KVCAP

Building Stronger Individuals, Families and Communities

Kennebec Valley Community Action Program

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The Community Investors - People Helping People

The Poverty Action Coalition's Community Investors Initiative began on March 1, 2015. The goal of the initiative is to help Waterville area residents overcome a barrier that threatens family stability when no other resources exist. And it is creating a ripple effect!

"We knew people were falling through the cracks," shares Michele Prince, Chief Operating Officer for KVCAP. "There simply aren't enough resources to help everyone with every need. This is why I created the Community Investors Initiative. Sometimes helping a person or a family overcome a hurdle, that might even seem small to you or me, can make a big difference in averting a crisis or paving the way to making progress on a goal. An example might be helping a single mom fix her car so that she can continue getting to work. She is able to keep her job, which allows her to maintain a stable home for herself and her children."

In our first year, we raised more than $4,300 and helped 78 people improve their safety, health, and stability. We also helped seven other communities start their own initiative.

> *"Every act of kindness has a positive ripple effect."*
> *-Scott Adams*

The Community Investor partners include KVCAP, the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter, City of Waterville General Assistance, and AOS #92. The partners submit requests on behalf of people they serve to help meet an essential, basic need that threatens the household's health, safety, and/or security, that no other service or program can fulfill.

We share our requests weekly via email with our Community Investors - community members who want to make a difference in people's lives. Investors can choose to make a monetary or material donation. Some examples include money for security deposits or car repairs, obtaining clothing, car seats, eyeglasses, furniture, laundromat vouchers, and more.

"We wouldn't exist without our Investors," said Paige Barker, KVCAP's AmeriCorps Vista Volunteer who collects the donations. "People's stories are powerful. When our Investors are able to put themselves in other people's shoes it inspires them to be more generous."

Our e-mail list is currently 224 Investors strong, but we are always looking for more people to join. If you want to learn more or are interested in becoming a Community Investor, please email communityinvestors@kvcap.org.

Together, we're creating

Supported Individuals

Strong Families

Connected Services

Thriving Community

What's Happening

The South End Teen Center's Annual Bike Swap is on Saturday, May 21, from 9:00am-10:30am in the KVCAP parking lot on Water Street. Last year we gave away 50 bicycles! We continue to partner with the Waterville Police Department and the Bicycle Coalition of Maine to provide bike safety information. This year a private donor purchased new helmets for all of the youth who attend. Priority is given to youth living in the South End Neighborhood. FMI, please contact Steve at 873-5621 or stephens@kvcap.org.

Calling all Job Seekers! KVCAP is partnering with other organizations to create FREE job search opportunities. FMI contact Dana at 859-1585 or danah@kvcap.org

How to Maximize a Job Fair Workshop
April 20, 10:30am-noon
Waterville Public Library

Waterville Job Fair
April 27, 3:00pm-5:00pm
Waterville Public Library

Pittsfield Job Fair
May 11, 3:30pm-6:30pm
Warsaw Middle School

KVCAP's Child & Family Services department is now **accepting applications for children ages 3-5** for our fall 2016 programming at several locations. FMI, call 859-1599.

Golf Anyone?
Tee off for Transportation!

Planning is underway for our second annual golf tournament and silent auction. The event will be held on Thursday, June 23 at Lakewood Golf Course in Madison. Our goal is to raise $20,000 to enhance transportation services in Kennebec and Somerset counties.

Lack of transportation is one of the primary barriers our clients face when working to improve their financial stability. And this is especially true in the more rural parts of Kennebec and Somerset counties.

Last year we provided nearly 95,000 rides on the Kennebec and Somerset Explorer public bus system. Our ridership has grown 30% over the past two years and service routes have expanded, helping people of all ages get to school, work, appointments, and cultural events.

Our KV Van and volunteer drivers made more than 318,000 trips bringing people to medical appointments, driving more than 4.2 million miles. That is the equivalent of driving 168 times around the earth! We also secured new funds to transport more seniors and people undergoing cancer treatment.

This year we are exploring additional ways to enhance transportation services, such as expanding Explorer routes in Somerset County and creating partnerships with businesses and local colleges. FMI, please call Andrea Pasco at 859-1630 or andreap@kvcap.org.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

KVCAP operates the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Councils in Kennebec and Somerset Counties. We are hosting several **FREE** events to build awareness of and support for the prevention of child abuse and neglect. FMI, contact Lanelle Freeman at 859-1577 or lanellef@kvcap.org.

In Kennebec County
- Trooper & Community Partner Recognition Event - April 1, 8:30am
  Winslow Elementary School
- Child Abuse & Neglect Awareness Vigil - April 6, 5:30pm
  Castonguay Square, Waterville

In Somerset County
- Children's Event - April 21, 10:15-11:45am
  Pittsfield Public Library
- Children's Event - April 6, 13, 20, 27 at 10:15am
  Skowhegan Public Library
- Skowpendous Family Fun Night - April 22, 5pm-7:30pm
  Skowhegan Municipal Public Parking Lot