” – Doris & Val Grondin: $8,000
- ($4,000, which is matched by GE)
- Evonik: $3,500
- Metrocast/Atlantic Broadband: $2,500
- St Thérèse of Lisseux Parish: $2,100
- PATCO: $2,000
- O-N Enterprises: $2,000
- St Thomas Knights of Columbus: $1,522
- Marc Motors: $1,160
- AlliedCook Construction: $1,000
- American Security Alarm: $1,000
Waban Telethon

Aroma Joe’s $1,000
Bonanza Steakhouse $1,000
Corning $1,000
Garney Brothers Insurance $1,000
Gorham Savings Bank $1,000
H A Mapes $1,000
HM Payson $1,000
Hussey Seating $1,000
Kennebunk Savings Bank $1,000
Maine State Knights of Columbus $1,000
Pratt & Whitney $1,000
Sanford Flooring $1,000
SIS Bank $1,000
Springvale Knights of Columbus $1,000
Springvale Social Club $1,000
St. Matthew Parish $1,000
Williams Foundations $1,000

Central Furniture contributed beautiful living room furniture, BBQ Grills, vacuum cleaners and other items. Laundry’s Furniture Barn donated a leather recliner for the raffle, a sofa, recliners and more. Many other businesses made donations of goods, services, and gift certificates, too numerous to mention, that were instrumental in making the Telethon such a huge success.

Kenny the Bear from Kennebunk Savings Bank, and Broose D’Moose and Boomer from the Sanford Mainers, gave high fives and hugs to children and adults alike. The activity tables had free bunny ears and shamrocks for the children to decorate and Shain’s of Maine brought a freezer full of Seadog Biscuits. Over a hundred gift baskets and donated items filled the gift tables for attendees to peruse and purchase for a pledge.

Callers and visitors made personal donations, purchased raffle tickets and enjoyed the food provided by the Knights of Columbus and donated by local restaurants and shops. Enjoying a quick lunch break of a pizza delivered personally by Jimmy Gatzogiannis of Sanford House of Pizza, Waban Executive Director Neal Meltzer said, “Waban is exceptionally grateful and appreciative for all the tremendous support we received from all the volunteers and donors both before and during the Telethon. These funds will be used to help support our children’s services, contribute towards the capital campaign for the Autism Therapy Wing, and be used in fundraising for some new playground equipment.”

Through the 47 years of its existence, Waban’s Annual Telethon has raised a total of $2,511,125, which has benefitted the children’s programs of Waban with critical services and programs. Many thanks to all of you who have helped that total grow!
Volunteers and visitors acknowledged the day with the wearing o’ the green in tee shirts, bow ties, beads and headbands, all while helping the pot ’o gold tote board go up all day long.
Elm Street Home

The Elm Street Guys spent last summer walking the beach, going to cookouts and hosting a cookout at the Elm Street House. Tom took in some fishing and Mark and Ron enjoyed going to a Red Sox Game at Fenway Park. Ron attended summer camp.

Over the winter, Tom and Roger shoveled snow and kept the ice melting. Michael added to his movie collection. The holiday season was busy with everyone going to visit with their families. Nate enjoyed a couple weeks out of the cold in Florida with his family.

Roger and Nate chose new colors to paint their rooms and were very pleased with the results. Ron, Michael, Tom and Mark will choose their new colors next!

Roger is now working at Irving in Sanford, and Ron is working at the Bowl-A-Rama. Both Ron and Roger are looking forward to competing in the Special Olympics in June. Tom has been working at the Trafton Center and is looking forward to doing some yard work and landscaping for them now that the warm weather is here. The guys all like to stay active and are looking forward to the upcoming bowling league, more Cheers dances and all the great activities that come with the nice weather. Tom, with the help of staff, is planning a garden of veggies for this summer.

This year will be a very productive year for the guys with a veggie garden, new room colors and fun activities that are being planned, and Happy May Birthday to Michael!

Dale Delores
Elm Street DSP
Ridley 1

Warmer Days! The residents of Ridley Road 1 have been enjoying the warmer weather, and the guys have been busy with birthdays and time with their families.

Christopher just returned from a nice warm vacation in Florida, where he enjoyed the parks with his family. He was even fortunate enough to miss the last snowfall of the year here in Maine. Now that he’s back, Christopher is getting excited and geared up to start indoor rock climbing.

Woody spent some quality time with his father and is looking forward to having another visit soon. He continues to enjoy bowling and spending time with a good friend. He has also gone to some local restaurants and is ready to start walking on trails and spending time at the beach as the temperature starts creeping up.

