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Downeast Horizons assists and supports adults and children with developmental disabilities to live a complete and fulfilling life.

Annual Autism Walk—Another Success!

Local children with autism along with their family members and caregivers from Downeast Horizons participated in their Autism Awareness Walk-a-thon in Bar Harbor on Thursday, April 20. The 1½-mile Autism Awareness Walk-a-thon began at 10 a.m. on Main Street at Agamont Park, overlooking the town pier and Frenchman’s Bay, then proceeded up Main Street to Mt. Desert Street, turned right onto Eden Street, then right on Cottage Street and continued back to Agamont Park.

The Autism Awareness Walk-a-thon was coordinated through the Downeast Horizons Children’s Services Program. “We started this walk to bring community awareness of autism from children who live with it every day,” notes Nikki Cutchens, Children’s Administrator of Downeast Horizons in Bar Harbor. “We walk proudly in honor of all children and adults who live with autism and the caregivers who dedicate their lives to them,” she explains. “This is another example of how we can learn from and about children with autism,” adds Ashley Johnson, Resource Coordinator at Downeast Horizons. “For all of us, it’s a day of celebration.”



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www.dehi.org website

dehinfo@dehi.org email

Toll Free: 1-855-894-3599

207.288.1056 fax

207.288.4234 ph

Bar Harbor, ME 04609

1200 State Highway 3



ISSUE

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Downeast Horizons

Downeast Horizons Introduces: *The Giving Tree*

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Downeast Horizons (DEH) has made it an obvious priority to establish a foundation of funds that will make DEH and the people we support less vulnerable to future budget reductions. Establishing such a fund has been a long time goal of Downeast Horizons and throughout the years, many attempts at doing so have been made. After many months of work last spring and over the past year, we are finally able to take this important step toward a more secure financial future with **The Giving Tree Endowment Fund**.



Since this investment fund has been opened, we are faced with the challenge of collecting the initial funds or “seed money” in order to secure strong roots for *The Giving Tree* fund. Over time, every gift made to the endowment fund will far exceed the initial amount given, and the fund will continue to grow. This will ensure continuous financial support that is provided to the people who benefit so greatly from the assistance they receive at DEH. **As an added incentive, we have been fortunate to have an anonymous donor offer a dollar-for-dollar matching gift of up to \$50,000 toward the endowment fund. This is a wonderful opportunity to immediately double the worth of your gift to *The Giving Tree* Fund.**

Those who donate to the Giving Tree they will receive recognition as follows:

Supporters: Up to \$250.00 will receive recognition annually in our Annual Report.

Advocates: \$251.00 to \$500.00 will receive recognition in our Annual Report and have an engraved copper leaf placed on our Giving Tree.

Benefactor: \$501.00 to 1,000.00 will receive recognition in our Annual Report and have an engraved silver leaf placed on our Giving Tree.

Founder: \$1,001.00 to \$2,500.00 will receive recognition in our Annual Report and have an engraved gold leaf placed on our Giving Tree.

Visionary: \$2,501.00 and above will receive recognition in our Annual Report and have an engraved donor stone placed at the base of our Giving Tree.

If you would like to make a donation to The Giving Tree Endowment Fund, please contact Downeast Horizons at 207-667-2400.

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In Their Own Words...



"I like it here at Downeast Horizons" program participant Michael Daigle says while nodding his head up and down repeatedly. Michael has been coming to Downeast Horizons since 1991. He started attending Day Program at the MDI Center and moved into a residential home with five other program participants on the Knox Road in Bar Harbor in 1996.

Michael works three days a week at the MDI High School from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. "I clean lunch tables, wash windows, mop the floors and clean the lockers." Michael also cleans the classrooms and rakes the yards in the spring. Once he finishes his work, he goes to Evening Program in Ellsworth. At Program, he enjoys cooking, exercising and going out in the community.

When Michael isn't at program or at work, he enjoys cooking and cleaning at home and is a big fan of the Boston Red Sox. "My favorite food is pepperoni pizza, Michael told us, while hinted he wouldn't mind eating it seven days a week!" He looks forward to Family Fun Night every Thursday as everyone plays games such as checkers and enjoys each other's company. Michael likes dancing and swimming at the local YMCA. He plays basketball and loves to swing in the backyard.

DEH Cookout at Camp CaPella

Downeast Horizons (DEH) program participants (mostly adults) with developmental disabilities, their family members and guardians, and DEH staff held a cookout at Camp CaPella on Thursday, September 6th.

"Camp CaPella is a great place for our program participants to get together, get out in the open and have fun socializing together this whole week," comments Tony Zambrano, Executive Director of Downeast Horizons. "We welcome public attention for these people who should be included in rather than excluded from our society. Camp CaPella is an excellent community resource for those with physical and devel-



opmental disabilities, and we thank our donors for helping make this opportunity possible."

"This is a good example of enabling people with developmental disabilities to have a great time at Camp CaPella, which is especially suited to their needs," adds Dana Mosher, Executive Director of Camp CaPella. "Downeast Horizons has been bringing their program participants to Camp CaPella every summer since the camp reopened in 2008, and they will always be most welcome here."



Schooner Margaret Todd Welcomes the Folks of Downeast Horizons

The folks at Downeast Horizons spent a summer day at sea. More than one hundred children and adults with developmental disabilities and their loved ones boarded the schooner, Margaret Todd. They enjoyed an afternoon cruise along Frenchman Bay, encountering dolphins and tons of seabirds along the way.



The staff at Downeast Horizons says not that long ago with folks with developmental disabilities were mostly excluded from society. "Now, today we don't have that. We have a system where people are taken care of in their own communities where they are a part of our world. They're able to be with everyone else and they have as much to give to society as we do and we just got to give them a chance," said Executive Director Tony Zambrano.

A chance for them to adjust their own sails, while opening up the horizon to show no matter what limits us, we all have a place in society. The Captain of the Margaret Todd says he and his crew were pleased to share with their passengers the sights and sounds along the Bar Harbor coastline.

SUMMER FUN



Individuals with Developmental Disabilities to Ride the Rails in Ellsworth

More than 100 passengers – including children and adults with developmental disabilities, their parents and guardians, and staff from Downeast Horizons enjoyed a ride on the fantastic Downeast Scenic Railroad on Thursday August 23rd. The round-trip ride from Ellsworth on the historic Calais Branch Line to Ellsworth Falls and then to Washington Junction before heading back to Ellsworth took about 90 minutes plus a half-hour break for lunch.



"Once again we want everyone to see that youngsters and adults with developmental disabilities are a part of our community and that they can enjoy their lives and learn from their experience," observes Anthony Zambrano, Executive Director of Downeast Horizons.

Interact Prom at MDI High School

On Sunday afternoon, April 29, program participants from Downeast Horizons and their family members enjoyed the 11th Annual Interact Prom hosted by students and teachers at MDI High School.

"I love coming to the prom every year!" enthused Michael Daigle, a program participant at Downeast Horizons. "I'm having so much fun, and I love to dance!" added Angelina Lucas, another program participant. Pam Lawson, also a program participant, acknowledged "I'm glad I came to the prom – it's really fun." All were in agreement.

"We had so much fun dancing with everyone – a smile on every face," commented Jayson Burke, a student at MDI High School. "It was really cool to see everyone having a lot of fun, and no one is afraid to just dance," noted Linnea Erickson, also a student. "I loved learning how to do the Macarena! Thanks to some great dancers, new friends and some fun-loving folks, it was a fabulous Sunday," concluded Shelagh McLoughlin, social studies teacher and Interact Prom advisor."

