

MANY THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS!

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**HANNAFORD**



# 2007 Annual Report

## The Progress Center



*Promoting the highest level of  
independence and personal  
freedom for individuals*

### Letter from the Executive Director

*"the price of greatness is responsibility".  
Winston Churchill*

*It is my goal at the Progress Center to build a team of great and responsible leaders. This in no way means we do not already have leaders, in fact I feel blessed to have inherited the team I have. However leadership expects continuous growth, an endless pursuit of what is new and better. We must not only accept change but expect that change is a necessary part of growth. Leadership demands that all parts of the organization see solutions and possibilities even in the face of adversity. It is not always easy and some days we fail but when a team of leaders pulls together the strength is in the whole not the individual. Leadership is within us all. If all of the people working at the Progress Center are supported and encouraged to move beyond the day to day tasks, to see the possibilities in each person they serve, to believe it is an honor to create opportunities for people to grow, to learn and to find real happiness we will experience greatness as an organization.*

*Of course we then must bear the responsibility of being great won't that will be a good lesson to learn? I look forward to the year ahead and thank all of you for your persistence and tenacity during the more difficult year behind us! Deb*

### Saying Goodbye...

In 2003 Ron Messoro was hired as the Executive Director of this agency. He came with energy, plans and hope for a great future. It was a sad day that he informed the board and staff that he was diagnosed with cancer. Ron left too soon and is remembered by many here fondly. We dedicate this annual report to his memory and say one last good bye. Thanks Ron



**Ron noted in his 2004 Annual Report:**  
**"Topping off a thirty-six year career in human services, I am so pleased to be able to report that  
 "I have saved the best for last".**

**OUR HISTORY AND BELIEFS**

The Progress Center has a long and proud tradition of supporting people with disabilities. In the seventies a small group of families began a day program for their adult children with developmental disabilities to promote socialization, continued education and employment training. In 1980 the organization formally incorporated as The Progress Center. Today the center serves over 200 adults and children with developmental disabilities. The Progress Center is dedicated to providing information, services and choices to individuals with disabilities and their families, which help them build a better life for themselves. At The Progress Center, we see ourselves as partners – partners with the people we serve and partners with other organizations and individuals, who collectively represent a network of resources for people with disabilities. Together, these partnerships form a powerful, nurturing environment of support that encourages individuals and their families to choose their own approach to enrich their lives.

Our mission *is to promote independence and freedom of choice for the individuals we serve.* Our core beliefs include that each person with a disability has a desire for a rich and varied life, including a physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual dimension. We also believe each person

What a fun time we had when the Commissioner came to visit our staff fun day. It was an honor and we all knew that she was impressed by the Progress Center staff who endured a tough year and never lost focus on the people served.



Look who is growing now!!!! This past year the Community Case Management team has experienced huge growth. We have more than tripled our numbers of people served in that department. We owe a great thanks to our case managers now led by Pam Williams.

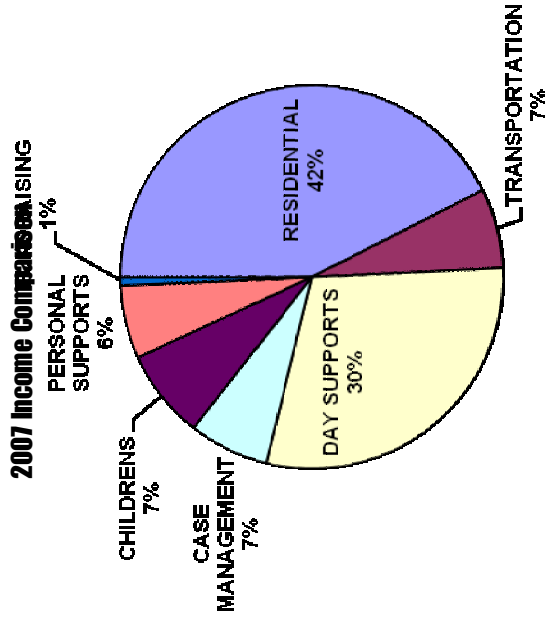


As always our Special Olympic team had a great time at this year's special Olympics. We were up against some tough competition and still brought home lots of ribbons. It was a fun event and as you can see smiles were in abundance!



