



Community Partners 2006 Annual Report

November 2006

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Artwork created by clients in our Rochester, NH facility.

From Brian Collins, Executive Director

Community Partners celebrated its five year anniversary in October. It hardly seems possible five years have passed since Developmental Services of Strafford County also became the community mental health center. We have accomplished much in this short time. Everyone who played a role in the transition and current structure of our organization should be proud of their efforts and successes.

In the aftermath of the tragic house fire in Tilton that took the lives of two women with developmental disabilities and their home provider, Community Partners increased its focus on fire prevention and education. DS Case Managers, Program Coordinators, and members of the Quality Improvement Team visited each of over 80 Home Providerships in the middle of the night to ensure that sleep drills were being practiced. In addition, Community Partners worked with the Dover and Rochester Fire Departments to host two fire safety trainings for

Home Providers.

Community Partners is involved in many collaborative efforts in Strafford County and the State. We are involved in the Strafford County Mental Health Council, a group that fosters collaboration and communication among all parties working with individuals with mental illness, including law enforcement and criminal justice. The Council is working with the County to obtain funding for a mental health court as an alternative means of criminal justice for people with mental illness. We are a member of a transportation collaborative working to plan a transportation system for the elderly and people with disabilities in Strafford and Eastern Rockingham Counties.

I have had the pleasure of participating on a vocational task force this year. Employment for people with disabilities is an ongoing challenge, but we are up to the task. We have implemented the

supported employment evidence based practice and are looking ahead to other employment opportunities for our clients.

There are always obstacles, and the wait list continues to be a challenge. It is a central focus of our efforts. We are watching current legislation surrounding the wait list.

When I reflect on the past year, I do so with pride-for our organization, the people we serve, and our employees. We are moving forward in a changing world, and we do so with an unwavering commitment to our mission.



First Annual Employee Outing

From Michael Potter, Board President

It is easy to focus on the challenges we faced as we look back at the last fiscal year. Central among these was the increase in health insurance costs and its impact on our employees. For the first time, we were forced to ask employees to pay more out of pocket for health coverage. This was a necessary, but difficult, decision.

There was good news in the face of this challenge. Community Partners was able to offer a raise to our employees. The Board of Directors is committed to showing its appreciation to our employees. The first annual Employee Appreciation

Event was held in September. It was inspiring to see the camaraderie that emerged from this day. In June, we thanked over 80 Home Providers at their appreciation event. These individuals have opened their homes to the people we serve, and we are indebted to them.

The Board of Directors has increased its focus on fundraising in 2006 and has formed a Development Committee. Much has been accomplished in a short amount of time. The Spring Appeal met its goal and exceeded the amount

raised in the past two years. A Fall Appeal is due to go out this month. In March of 2007, Community Partners will sponsor a performance of *Fred Garbo Inflatable Theatre* at the Rochester Opera House. This is the agency's first major fundraising event.

This is an exciting time for our organization. I am fortunate to be a part of it, and am grateful for the opportunity to work with people who have such a high level of commitment to the people we serve.



The Dale J. Tedeschi Memorial Fund

The Dale J. Tedeschi Memorial Fund was created by a donor to honor Dale, who devoted his life to helping others. A native of New England, Dale began his career in residential care for developmentally disabled adults in Rhode Island and later moved to California where he continued his education at San Francisco State. For nearly a decade, Dale was the Director of Education and Vocational Services at Clausen House, a facility serving individuals with disabilities. During his tenure, he saw first hand

the benefit of education and training for staff. Dale dedicated his career to making educational opportunities for his staff a top priority.

Community Partners is committed to this vision. The skills and expertise of our staff are essential to our ability to provide the highest quality service for our consumers. Community Partners is dedicated to providing opportunities for staff to increase their knowledge and skills.

Our Goals

To promote learning for professionals working in the field of developmental disabilities and behavioral health services.

To encourage our staff to continue their education beyond annual trainings.

To provide funding to make higher education affordable.

The Board of Directors' Development Committee set a goal for the 2006 Annual Appeal. This goal was exceeded by over \$2000.

Community Partners Presents!

