

KVCAP Connector

Building Stronger Individuals,
Families and Communities

Kennebec Valley Community Action Program

Thank you
Donors!

You are helping
people and
changing lives!

Issue: Spring 2020

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Donations provide relief to people impacted by COVID-19

None of us ever predicted that by mid-March our lives would change in such a fundamental way. For everyone's safety, KVCAP made the decision to close our offices to the public on March 18th. We immediately began researching and implementing new ways of doing business, so we could continue to support individuals and families during the Governor's stay-at-home order. From the beginning, we knew we would need unrestricted funds to address the unique issues caused by the coronavirus.

We asked, and sure enough, people gave. And gave generously! We were in awe of the number of individuals, businesses, and foundations that reached out with financial donations to help people that were suddenly facing a financial crisis. The majority of funds have been earmarked to provide direct financial assistance to people in need. We rapidly developed an application and guidelines so we could deploy these funds quickly and effectively, while reducing as many barriers to access as possible. A portion of the funds are also being used to support operations, including new technologies that allow us to continue to deliver services while practicing physical distancing.

"We simply could not do this level of intense, vital work without these contributions," states Suzanne Walsh, KVCAP's CEO. "We genuinely appreciate the on-going support during this unprecedented time. Our donors consistently demonstrate their generosity and dedication to those facing financial challenges, which is a clear testament to the kindness and compassion of Maine people."

In addition to our current clients, a record number of people are reaching out who never needed this type of help before. Many laid-off workers have waited several weeks for their unemployment to begin, with self-employed people waiting even longer. It is important to note that not everyone even qualifies for this benefit despite a prior work history. We hear the stories of depleted savings accounts, mounting bills, lack of adequate income, and fears about their financial futures.

**However, because of our amazing donors, we are here
and TOGETHER we are helping people and changing lives!**

A sampling of services provided during the COVID-19 pandemic

- More than 5,000 meals have been delivered or distributed.
- Nearly 20,000 diapers were provided to families in need – for a while they were almost as hard to purchase as toilet paper!
- Over 2,000 people have accessed information, referrals, educational activities, social supports, direct financial assistance, transportation, and/or other provisions since mid-March.
- KVCAP received and processed 1,390 Maine Housing Rental Relief program applications. Approximately \$270,000 in rent relief has been distributed to date.
- To learn more about KVCAP services, visit www.kvcap.org or call 207-859-1500.



www.kvcap.org

Rental Relief Program

Maine Housing partnered with KVCAP throughout April and May to implement the COVID-19 Emergency Rental Relief program, which provides a one-time payment up to \$500 to assist with rent. Due to high demand, this program is now extended through June 2020.



If someone is in need of rental assistance and has lost significant income due to COVID-19, and they did not receive rent assistance in April or May, they

can apply directly on the Maine Housing website at mainehousing.org. If they do not have access to the internet, they can receive help completing the application by calling KVCAP at 859-1500.

Golf Tournament: New Date!



Mark K. Johnston
Memorial Golf Tournament

Lakewood Golf Course
Friday, October 2, 2020
Registration 8:00 am
Shotgun Start 9:00 am

4 Person Scramble (max 18 teams)
\$125 per player / \$500 per foursome

Includes
18 Holes of Golf and Electric Cart
Mulligans and Strings
Light Breakfast and Buffet Lunch
Awards Banquet with Prizes
\$25,000 Hole in One Prize
Silent Auction

*"Leader, Mentor,
Colleague, Friend"*

Due to the COVID-19 regulations for large group gatherings, the 6th Annual Tee-off for Transportation – Mark K. Johnston Memorial Golf Tournament that was originally scheduled for June 26, has been postponed until October 2, at Lakewood Golf Course in Madison. Contact Andrea Pasco at 859-1630 or andrap@kvcap.org FMI.



6th Annual Tee off for Transportation

All proceeds support KVCAP's Kennebec & Somerset Explorer and federal funds will match DOLLAR for DOLLAR!



Storms threaten food security during pandemic

As the saying goes, when it rains it pours, or in this case, it snows! Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, people flocked to the grocery store to stock up on food and other supplies in preparation for the stay-at-home order. Do you remember how hard it was to buy a roll of toilet paper?



Many seniors on fixed incomes followed this trend as well, loading up their refrigerators and freezers with enough food to last over a month. Then, with little warning, brutal back-to-back storms occurred, causing major power outages throughout Somerset County. Many households went without electricity for a week or more. The result was an abundance of spoiled food, and for many, no resources to replace all they had purchased in advance.

Again, our donors came to the rescue! We were able to use some of their unrestricted contributions to provide gift cards for groceries for people who had no other means of obtaining fresh food in the short-run. Many food pantries in the smaller Somerset towns were closed or they are only open one day each month; and some had even run out of food to give!

Our donors are the superheroes who care about people facing crises and do what they can to help. In this case, they were ensuring that our elderly neighbors did not have to go hungry! Your contribution was vital to their health, comfort and happiness. Bravo!

Celebrating NeighborWorks America Week!

On June 6-13, NeighborWorks America and its network of more than 240 local organizations are celebrating the 37th annual NeighborWorks Week. What NeighborWorks organizations have in common is a deep and abiding commitment to creating opportunity for people to live in affordable homes, improve their lives and strengthen their communities.



*Current construction at
Cony Village in Augusta*

As a Charter Member, NeighborWorks helps KVCAP by supporting our affordable housing projects. For example, there are three homes currently under construction at Cony Village in Augusta. They also provide support for our homebuyer education, foreclosure prevention and home repair programs, and they offer free, extensive training opportunities for our staff to secure various certifications. We value their support and it is making a tangible difference in Central Maine!



Building a strong community takes all of us!

celebrate

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES TOGETHER EVERY DAY

NeighborWorks Week
JUNE 6-13, 2020



Kennebec Valley Community Action Program

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26 Mary Street, Skowhegan
22 Armory Street, Augusta
Phone: 207-859-1500 • Toll-Free: 1-800-542-8227
www.kvcap.org



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