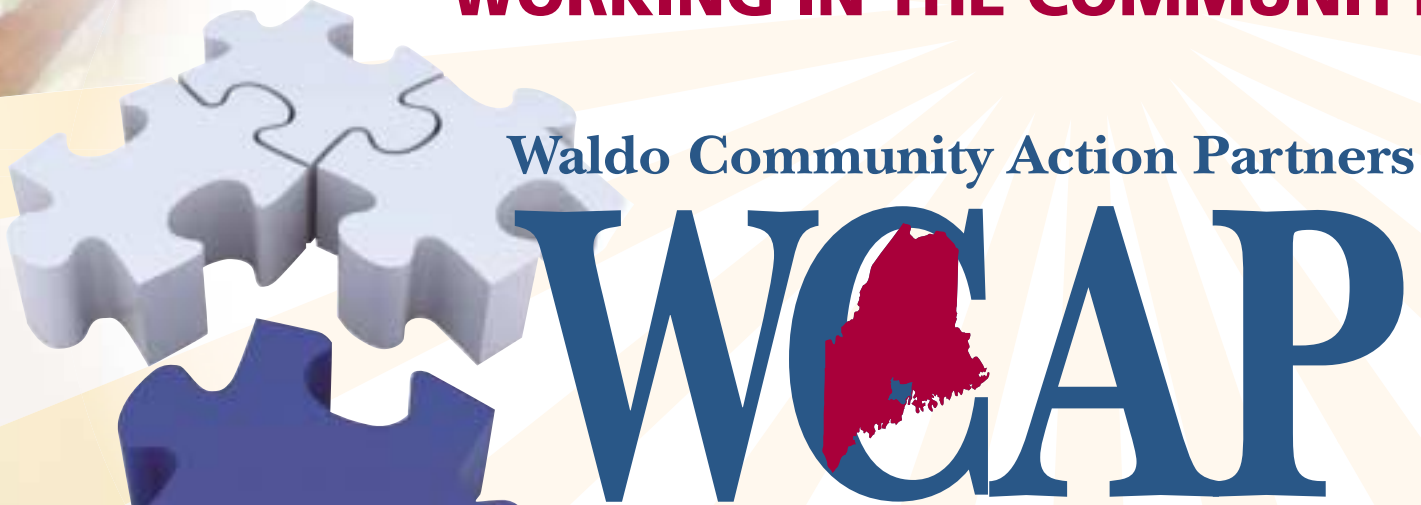




2011 ANNUAL REPORT

WORKING IN THE COMMUNITY

Waldo Community Action Partners



WCAP

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Welcome from Waldo Community Action Partners

By Joyce Scott, Executive Director and
Kate Miklovich, Chairperson

WALDO CAP

2010 has been an unprecedented year from the past ten years. WCAP had the opportunity, with ARRA funding from the federal government, to provide some new positions for a brief period of one year. This provided an opportunity for 12 new or continued jobs. We launched a new Early Head Start program with ARRA funding. We increased the Weatherization program to complete 120 additional houses this last year for a total of 200 homes weatherized in 2010.

We are now in the difficult position of working with budgets that are again being cut to levels below those that existed prior to the federal stimulus dollars, and many whose funding levels are remaining uncertain. Client concerns have been elevated as legislators have taken more time to determine the federal funding level. Worries over filling the oil tanks escalated all over the state before a decision to fund at last year's level was finally made. This is a *one-year* decision only.

We are sadly offering a story of salute for the valiant efforts of Paulette Brunetti and the Dental Project that has provided service in the county for the past 12 years. Paulette's position will be terminating at the end of February as we were unable to find the necessary resources that supported the schools and clinics to pay her salary. She truly has been a champion for the importance of dental health in Waldo County for young and old alike.

Transfer of leadership at the state level adds another level of uncertainty and budget shortfalls at the state level, intensifying the fear and stress that both clients and staff experience.

The board of WCAP has remained stalwart and determined to assure that every possible avenue is reviewed to continue providing

maximum levels of service and efficiencies for the families in the county.