Community Partners will present *Fred Garbo Inflatable Theatre* on March 25, 2007 at 2:00 pm at the Rochester Opera House. Our first-ever arts initiative is a family-friendly show that will appeal to the people we serve and the community at large. By sponsoring a performance that appeals to all ages, Community Partners will have the capacity to reach a variety of Strafford County residents.

Our objective is to use the arts to create recognition of the agency by educating the community about Community Partners and its important work. Both the com-

munity and those served by the agency will have increased knowledge of the arts. For individuals who may not have had the opportunity to attend live theatre before, this endeavor will provide them with a new and enjoyable experience. Finally, the performance will integrate diverse groups of people in a community setting.

Special thanks to our sponsors, Liberty Mutual and the New England Foundation for the Arts.

Tickets: 603-335-1992



**"Helium light and hilarious!"—
The New York Times**

Sunday, March 25, 2007 2 PM

Rochester Opera House



Sarah & Jessie make birdfeeders at Apple Harvest Day in downtown Dover.

Our Successes...

- Implemented the Supported Employment Evidence-Based Practice.
- Increased focus on fire prevention and education.
- Held symposium for law enforcement at Frisbie Memorial Hospital.
- 155 DS clients were successfully enrolled in Medicare Part D prescription drug plans.
- All Directors attended Peer to Peer training.
- First Annual Employee Appreciation Event.
- Increased role of Self-Advocates Group in planning agency events.
- Perfect Certification in Early Supports and Services.
- 150 families received respite through Family Support.
- Participation in the Strafford County Mental Health Council.
- Members of the Alliance for Community Transportation (ACT).
- Clients placed at over 50 businesses in Strafford and Rockingham Counties.
- 487 home visits by DS Residential Program Coordinators to 70 different homes.
- 75 Summer Recreation Scholarships provided by Family Support.
- 15 clients attended the annual DS Case Management camping trip.
- Management Team participation in Outcomes Training.
- Successful performance of "There is A Tomorrow," a play depicting depression in older adults.
- Continuation of the Sibling Support Group.



Dwight & Todd fearlessly ride the roller coaster at Canobie Lake Park.

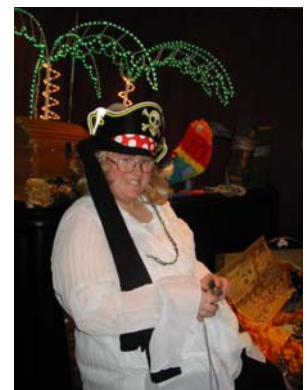
Community Partners served 3,408 individuals and families in Fiscal Year 2006. 2,745 people received behavioral health services and 663 received developmental services.



Ryan enjoys the pool in June at our Summer Outing held at The Works .



Employees from the Sheraton Hotel volunteer for the United Way Day of Caring & create a garden at Bunker Lane.



The Self-Advocates voted to have a Pirates of the Caribbean theme for this year's Oktoberfest.

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 Kate Webb

In-Kind Business Donors

Corporate Express
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 White Lake State Park



Community Partners' Executive Director Brian Collins checks out the loot at the ESS trick or treat event.

Our Mission

is to promote respect, wellness, full inclusion, & empowerment of individuals & their families who experience mental illness, emotional distress, developmental disability, chronic health need, or acquired brain disorder.

By identifying and creating opportunities for people, in close collaboration with a network of local agencies, we will promote independence and interdependence and help the people we serve to realize their maximum potential. We are committed to educate the community at large about our mission.

The agency will provide staff with opportunities for professional growth so they may contribute to the overall achievement of the agency's mission.



Early Supports & Services trick or treat at Crosby Road administrative offices.

Grants

The Agnes M. Lindsay Trust
 Liberty Mutual
 New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
 New Hampshire Charitable Foundation-Piscataqua Region
 New Hampshire Charitable Foundation-Philbrook Children's Fund
 State of New Hampshire-Office of Homeless, Housing, and Transportation Services

State of New Hampshire-Department of Transportation
 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
 Strafford County Commissioners
 United Way of the Greater Seacoast
 Community Development Block Grant-City of Dover
 National Cristina Foundation