At the Center we have many people who enjoy a mix of social activities. Some folks work part time and spend the rest of their days at volunteer or personal growth activities. We pride ourselves in finding each individuals interests, preferences and desires.





**Residential Services**

The homes have been at full capacity for the year. We have two new residents this past year. All of our homes got new furniture this year but it was the new grills for their cook outs that created the most happiness. The end of the summer ended with a lobster feed! One of the homes is also home to 7 chickens cared for by a resident, it is a good thing they get along with the resident cat! The homes also had a group holiday party in 2006 with everyone coming together at Cottage Street (saved on the clean up detail!) The homes enjoyed a great year.

**Shared Living**

This program places adults with disabilities in a home with a family in the community. The Progress Center contracts with 4 families in the Oxford Hills area to provide homes for individuals. The home provider receives training and regular support and the person served has the opportunity to live in a family setting in the community of his/her choice.

**Personal Supports**

Personal Supports provides one-on-one in-home supports to adults with mental retardation and/or autism who live in their own homes or with family members. Services are individualized to meet the needs of the person served and are primarily intended to provide support for the person to live as independently as possible. Some people need assistance with grocery shopping and meal planning; others need help advocating for themselves in the community; and others might need a staff person to accompany them to medical

**2007 Budget Highlights (Prior to Audit)**

|                  |                  |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <i>Income:</i>   |                  | <i>Expenses:</i> |                  |
| Residential      | 1,071,697        | Residential      | 1,055,568        |
| Day Services     | 914,975          | Day Services     | 1,079,516        |
| Case Mgt.        | 170,057          | Case Mgt.        | 127,309          |
| Children's       | 189,880          | Children's       | 187,974          |
| Per. Supports    | 155,058          | Per. Supports    | 151,643          |
| Misc. fund raise | 17,718           | Misc. fund raise | 17,718           |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>2,519,609</b> | <b>Total</b>     | <b>2,619,728</b> |
|                  |                  | <b>Loss</b>      | <b>(100,119)</b> |

### Targeted Case Management

Targeted Case Management has continued to be a strong program for the agency. Supporting children and families with specific case management needs. Our staff have strong skills in children's services and needs. In TCM it is critical that the case managers understand what services are available to families and children. These services are often the critical piece of support needed to help children stay at home and have success in their daily lives. This means working with other social service agencies, schools, local courts, and families. This has been a very successful year for TCM and we hope to expand in the year to come.

### Children's Services

The Progress Center staff support children in their homes everyday throughout the Greater Oxford area. The supports are often time limited, helping a child or a family through a difficult transition or situation. We have an extraordinary group of staff who work with these children and their families, often uncertain of the next commitment. The service has remained steady this past year.

### Day Services

Over the past year, the day program has remodeled the inside and outside of the building. We have taken on eleven new consumers, and hired five new staff. Four of them work directly with only one consumer, and one part time position.

We are actively participating in the Speaking Up For Us, and attended the annual SUFU conference in Bethel. Other activities that we have done are: Special Olympics (winter and Summer Games), Summer Splash and Camp Tall Pines (winter and Summer Camp).

We sold Christmas wreaths, which was a successful fundraiser. All the proceeds benefited to Consumer Activity Fund. We plan on doing the same fundraiser again this year.

We sent three staff to Portland, who became certified as Employment Specialists, and one staff was invited to attend classes through UMass, to become a job developer.

We volunteer at the following locations:

- Otis field Elementary School
- Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce
- Fare Share
- Norway Child Health Center
- Minot Elementary School
- Maine Veterans Home
- Universalist Church in Norway
- Stephen's Memorial Hospital
- Seniors Plus Shopping Program
- SPCA in Lewiston

### Community Case Management

Over the past year there have been many changes in CCM. The number of consumers served has tripled and several new staff have been hired. This program has the distinction as our fastest growing service. Recently a new leader of CCM has been hired; Pam Williams. It has been a great year.

COMING SOON.....

Keep an eye out for our new year with changed