

KVCAP Connector

Building Stronger Individuals,
Families and Communities

Kennebec Valley Community Action Program

Issue: Summer 2016

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Our donors make teeing off for transportation a HUGE success!

Just imagine...70 degrees, sunny, and no black flies. That was the backdrop for KVCAP's 2nd Annual Golf Tournament and Silent Auction, held at Lakewood Golf Course on June 23rd.

"This year, thanks to all our donors, supporters, and golfers, we exceeded our goal of raising \$20,000, all of which will be used to support KVCAP's Kennebec and Somerset Explorer public bus system," said Suzanne Walsh, KVCAP's Chief Executive Officer. "And this comes with an added benefit. Our transit funding matches dollar for dollar every private donation, so \$20,000 becomes \$40,000! These funds will help sustain current transit routes and keep fares affordable."

Public transportation grows the economy by helping people get to work, shop locally, and meet their basic needs. It keeps people healthy by ensuring they can access medical care. It benefits the environment by reducing the number of cars on the road and it creates success in communities by increasing access to education, employment, and personal buying power.

The Kennebec Explorer launched in 2011 and the Somerset Explorer began in 2012. Today we have routes in Augusta, Gardiner, Hallowell, Farmingdale, Waterville, Fairfield, Winslow, Skowhegan, Madison, Norridgewock and Anson. With resources provided by our partner, MaineGeneral, we also have commuter routes between Waterville and Augusta, helping people get to work at and to access the new MaineGeneral facility and other essential services. Since 2011, rides have more than doubled. We will provide over 100,000 rides in 2016!

Our generous donors are the main ingredient in this successful event. If you do business with any of the establishments, please thank them for supporting KVCAP Transportation and for helping to create strong and vibrant communities throughout Central Maine.

Studies show that every
**\$1 invested in
public transportation,
\$4 is returned
in economic earnings.**

Diana Demmons, tournament golfer



Lead Event Sponsors



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Silent Auction Sponsor: Dahl-Chase Diagnostic Services

Casino Hole Sponsor: SAPPI North America

Additional sponsors and supporters listed on back.



What's Happening?



Planning is underway for the **South End Festival and National Night Out**, to be held at Green Street Park on Tuesday, August 2nd, from 5pm-7pm.

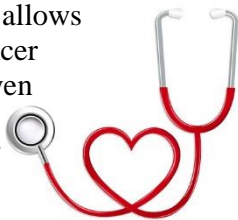
This event is organized by the South End Neighborhood Association and KVCAP, and offers a barbecue, live music, children's activities and games, a climbing wall and more. And best of all, activities are free! In 2015, more than 600 people of all ages came together for this positive community activity. FMI, contact Steve Soule at 873-5621.



Did you know that it typically costs about \$7.00 to wash and dry one load of laundry at a laundromat? Having clean clothes and towels can be a significant financial burden for low-income people. This is why the Poverty Action Coalition (PAC) recently began its **Laundry Days** initiative, helping people with the cost of doing laundry. The PAC was awarded \$1,000 from the Waterville Rotary Club to continue this initiative. FMI, contact Cheryl Leonard at 859-1567.

KVCAP recently received a grant from the John T. Gorman Foundation to provide **transportation for people undergoing treatment for a cancer diagnosis.**

"People who are dealing with cancer should not have to worry about how they are going to get to their medical appointments," said Jim Wood, KVCAP's Transportation Director. "This funding allows people to access the cancer treatments they need, even when they are too sick or unable to drive." FMI, contact 859-1500.



Tournament Sponsors continued

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Waterville Country Club

DHHS funds will help keep kids in school

KVCAP was recently awarded a Maine Department of Health & Human Services "Improving Youth Outcomes" three-year grant. The primary goal of this funding is to keep kids in school and help them graduate by providing direct support to youth that are attending school in AOS #92.

In June, KVCAP hired Tom Desjardins as the new Youth Outreach Coordinator. Tom worked for the last 25 years in the Massachusetts education system as both a high school teacher and a principal. He comes to us fully prepared and with a wealth of experience working with high-risk youth. Tom is presently working with AOS #92 administrators and will begin connecting directly with youth in July. Welcome, Tom!

Kennebec Valley Community Action Program
97 Water Street, Waterville
26 Mary Street, Skowhegan
22 Armory Street, Augusta

Phone: 207-859-1500 • Toll-Free: 1-800-542-8227
www.kvcap.org



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