

Issue: Winter 2018

Chief Executive Officer
Suzanne Walsh

Chief Operating Officer
Michele Prince

Chief Financial Officer
Mark Johnston

Child & Family Services
Director - Kathy Colfer

Human Resources
Director - Cathy Kershner

Board of Directors

Heather Merrow

President

George Joseph

Vice President

Richard Staples

Treasurer

Julie Redwine

Secretary

Denver Brown

Anna Court

Sheryl Gregory

Jeff Johnson

Michael Mitchell

Flavia Oliveira

Julie Smith

Betty St. Hilaire

Mark St. John

Rich St. Pierre

Pamela Thompson

Jacksie Witham

Community Investors... neighbors helping neighbors

The Poverty Action Coalition of Greater Waterville began its Community Investors Initiative in March of 2015. Since then, we have added a new partner agency and expanded our reach to new communities.



KVCAP facilitates the CI initiative and works with three other partner agencies: AOS #92, the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter, and Waterville General Assistance. Any of the four agencies can submit an application to the CI Initiative on a client's behalf, when they are facing a financial crisis and no other resources exist.

Common requests include donations for security deposits, car repairs and other transportation assistance such as taxi vouchers, new beds, household furniture and kitchen items, and vital medications. Each request is carefully reviewed to ensure there are no other available resources.

Once an application is approved, we send an email request to our 194 Investors. Anyone can be an Investor! All you need to do is subscribe to receive a weekly email. Investors then have the opportunity to contribute toward a specific request, if desired. If we aren't able to collect enough donations for a request, we use our Hope Fund to make up the difference. Would you like to become a Community Investor? Just email us at communityinvestors@kvcap.org! For more information, call Cheryl at 207-859-1567.

In 2017, our Investors improved the lives of 154 people!

- 16 people were able to stay in their homes and avoid homelessness.
- 10 people received new beds and are no longer sleeping on the floor.
- 43 families obtained furniture and household items in partnership with the ReStore.
- 6 people were able to have their vehicles repaired and are now safely on the road.
- 10 people received other types of transportation assistance, such as taxi vouchers.
- 16 families received much needed supplies like food and medicine.
- 53 families utilized the laundry fund and were able to wash their clothing and linens.

The newly formed Somerset Poverty Action Coalition has also started a similar initiative in the Greater Skowhegan area. To learn more, contact Wanda at 207-859-1542 or wandas@kvcap.org.

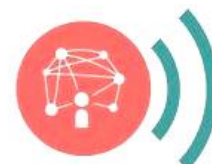
Together our Community Investors are creating...



Supported
Individuals



Strong
Families



Connected
Services

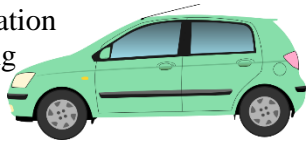


Thriving
Community

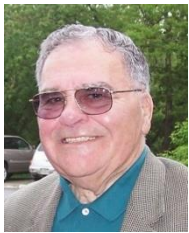


What's happening?

KVCAP's Transportation Department is seeking **Volunteer Drivers**



to bring referred community members to medical and social service appointments. Volunteer Drivers in Kennebec and Somerset counties provide 375 rides every day. Volunteers have a variety of schedule options, may drive locally or long-distance trips, and receive a generous \$.44 per mile reimbursement. All you need is a good driving record, a safe, insured vehicle and the desire to help others. If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Driver, please call 859-1631 or visit www.kvcap.org.



In November, we had the privilege of recognizing **Raymond F. Richard**, KVCAP's founding CEO, by dedicating Educare's new "Natural Playground" in Ray's honor. For over

42 years Ray was the pillar of KVCAP. He dedicated his entire career to helping low-income children and families live happier, healthier, and more stable lives.

KVCAP is pleased to announce that we have been awarded



funding from the **Maine Cancer Foundation** to provide transportation for Central Maine residents who need to get to and from vital medical appointments and cancer treatment. The Maine Cancer Foundation grant is offered as part of their ongoing *Challenge 2 Cancer 2020* initiative, aimed at reducing cancer incidence and mortality 20% by 2020. They have awarded nearly \$6 million across Maine since 2015 in support of this initiative, focused on prevention, early detection and screening, and access to care for all Mainers. FMI, call 1-800-542-8227.

Baby, it's cold outside!

Winter, as you might imagine, is a very busy time of year for our Energy & Housing Department. Last year we helped over 17,000 people stay warmer through our fuel assistance program, and almost 400 people had their furnaces repaired or replaced.



If you or someone you know needs help heating their home safely, please call 1-800-542-8227 or visit www.kvcap.org to learn more about our fuel assistance programs.

Have you looked at your energy bill lately? According to Maine Housing, there are a lot of simple things you can do to reduce your energy use, and little things can add up to make a big difference. Small changes like replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs, washing clothes in cold water, and caulking and weather sealing your home can add up to big savings!

The Governor's Energy Office created a Do-it-Yourself Guide to save money on home heating. To access, visit www.kvcap.org and choose the "Resources" tab at the top of the home page.

Maine Families program earns Blue Ribbon Affiliation



KVCAP's Maine Families Home Visiting Program **earned a prestigious endorsement** by Parents as Teachers national center as a Blue Ribbon Affiliate, making it one of the top performing early education and home visiting affiliates within the international Parents as Teachers network.

Parents as Teachers promotes the optimal early development, learning and health of children by supporting and engaging their parents and caregivers. The Parents as Teachers Evidence-Based Model is the comprehensive home-visiting, parent education model used by Parents as Teachers Affiliates.

Among KVCAP's greatest strengths identified by the national office are its well-developed infrastructure, and its capable and dedicated staff members who provide valuable services to families.

For more information, please contact Lanelle Freeman at 859-1577 or lanellef@kvcap.org.

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



Thank you to all who provide funding for our services. KVCAP is funded in part by Community Services Block Grant, DHHS, United Way and NeighborWorks® America.