The Thanksgiving and Christmas basket projects were the most successful ever, with a total of 1,795 baskets provided. The community has eagerly offered time and resources to assure the success of these projects year after year. Community groups such as the Belfast Rotary, Belfast Lions Club, Bank of America, and town fire departments are leaders in this event. The money man, Paul Garelli from People for People, continues to handle the funding by his fundraising efforts in the county. (See separate story.)

The Neighbor for Neighbor Coalition assures that no duplication occurs in these community projects. They are taking on the task of creating a stronger resource network within the county that will allow a "no wrong door" option for clients, as well as provide simplified resource information for towns, churches, and community groups. Community Action is Waldo County is alive and well. Neighbor for Neighbor honors the individual group commitments and comes together for the common good. Neighbor for Neighbor continues to grow and create value for the county residents.

We have successfully launched a new coalition within the county of some thirty key informants that are referred to as the Living Here Tomorrow Task Force. The first commitment of the group was to assist in the collection of data for a needs assessment that could be used by the service provider groups throughout the county. A key-informant survey was completed with nearly 200 responses and the group has now expressed an interest in transitioning to other possibilities to max-



Waldo CAP Executive Director Joyce Scott

imize services to families in the county. A formal decision regarding goals for the new year will be made in February and include networking, influencing public policy, leveraging funding for needed initiatives, and continuing to build an assets assessment of current services available. By identifying gaps in service, like-minded members will form leadership groups to explore new initiatives and alternatives.

WCAP is currently completing its revised community assessment and five-year plan. Spring will be the completion deadlines for these documents and they will be available on our Web site at www.waldocap.org in the Resources section. We continue to expect major changes in service delivery driven by changes in government regulation and funding. We are preparing a vision statement for WCAP that clarifies our direction for the future. We are committed to serve and are seeking ways to bring the community together to supply resources in those areas where government funds are less and the will of the people is more. Together we can continue to make a difference by creating opportunities for people to improve their quality of life.

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Teens get great memories through the

Cinderella Project

Teenage girls from over twenty Maine schools anxiously lined the wrap-around walkway of Renys Plaza in Belfast the morning of April 10 last year, all wanting to see the same thing: prom gowns—hundreds of them. It's called the Cinderella Project, and it's grown quickly. Last year, WCAP's board of directors voted, at the request of the Cinderella Project's planning committee chair, to take on the project as one of its own, allowing it a budget, administrative time, storage, and enabling it to receive donations.

"Some people think it's frivolous, but I feel like, when kids don't go because they don't have a dress, it really is like the 'haves' and 'have nots,'" said the project's planning committee chair, Mandie Sawyer, who has carried the project with her until finally finding it a stable home with WCAP. "Never is it more clear when one girl is spending five or six hundred dollars on a dress and one girl's not going because she doesn't have one."

During its first year, 2006, the Cinderella Project gave away 13 dresses, with more volunteers than recipients. The project grew every year, and provided dresses to 140 girls in 2010. Sawyer expects continued growth as more people learn about it. The girls come from all over Maine, and so do the donations: Last year, a girl from Falmouth organized a donation drive and showed up with 150 dresses.

The giveaway first outgrew the YMCA and then Belfast Area High

School. Last year, the Reny family, which had loaned dress racks to the project since 2007, donated the use of a vacant storefront in Renys Plaza in Belfast. The project will use that storefront again this year.

The project always needs more dresses, because even a 500-dress inventory isn't many when you consider the wide range of sizes needed. There are other donations gladly accepted too, such as shawls, purses, jewelry, and other accessories.

It's not easy dressing a community. The project is possible thanks to its tireless volunteers. Last year, two seamstresses, Pat Woodbury and Chele Leach, worked for four months fixing dresses, even bringing some to their weekly sewing club at the Morrill Grange and drafting others to help out. At the giveaway, they showed up with their sewing machines to alter dresses, fix minor flaws, or advise



BDN FILE PHOTO BY KEVIN BENNETT

Johanna Harvey, left, and Crystal White, right, students at Erskine Academy, look over prom dresses on Saturday, April 10, 2010 at the Cinderella Project in Belfast. The project gave away 140 dresses, and looks to increase that number in 2011.