Lucas has begun looking for new employment. He recently celebrated a birthday, where he received a basketball hoop. He has since been enjoying shooting hoops with staff. Lucas continues to be an active artist, creating works of art both in his free time and with Life Works. He also enjoys participating in Art After Dark with Life Works.

Warmer weather here on Ridley Road means gardening! Lucas enjoys watering and tending to the plants and Chris and Woody are looking forward to the tomatoes and hot peppers that are on the way!

Bethany DeLorenzo
Ridley Road Administrator
Main Street Homes

Main Street residents are anticipating spring and summer community activities such as attending parades, watching fireworks, yard sales, and much more! We will be participating in Day of Caring where we will be weeding, mulching, and planting a beautiful array of flowers outside our homes!

Amy was accepted to try Indoor Rock Climbing in Scarborough. She enjoys many athletic activities such as yoga, going to the gym, and the Special Olympics. She also enjoys occasionally going home for a weekend to spend time with her family.

Kim is astonishing her friends and family as she continues to make healthier choices and participates in physical activity at the gym. She has lost over 100 pounds! She stays active dancing and going for walks. In her spare time, she enjoys painting and making beautiful artwork for her family and friends.

Todd recently joined us. He enjoys attending high school basketball games with staff and friends. When asked, Todd will proudly tell you about his job working at Applebee’s, prepping food. He’s a member of Speaking Up For Us, a self-advocacy group, and attends their meetings.

Kathy participates in crafting classes with Sanford Community Adult Ed. She enjoys spending time with her neighbors, and recently attended Stars on Ice in Portland with her boyfriend. She’s looking forward to her summer vacation at the beach.

Caroline is the life of the party! She always knows how to brighten someone’s day and put a smile on their face. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends, and loves going with her mom for a picnic and a walk on the beach.

Mary Ellen enjoys her job at Bonanza. She’s saving her money for shopping at the mall. She enjoys playing games on her cell phone and tablet, and watching NASCAR. She occasionally treats herself Green Tea Chinese food on Fridays.

Stacy Whitten, Main Street Administrator

www.waban.org
Colby Lane 1

Now that the sun is shining and the temperatures are rising, the guys of Colby Lane have been heading outside. Over the winter, they kept mostly indoors and indulged in baking activities, planning for festivities surrounding the holidays, and watching the snow fall.

Gunnar shared in activities with his peers, playing board games like Hungry Hippos, and watching television shows. He especially enjoyed coloring pictures of his favorite character, Thomas the Tank Engine. For his birthday, Gunnar celebrated with friends and family, eating pizza and opening presents. He attended the winter Jamboree/Dance, where he enjoyed being the center of attention with his dance moves! Waban’s Cookies & Claus Party was a highlight for Gunnar because he really enjoys Santa! Now that spring is here, Gunnar is beginning his Equest horseback riding and going for walks outside, spending time with neighbors for activities and just plain fun.

Michael spent his winter listening to music, doing some dancing, relaxing in his bedroom and spending time with his peers doing activities at home. He participated in some grocery shopping and enjoyed family visits. Over the cold months, Michael enjoyed pranking the staff with tricks like turning off lights! Now that it’s warming up outside, he’s looking forward to spending some time outdoors and has already started to help staff in setting up the front yard, his favorite relaxing spot. Bring on spring!

Matt filled his winter arranging designs with cards, playing on his iPad, and keeping warm. He enjoyed some shopping at various stores, making decisions on purchases such as boots and shoes. During the holidays, Matt’s family showed up for lots of visits and tons of laughter. Now he’s ready for the warmer weather and sunshine.

Jennifer Behler-Little
Residential Program Assistant
2018 Telethon Wall of Supporters

With the generous support of these businesses and organizations, Waban will continue to provide much needed services to the adults and children we serve.
COMING EVENTS

May 10  Waban Projects, Inc. Board of Directors meets at 4:30pm at the Main Office
May 21  Waban Association meets at 4pm at the Main Office
May 28  Waban Day Programs closed for Memorial Day Holiday
June 5   Torch Run for Special Olympics
June 6   Day of Caring
June 8-10 Special Olympics Summer Games - Orono
June 14  Annual Board Dinner
July 4   Waban Day Programs closed for Independence Day Holiday
July 12  Waban Projects, Inc. Board of Directors meets at 4:30pm at the Main Office
Aug 9    WPI Board & Association Board Day

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:

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