

South End Teen Center Quarterly Newsletter

Issue: January – June, 2019



Welcome, Bob!



“New” SETC Youth Worker, Bob McGorty, has been with us since September. Attention to detail, character, a fabulous sense of humor and compassion are words which come to mind when thinking about Bob. He has been a delightful addition to the team and brings with him a great set of skills and consistency which the teens enjoy and appreciate.

Nicknamed “The Godfather” by the teens, Bob has become a staple in the kitchen where he is always encouraging the teens to try new and different foods. Among many other ideas, Bob has also introduced “birthdays of the month” cakes with all of the teens’ names for that month, and we all celebrate together!

SETC Coordinator’s Corner

Sumer is finally here! After enduring yet another brutal Maine winter and very wet spring, it’s nice to see the teens outside enjoying the beautiful weather again! After being buried in snow and at least six inches of ice, the basketball court has resumed its normal busy activity with many teens learning and exhibiting excellent sportsmanship, teamwork, skill-building and exercise.

As we move into the summer schedule, the Summer Lunch Program has been well attended. Any child or pregnant mother can get a delicious, fresh and healthy meal for free! It is held every day through August 16 from 11:30-12:30 P.M., excluding the 4th of July.

Our Summer Blast trips are scheduled, and the teens are poised and excited for an action-packed, safe and memorable summer with weekly trips. Last year saw a record 96 seats filled with our trips and this year they have signed up to fill over 130!

Despite competing with the nice weather attendance at the SETC remains strong, with about 15 teens visiting per day. Our teens want to be out exploring and playing so their visits may be brief, sometimes signing-in for a quick snack and a hello before perhaps a gathering at a neighborhood park. On other days they may stay for 3 hours and remain engaged with multiple activities. One day we had 23 visitors! One thing is for sure, they now have some nice choices in the neighborhood for play and it’s always a privilege to have them come and visit us for any amount of time on a beautiful day.

The SETC Partners with the Waterville Public Library

The Waterville Public Library recently experienced vandalism at their library. To make things better for our beloved library and its small staff, we reached out to them to see how we could help. What transpired next was an undertaking which seems small on the surface, but was an undertaking involving a great deal of collaboration, adjustment, community partnership and skill building.

Initially, we were hoping to see how we could repair the vandalism. As it turns out, repairing vandalism on woodwork is a very extensive process of which our teens and staff were not equipped to take on. (This is one of the hidden lessons of this experience – what seems to be an innocent “tag” on a piece of wood is actually a very harmful and extensive restoration process which can be a significant challenge to a small staff.)

An anonymous community member and craftsman donated his time and abilities to repair the damage. After speaking with the craftsman and library Director, Tammy Rabideau, we asked how we could help our public library in other ways. We learned that they needed small display bookstands for new arrivals. The craftsman then brought tools, jigs, wood, screws stain and varnish to the SETC and we all learned how to make the bookstands together.

The teens crafted 100 bookstands for our amazing library. They delivered and displayed them to an ecstatic Tammy (when is she not ecstatic? What a treasure Tammy is!)

The SETC has since visited the library regularly to help with other needs, including alphabetizing their DVD/Blu-Ray collection. Many of our teens visit the library regularly. Getting involved and taking ownership within the building and becoming friendly with staff and community members is the key to feeling valued by the community which will in turn foster a new level of appreciation for and by all.





Waterville Creates and SLICE!

A constant and wonderful collaboration for the SETC is with Waterville Creates!. Education and Outreach Coordinator Serena Sanborn and other staff frequently reach out to us to get our teens involved in exciting and creative activities. A recent special rotating event called SLICE featured a different activity each week, such as improv and 3D-printing, and (of course) slices of pizza.

Earlier in the year the SETC was the recipient of a generous donation from Waterville Creates and outgoing board president, Larry Sterrs. We are so lucky to have this great organization in Waterville!



Battle of the Badges!

The 11th Annual Battle of the Badges event was held at Temple Academy this year as the Alford Youth Center was undergoing renovations. For those who don't know about this event, it is a basketball game between the Waterville Police Department and Fire Department (featuring some players from other local departments). As one of the SETC's major fundraising and partnership events, we are extremely grateful to Temple Academy and Centerpoint Church for hosting us this year!

The game was very close and exciting, with both teen representatives, Jordan and Wyatt, each making a three-pointer! Our bake sale and admissions were expertly guided by teens and staff, and our DJ for the evening was our wonderful Thomas College intern Ryan Strate, lovingly referred to by teens and staff as "Ryan 2.0."

Our emcee for the evening was former KVCAP Youth Outreach Worker and current United Way Resource Development Director, Samantha Burdick. Also donating their time were referees Rocky Buck and Randy Caswell – thank you all for your generous contributions!

The final score of the game was 39-36, with the Waterville Police Department as the victors. Congratulations to them, and to all our donors for this wonderful event!



Mission Moments



Tyler, Oliver, Arielle, Kaylee, Anna, Harley and Madison all dress up to entertain children at Community Day!



Alyshia and Niesha supporting teens at their basketball game.



Hunter is officially a KVCC student!



Madison receives a new bicycle at the 2019 Bike Swap.



Dias at the 2019 Bike Swap.



Abby and Felicia volunteer at the Bike Swap.



Youth Outreach Worker, Ben, and SETC graduate Zack. He is going to college!

More Mission Moments



Rafael graduates from Waterville Senior High!



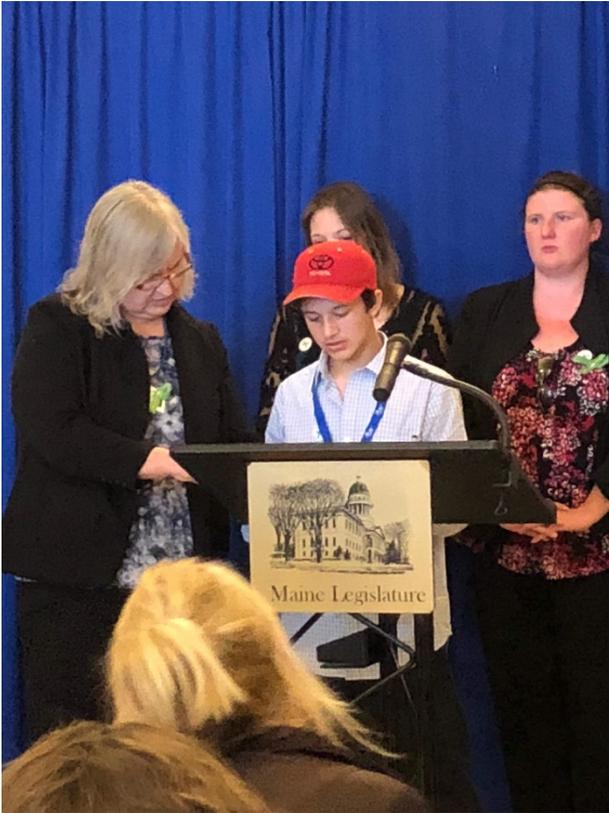
Hunter and Colby proudly display their diplomas.



Arielle helps prepare Kaylee for Community Day.



Volunteer Kelly Graham Roderick guides teens through a distracted driving simulation.



Dias reads a speech at the State Capital to spread awareness for mental health month where he met the Governor!



Sister Dorine visits with her partners, with former SETC coordinator Steve Soule! The Sisters are tremendous supports of the SETC and we always enjoy their visits.

South End Teen Center
5 Libby Court
Waterville, Maine 04901
207-873-5621
SETC Coordinator: Ryan Kneeland
Email: ryank@kvcap.org

