## **Building Stronger Individuals, Families and Communities Kennebec Valley Community Action Program**

# Connector

Issue: Fall 2020

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## Mark K. Johnston Memorial Golf Tournament raises \$15,000 for Covid-19 relief

KVCAP's sixth annual golf tournament took place on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at Lakewood Golf Course in Madison, successfully raising \$15,000 through sponsorships and team fees.



"Leader, Mentor, Colleague, Friend"

This year we changed our fundraising focus from public transportation to our highest priority: helping people financially affected by Covid-19. In March and April we received many donations to assist these community members, but the funds are being steadily depleted. The loss of jobs, the reduction in unemployment benefits, the limitations of the statewide rent relief program, and the lack of childcare continue to negatively affect so many families!

Since 2019, the tournament has been held in Mark's honor. He was our Chief Financial Officer for over 20 years and was a staunch supporter of Community Action. Mark passed away two years ago, but we know he would be proud to represent an event that will help our neighbors preserve their stability during this crisis. To date we have helped thousands of people access food and hygiene supplies, avoid eviction, maintain their utilities and vehicles, and access other basic necessities. Unfortunately, we predict these challenges will be present for months to come, and KVCAP strives to support our community throughout the entirety of the pandemic.

Congratulations to the following winners! 1st place gross-One River CPAs; 2nd place gross-Pelton Team; 1st place net-MaineGeneral Health; 2nd place net-Cloutier Carrillo Capital City Law; closest to the pin 6<sup>th</sup> hole–Dan Saucier; closest to the pin 10<sup>th</sup> hole–Gail Gibson; closest to the pin 18th hole-Drew Robin; longest drive women-Lisa Landry; longest drive men-Jeff Thompson. We are so grateful for the many businesses and community members for their generous support. They are community action in action!

### **Lead Event Sponsor: One River CPAs**

**Cart Sponsor: O'Connor Auto Park** Lunch Sponsor: Taylor, McCormack & Frame LLC Hole in One Sponsor: Health Plans Inc.

#### **Executive Sponsors:**

Cloutier Carrillo Capital City Law **Educare Central Maine** Gibson LeClair LLC **HBSS Connect Corporation New Dimensions FCU** Redington-Fairview General Hospital Skowhegan Savings Weeks & Sons Well Drilling

#### **Longest Drive:**

Wipfli CPAs and Consultants

#### Closest to the Pin:

Healey & Associates, Sprague & Curtis Real Estate

#### **Community Hole Sponsors:**

**Animal Medical Clinic** Bee Line Cable Central Maine Motors Auto Group Kennebec Behavioral Health Kennebec Savings Bank Maine Paper & Janitorial Products McCormack Building Supply Pride Manufacturing Skowhegan Family Medicine Stratham Tire

Bar Harbor Bank & Trust Bob's Cash Fuel Main Street Fuel SAPPI North America Skowhegan Rotary Club York County Community Action

## 'Tis the season for apples!



Fall is in full swing, as were our fun Fall Family Festivals at Kents Hill Orchards in Kents Hill and Cayford Orchards in Skowhegan.

More than 250 families participated in the event, picking apples, doing art projects, and spending time outdoors enjoying the beautiful weather!

## Diapers are essential

KVCAP's Family Enrichment Councils are hosting their annual diaper drive throughout the month of October, in partnership with local law enforcement.

Diapers are a basic need, easily costing \$100 per month or more. In the U.S. 36% of low-income parents regularly run out of clean diapers. Babies who remain too long in soiled diapers are exposed to potential health risks including infections and skin conditions, and longer periods of crying. Without disposable diapers, parents cannot bring their children to most childcare providers, impacting their ability to go to work.

Many local businesses are hosting collection sites throughout Kennebec and Somerset counties. All diaper sizes and brands are accepted. FMI, contact Becky Lambert at 859-1588 (Kennebec) or Kristen Plummer at 859-2520 (Somerset).



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**KVCAP** hires new CFO

KVCAP is pleased to announce the hiring of Raymond Girouard as our new Chief Financial Officer.

Ray comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experiences in a financial capacity as well as that of organizational and departmental leadership. He most recently worked as a Director of Finance for a \$21 million dollar public transit organization in Pennsylvania. Previous to that he worked for Maine DHHS as Director of Financial services for seven years.



"I saw the light to non-profit work 12 years ago, and I do find it much more satisfying," shares Ray. "I am happy to join the KVCAP family. Its reputation precedes the organization and I can't imagine a better place to finish my career."

Ray has a BS in Economics and an MBA in Business Management. He has four children and two grandchildren who all live in Massachusetts. Welcome aboard, Ray!

## Street Park stage honors local resident



Several members of the South End Neighborhood Association (SENA) joined KVCAP staff at a NeighborWorks Community Leadership Institute in 2018. KVCAP serves as SENA's fiscal agent and partners with them on neighborhood enhancement activities. Together they developed a plan to enhance Green Street Park in Waterville and were awarded a \$4,000 NeighborWorks grant to assist with project implementation.

SENA collaborated with the Friends of Green Street Park to solicit community input on what enhancements people wanted to see in the park. The top choices were signage for the park, a Born Learning trail, a stage to promote theater, and Art in the Park.

On October 2nd they unveiled their new children's theater stage. Many SENA and Friends of Green Street Park members volunteered their energy and skills to build the stage, which incorporated art work by children at Educare Central Maine.

The stage was dedicated to Ralph Merrow, a 20 year resident and home owner in the neighborhood. Ralph is one of the founding members of SENA and has volunteered extensive time and expertise to help to improve the neighborhood.

In addition to the NeighborWorks grant, the United Way of Mid-Maine provided funds for the Born Learning trail, and Ware Butler donated supplies. Future plans include installing fitness stations along the paved trail. A private donor is offering 1:1 matching donations of \$5,000 through the end of October, and will then offer another 2:1 match of \$5,000, raising the \$25,000 needed to complete the project.

"It's really exciting that these pieces are coming together of a vision that was started so many years ago," said Jackie Dupont, Co-founder of Friends of Green Street Park. FMI, please contact Jackie at jackie.e.dupont@gmail.com.





