A Community of Wellness
December 2020

Community Crossroads

GUIDANCE. SUPPORT. ADVOCACY.

BRIDGING SUPPORT - OUR FESTIVE EVENTS



On Wednesday, December 9th, 32 children and adults served by Community Crossroads had the opportunity to meet with Santa. A fun and festive time was had by all. Click the following link, https://youtu.be/igTExSIKiiU, to see a highlight from the event!

BRIDGING SUPPORT - OUR TRENDING POSTS



[Making The Holiday Season A Little Brighter]



[Support Disability-Owned Businesses This Holiday Season]

ACTIVELY SERVING - VOICES OF OUR AGENCY

The Rep Payee department at Community Crossroads helps well over 300 people of different income levels to better manage their money, understand the importance of saving money in order to purchase something one wants, and pay bills on time so one does not lose assets such as their car or home. Recently, Rep Payee Manager Dee Johnson noted the recent successes of the department, and the challenges some are currently facing.

How has the Rep Payee department changed/adapted throughout 2020?

“The year started with staff changes, losing both coordinators was difficult and working alone was very hard. We went through several Temps, then Julia came and has made a big difference.”



Deanna Johnson - Representative Payee & Employment Manager

ACTIVELY SERVING - VOICES OF OUR AGENCY

What new challenges are you/your department noticing people face during the past several months?

"Not having enough money to survive. Food has become much more expensive during this time, and when you are on a very limited budget to start with there is not enough money to buy food. Helping individuals apply for food stamps, and being told that they make too much money and don't qualify. Giving them directions to different food banks and being told they were closed due to COVID. It was a heartbreaking year for us."

What new strategies are you/your department using to successfully help those in the community?

"We are doing everything as a "TEAM". The three of us meet daily, we talk about issues then we jump on it. We feel that it makes us better at what we do. The goal is that whoever calls us, we should have a basic understanding on what's going on, and the way the individual feels like they are being taken care of by the whole team and not just one person."

Is there anything else you feel is important to note about either the Rep-Payee of Employment aspects of your job?

"We work really hard to take care of our individuals. The Rep-Payee department has not closed, we continue to work as hard as we can to ensure that our individuals are taken care of the best we can. Employment - well it's really sad right now, especially for our folks that had been working and because of COVID can no longer for a multitude of reasons. It's sad because there are individuals now struggling because they are no longer bringing in that extra money. Let's just hope 2021 is a better year!"

ACTIVELY SERVING - ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Since the inception of our Oral Health program, Director of Oral Health Services Angela Boyle, community dental providers, and other local organizations have been advocating for oral health care for those with developmental and other disabilities.

Angela stated, "the reality is anyone who is fortunate enough to have dental insurance is typically allocated $1,000 to $1,500 of benefits towards dental care every year they are enrolled. Adult individuals with disabilities in NH who are enrolled in Medicaid, have 0 dollars for benefits towards restorative, or prevention dental care."

The Oral Health program advocates for oral health care and strives to serve our local community when it comes to their oral health needs.



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trusted community dental providers to care for our individuals

ACTIVELY SERVING - OUR FUNDRAISING COMMITMENT

Tuesday, December 1st was #GivingTuesday. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we raised over $850 so far and for that we thank you!

Luckily, there is still time to give! From now until the end of the month, you can donate HERE, https://community-crossroads-nh.networkforgood.com/projects/115910-something-to-smile-about, to help raise money for our Oral health program. Our goal is $1000, which would provide 20 oral health screenings or 8 people dental cleanings.





COMMITTED TO GROWING

In the second half of 2020, there have been 31 new intakes completed for Family Support and Service Coordination according to Intake & Eligibility Coordinator Kristine Houle. These new intakes, which is about the same number of new intakes in the second half of last year, tell us that people continue to find us, and are interested in seeing if they will be eligible for supports and services.

This shows that we continue to grow in terms of the ways people who may need supports and services find out about us.

While not everyone who does an intake is determined eligible, and not all who have been determined eligible have begun the process yet, it does showcase how we are growing.



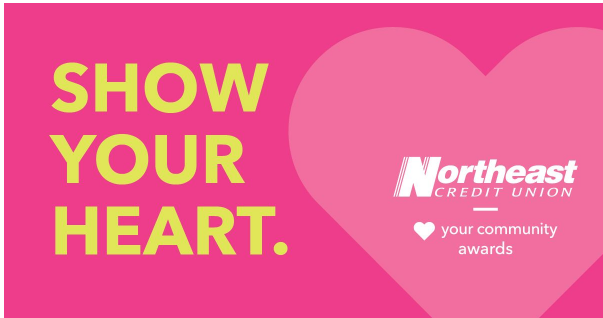
RECOGNIZING VALUABLE PARTNERSHIPS

Throughout the second half of November, Community Crossroads was in the running to receive a financial prize in the Northeast Credit Union's 'Love Your Community' awards.

We are happy to announce that thanks to our employees, Board of Director members, families, community members, sponsors, and more, we will be receiving $5,000.

This money will help families in a multitude of ways including helping with access to vehicle/home repairs, access to technology, therapy, educational and social activities and other things that will help the wellbeing of these individuals.

This would not have been possible without the Northeast Credit Union, holding this contest and having a commitment to recognizing local organizations in our community. We are grateful for our partnership.



GREATER COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

This year is the 30th Annual Gingerbread House Contest throughout Portsmouth. Check out this piece New Hampshire Chronicle did about this festive tradition: https://www.wmur.com/article/thursday-december-3rd-portsmouth-gingerbread-houses/34823348.

Participants tend to get creative with their gingerbread houses. Many times, creations have to do with the city of Portsmouth or New Hampshire, and this year some creations are 2020-themed. The contest runs from now until December 22nd.

Check out some photos of the creations here, https://portsmouthhistory.org/exhibitions/gingerbread/



GREATER COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS - SOMETHING TO PUT A SMILE ON YOUR FACE

Did you know that every year around the holidays Community Crossroads holds a door decorating contest?

Each year, our office is decked out with doors that are holiday themed.

Due to the lack of foot traffic in our office and safety measures, this year we are decorating our doors AT HOME!

Follow us on Facebook - Community Crossroads and Instagram - community_crossroads to be the first to see the creative ideas our employees have come up with this year!

Before this year's winners are posted, take a look at last year's winners!









IN MEMORY OF ANNJEANETTE DOW

On December, 7th our friend and colleague Annjeanette Dow passed away after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Annjie touched so many lives here at Community Crossroads and throughout her career. She will be sorely missed by those who know her. Rest in Peace Annjie.

You can read her obituary here.