Cinderella Project Planning Committee

Mandie Sawyer, Chair

Abby Leaming • Amber

Reynolds • Catherine Reynolds •

Chele Leach • Jessica Woods •

Kelly Horton • Kristy Richardson •

Pat Woodbury • Sarah Lawlor •

Sarah Martin • Tabitha Lowe

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whether a proposed alteration could be done.

The project also wouldn't happen without its many sponsors and countless businesses and individuals who have stepped up to help out. "It really is a community effort," said Sawyer.

The Cinderella Project has changed the lives of many girls. One dress in particular was displayed on a mannequin at Bangor Savings Bank in Belfast, where a girl saw it and fell in love with it. On the giveaway day, she was first in line, two hours before the doors opened, waiting for her perfect dress. Stories like these make the entire project very satisfying for Sawyer and the rest of the project's planning committee.

"It makes me feel like all the hard work was worth it," Sawyer said. "There is no feeling like see-

ing a girl come shyly out of the dressing room, and to see her face light up when everyone says 'Ooh, beautiful!' Knowing she potentially wouldn't have had that experience if we hadn't provided a dress for her makes me feel like a million bucks."

So in another five years, does Sawyer see the project with an inventory of 2,000 dresses and 800 girls on giveaway day?

"Wouldn't that be awesome?" she said with a big smile.

This year's giveaway is April 9, 2011 at Renys Plaza in Belfast. You can vote for the Cinderella Project through Bangor Savings Bank's Community Matters More program, which could win the program \$5,000. Visit CinderellaProjectMaine.webs.com.

CONGRATULATIONS
WALDO CAP

on Another Successful Year of
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From

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Waldo County food charities are vital to residents

By David M. Fitzpatrick
BDN SPECIAL SECTIONS

Waldo CAP is the official administrator of food through TEFAP, The Emergency Food Assistance Program, which involves a contract with the United States Department of Agriculture. WCAP works with eight food pantries and one soup kitchen in Waldo County, and every two months goes to Augusta to pick up food on their behalf.

Food pantries rely on this source of food, but it's not the only source. They also rely on private donations, as well as food purchased through the non-governmental Good Shepherd program. WCAP gets a small FEMA grant to help purchase this low-cost food on the pantries' behalf. "We send the money on behalf of our food pantries to Good Shepherd ... and the pantries can go to either Brewer or Auburn to shop for their food from Good Shepherd," said Kitty Doughty of WCAP, who manages the TEFAP program. "They get a huge discount."

In addition, food pantries often have fundraisers, with people and businesses donating food. Some donors initiate food drives to collect additional food. They also participate in the annual National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive, where United States Post Office letter carriers pick up food donations along their routes to donate to local food charities.

"We're just part of their support system ... to make sure there is food there for low-income households and it supplements their household food budget," Doughty said.

Doughty said the food distribution at the Augusta warehouse, on the Cony Road, happens with the hard work of six to eight residents from the Central Maine Pre-Release Center in Hallowell who work hard to load vehicles. "They're wonderful. I don't think we could do the program without them. I don't think we could load the trucks any more with the amount of food we're getting."



BDN FILE PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL CURTIS
Top: Barbara Horgan, the manager of the Belfast Soup Kitchen, is paid to work there 30 hours a week but often puts in 50 hours. "Most people who come in here are just wicked, wicked nice," she told the BDN last August. Above: Mary Edmunds of Searsmont had eaten lunch Thursday, Aug. 12, 2010 at the Belfast Soup Kitchen. "I think it's nice. Especially for people who ain't got so much,"

That's not the only way people in the correctional system help out. Residents from the early-release program through the Waldo County Sheriff's Department started a garden project last year on land provided by a farmer in Swanville, and donated the fresh

produce to a soup kitchen and several food pantries.

"It's important for people to know that these people who are giving out food ... really work hard at this," said Doughty. "It takes hard work, mileage, money ... and a lot of caring."

