

Connector

Issue: Winter 2016

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We simply couldn't do it without you!

There is no denying it. Summer is over. The trees are losing their leaves and the snow will be flying soon enough. With the holiday season right around the corner, now is when many of us reflect on all that we are thankful for. And at KVCAP, we are full of gratitude.

2015 was a year full of changes for us. We said goodbye to former CEO Patricia Kosma, who is thoroughly enjoying the early days of her retirement. We welcomed our new CEO, Suzanne Walsh, a longtime employee of the agency. We gained five new board members who all support our mission to help low-income people become financially and socially self-sufficient. And new initiatives were launched in several of our communities.

But we couldn't have done it without you! The ongoing financial support we receive from individual donors, foundations, municipalities, school districts, local businesses, and civic organizations are what allow us to be responsive to the unique needs in our service area.

Although our core funding comes primarily from federal and state sources, these funds are highly restrictive and often can't be used for creative solutions to local challenges. That's why we are so thankful to our supporters! With your help we saw a 13% increase in ridership on our Kennebec and Somerset Explorer public bus system. We were able to keep more people warm last winter, and Head Start parents were able to access transportation for their children to attend preschool. Child abuse prevention activities happened throughout Kennebec and Somerset counties. More people received help finding a job and enrolling in health insurance through the Marketplace. Our South End Teen Center members were exposed to a wider variety of educational and enrichment activities. And families were able to avoid eviction and homelessness, repair their vehicles, and move forward on their journey out of poverty.

The promise of Community Action *embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live.* KVCAP is proud to be the Community Action Agency serving Central Maine and your support is a great vote of confidence in our mission. We sincerely value our relationship with you and are thankful that you understand the importance of helping people improve their social and financial stability. Best wishes to all for a safe and joyous holiday season!

If you would like to donate to KVCAP, please contact Andrea Pasco at 859-1630 or andreap@kvcap.org or visit us at www.kvcap.org.



Community Investors are making a difference

The Poverty Action Coalition (PAC) is a group of concerned individuals and organizations who came together to address barriers to prosperity in Waterville, Maine.

Our mission is to promote opportunity in our community through partnership, awareness, access, and advocacy.

The Poverty Action Coalition's first initiative is called the Community Investors, which is designed to help people in Waterville achieve or maintain financial stability. A committee of representatives from KVCAP, Waterville General Assistance, and the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter vets requests from service providers in each of these agencies on a weekly basis. Any request that comes to the committee must meet specific guidelines. For example, the request must assist Waterville residents who are living below the poverty line and cannot have their need met by other services in town. Once the committee approves a request, it is e-mailed to a list of community members like you who want to make a difference in their neighbor's lives. We refer to the people on our list as our Community Investors. Investors can make either monetary or material donations to help fill a request. Community Investors began in March of 2015. As of November 2015, we have raised over \$2,600 to help 54 people repair their cars, move out of the homeless shelter, clothe their children, get safe car seats, and many other great things. Our e-mail list is 229 Investors strong, but we are always looking for more people to join us. If you are interested in becoming a Community Investor, please send an e-mail to communityinvestors@kvcap.org.

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 attend 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 treatments.

This year we are exploring additional ways to enhance transportation services, such as expanding our Explorer routes in Somerset County and creating partnerships with businesses and local colleges.

For more information, please call Andrea Pasco at 859-1630 or visit www.kvcap.org.

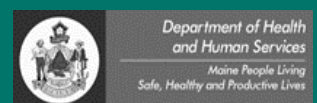


Public Health Champion Award Received

KVCAP was honored to receive the **Public Health Champion Award** at this year's Somerset Public Health's Annual Awards Dinner, in recognition of our continued service to public health. The award focused on our recent expansion of the Somerset Explorer public bus system, and our participation in Move More Kids and 5210 Let's Go, promoting nutrition, physical activity and health. We highly value this partnership as we work together to improve the quality of life for all Greater Somerset County residents.

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