

KVCAP Connector

Building Stronger Individuals,
Families and Communities

Kennebec Valley Community Action Program

Issue: Winter 2017

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Kennebec Savings Bank Partners with KVCAP Transportation

We are thrilled to announce that Kennebec Savings Bank has chosen KVCAP Transportation as a recipient of their Catalyst Capacity Building Grant. Over the next three years, these funds will support the Kennebec and Somerset Explorer public bus system through efforts to secure new funding sources.

“The Kennebec Explorer is a vital resource in our community,” said Kennebec Savings Bank President and CEO, Andrew Silsby. “We are happy to help KVCAP receive the guidance they need to stabilize funding and guarantee this service will be available for years to come.”

KVCAP Transportation Services continues to be the only large-scale provider of affordable, accessible public transportation in Kennebec and Somerset counties. Rebranded in 2011, the Explorer system has experienced an enormous 120% increase in ridership over the last five years, providing nearly 98,000 rides in 2016!

Although there has been a major increase in ridership, funding levels have remained stagnant. The Explorer’s core funding comes from state and federal transportation grants as well as MaineGeneral Health, a major partner. KVCAP also collaborates with forty-two municipalities and a handful of smaller private entities, with each providing varying amounts of financial support for the service.

“Now is the time to act,” said Jim Wood, KVCAP’s Transportation Director. “We have reached the tipping point. It is crucial that we secure new resources in order to maintain current routes and to plan for the anticipated ongoing growth of the Explorer system.”



L-R: Jen Bechard, KSB Human Resources Officer; Matt Dwyer, KSB Vice President and Augusta Branch Manager; Andrea Pasco, KVCAP Development Director; Jim Wood, KVCAP Transportation Director; Alicia Wing, KSB Community Dividends Director; Haley Fortin, KSB Client Services Assistant.

*Every \$1 invested in
public transportation
generates approximately
\$4 in economic returns.*

American Public Transportation Association (2016)

The best part? All of the money raised through this project will be matched dollar for dollar by the federal government, literally doubling donors’ investments!

“Public transportation creates opportunities by providing mobility and freedom for people from every walk of life,” said Suzanne Walsh, KVCAP’s Chief Executive Officer. “We are grateful for the support from Kennebec Savings Bank and our other partners.”

If you would like to learn more or provide financial support for public transportation, please contact Andrea Pasco at 859-1630.



What's Happening?

The 9th Annual Battle of the Badges Basketball Game between the Waterville Police and Fire Departments is planned for Thursday, March 9th at 7:00pm at the Alford Youth Center.

Tickets are \$4.00 for ages 10 and up and will be sold at the door. All proceeds benefit the South End Teen Center.



Being a parent is the most important job you can ever do. But that doesn't mean it is easy! You can **build your parenting skills**

by participating in one or more of our parenting classes. To learn more, visit www.kvcap.org for our current class listings, or call 207-859-1514.

Are you thinking about buying your first home? Be prepared! Our Homebuyer Education class you will teach you everything you need to know about the process. You can even choose between online or in-person classes. In the 10-hour course you will:

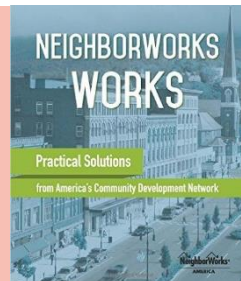
- Learn the steps involved in the process of buying a home
- Set goals and prepare for home ownership
- Explore loan products
- Protect and grow your investment
- Learn how to avoid being scammed

For more information, please contact Lynne at lynnec@kvcap.org or 207-859-1622.



Community Investors featured in new NeighborWorks® Book!

We are excited to share in the launch of the new book *NEIGHBORWORKS WORKS: Practical Solutions for America's Community Development Network*, which features our very own Community Investors Initiative!



The Community Investors Initiative helps low-income people who are facing a financial challenge that threatens their stability, when there are no other available resources or services. We email approved requests to our 200+ Community Investors. If an Investor is able to help, they follow up directly with the coordinator. Requests can be for specific items, services, or monetary donations.

In 2016, our Investors raised nearly \$11,000 and helped 99 people avoid a financial crisis, like an eviction or major car repairs that would prevent them from being able to get to work.

Ready to become a Community Investor? Contact Cheryl Leonard at cheryll@kvcap.org. **Want to buy the book?** You can find it at Amazon!

Preschool Staff in Unique Master's Program

Surprise, you're accepted! That was music to the ears of three KVCAP preschool teachers when they discovered that they were accepted into the Mentoring and Advanced Preparation for Maine's Early Intervention Scholars (MAP-ME) program through the University of Maine in Orono.

The MAP-ME program covers the full tuition through a federally funded grant awarded to UMO, to support those seeking their Master's Degree in Special Education with a focus in Early Intervention.

It began with a rigorous application process, which required applying to both the MAP-ME program and to the degree program. Of the 56 applicants statewide, the committee selected 21 educators to participate, including all three of the KVCAP teachers who applied.

"For me, it is an incredible opportunity to complete a personal goal that will also benefit the children and families that we are working with," said Val Rodrigue, a Master Teacher and Early Childhood Coach at Educare Central Maine.

We are so proud of our teachers and wish them the very best of luck on their educational journey!



L-R: Joni Sprague, Preschool Teacher; Val Rodrigue, Master Teacher/Coach; Billie-Jo Reed, Preschool Teacher.

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