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AMVETS Memorial Post #150 - Theodore Van Duysen, 589-4218

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The Northport Food Pantry - Cleo Alley, 338-2868

Third Wednesday monthly, 7 a.m. – 11 a.m.

491 Atlantic Highway, Northport

Greater Belfast Area Ministerium Food Cupboard

Rev. David Abbott, 338-2882, 338-5575

Every other Friday, 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

United Methodist Church, Belfast

Jackson Church Food Pantry - Cindy Ludden

Third Thursday monthly, 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.

538 Village Road, Jackson

Emergencies: Donna Nickerson, 722-3205, 722-3373

Little River Baptist Church - Rev. Scott Baker, 338-1006, 338-0853

Earl Cushman, 338-2108

Second Wed monthly, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Bayside - Route 1, Belfast

The Neighbors Cupboard - Coleen Rancourt, 223-5726

Wednesdays, 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Calvary Apostolic Church, Route 1A, Winterport

Searsport Congregational and Methodist Church Food Cupboard

Sally Tripp, 223-4107; Ralph Harvey, 548-6204, 548-2448

First and third Saturday, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Main Street, Searsport, ME 04974

Belfast Soup Kitchen - Barbara Horgan, 338-4845

Monday-Friday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (noon meal)

9 Field St, Unit 224A, Belfast

Volunteer Regional Food Pantry - Richard and Mertice Moore

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NCUA

Lack of funding shutter successful dental program

By David M. Fitzpatrick
BDN SPECIAL SECTIONS

In 1999, a project to promote dental hygiene and dental education, and to provide low-cost dental services, began at Waldo County General Hospital. It moved to WCAP in 2001 and became enormously successful with its school-oriented programs and its dental-care programs for seniors, pregnant women, and young adults.

Unfortunately, this year the funding, and the program, will end. Paulette Brunetti, the program coordinator, is sad to see it go, but said that the program has accomplished a lot in its time.

"It's always been a struggle to try to keep it going, to get private grants for administration money," she said, and in fact ARRA funds helped with her salary last year. "This year, we just couldn't get any."

Brunetti has spent plenty of time in classrooms educating children, handing out booklets and pamphlets, and attending health fairs. It pays off for her every time excited children recognize her in public and proudly show her their



smiles.

"It makes you feel so good that your job can let you be able to do something for people, and [that] they are so appreciative," she said.

The program provided cleanings for pregnant women through the Healthy Mother/Healthy Baby Clinic. It's important for anyone, especially pregnant women, to keep their mouths healthy, as poor dental health can impact all parts of the body. A tooth infection, for example, can spread through the bloodstream to anywhere in the body.

The program also sponsored a clinic for young adults aged 18 to 25. "That's kind of an age group in between ... they're not covered under their parents or they don't live at home, but they're not making a big income, they normally don't have any kind of dental insurance," Brunetti said.

It's easy to think of the usual admonitions of "brush your teeth after every meal, floss regularly, and reduce sugars" as basic stuff. "But it's not basic to everybody," Brunetti said, and that's why she's

been crusading to educate and help others.

She remembers her mother telling her to brush her teeth, "But we must not have brushed too well, because we ended up with fillings," she said. "I believe that ... if you start with a child and you say it over and over and over, I think it eventually [becomes] an ingrained thing."

Brunetti spent 30 years as a veterinarian technician, which got her involved in animal dentistry. "People look at me strange and laugh, but the truth is, the basics are very much the same," she said. (The kids love that story, especially when she'd display a photo of her cleaning a dog's teeth.)

When she moved to Waldo County, she worked at a children's dental practice until it closed. Then she came to WCAP, armed with decades of dental knowledge and a passion for helping people practice good oral health.

"I've tried to make their education not just about brushing and flossing," she said. "We went through the whole gamut about the makeup of your tooth and the parts of it, the anatomy of it, and

things that happen to you if you don't take care of them."

Brunetti's job at WCAP ends with the funding, so she'll be leaving. But she won't forget how much fun she had with this program.

"It's given a lot to me," she said. "I've always been in kind of a work situation that had to do with helping ... so it's been very rewarding to me. And very frustrating, and very sad. Sometimes I've got really frustrated because you only have so much money and can only do so much."

Brunetti said the program's end represents a great loss to the community, because there are few options in Waldo County for dental care for people in need. But she hopes the school programs will continue in some way. "I feel positive that they'll come up with a way to continue the school programs," she said. "It's just going to take a little time and work, and they have a while to do that."

Paulette and WCAP would like to thank the many dentists and hygienists who have worked with the Waldo County Dental Project over the years.

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to
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Action Partners
on another year
of making a
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OTHER DENTAL RESOURCES

Dental Health Programs, Lincoln Hall, 29 Texas Avenue, University College, Bangor. Tel: 262-7872. Peggy Morse, peggym@maine.edu. Fees: Children to age of 13, \$24.00; 13 to adult, \$30.00.

Bucksport Regional Health Center, 110 Broadway, Bucksport. Tel: 469-2359, (800) 993-5990.

The Maine Coast Community Dental Clinic, 70 Kingsland Crossing, Suite A, Ellsworth. Tel: 667-0293. Web: www.downeasthealth.org/dental.html.

Donated Dental Services Program. Free care to needy, disabled, aged, and medically compromised individuals by dentists who volunteer their services. For an application, contact the referral coordinator at (800) 205-5615.

Senior-Dent. Reduced fees to low-income elderly patients 62 and older. Contact your local Area Agency on Aging for further information.

Other Suggestions. Other sources include public- or community-health nurses, local hospitals, other health providers, or health and social-services agencies in the area. Staffs at these agencies often have the best knowledge about what is currently available; for example, they often know who might be accepting new MaineCare patients. For those people who cannot afford to pay out of pocket, finding a way to pay for dental services is difficult. Options for financial assistance currently are extremely limited. Here are some suggestions:

- Ask active town health officers and/or town health councils for assistance in special circumstances.
- Approach local service clubs (such as the Kiwanis or Lions) about funding in individual cases.
- Ask town managers or town welfare directors about covering dental services under the General Assistance program.
- If you're currently receiving other kinds of services (vocational rehabilitation, welfare, employment training, etc.), consult the outreach worker to find out if dental care can be provided or funded as part of those services.

For more information, visit www.WaldoCAP.org.

People for People saves the day at holiday baskets

Waldo CAP is hailing People for People as literally saving the day with its 2010 holiday food baskets.

As a team, they offer two basket programs a year to provide food for needy families during the winter holidays. The first is WCAP's Thanksgiving-basket program, which runs in part thanks to a \$10,000 donation from People for People. The second is the Christmas-basket program, which People for People completely funds. WCAP manages the logistics of both projects.

However, the tough economy, reduced donations, and 125 more basket requests than ever before jeopardized the 2010 Thanksgiving program. So People for People, which had already donated its usual \$10,000, kicked in another \$3,200 to cover the shortfall. To PFP founder Paul Garelli, it was an easy decision, as he has championed these programs for a long time. "It's my personal commitment to the county," said Garelli.

Garelli began his original program, working out of his garage, 25 years ago after being inspired by a financially struggling acquaintance who nevertheless donated her time and resources to those who were in need. But about six years ago, the project outgrew the garage, and Garelli was overwhelmed. He asked WCAP to take over management of the project.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WCAP
Below right: Paul Garelli, founder of People for People, presents two checks to WCAP Executive Director Joyce Scott. The first check is the usual \$10,000 donation PFP makes to the Thanksgiving baskets; the other is the additional \$3,200 he kicked in to bolster the program, which fell short on donations last year.



BANGOR DAILY NEWS PHOTOS BY DAVID M. FITZPATRICK
Top, left and right: Volunteers slide boxes down the circle of tables as other volunteers toss food in at dozens of stations. Middle right: An ambulance is packed to the rafters with food baskets, which the crew will then deliver around their town.



Today, PFP operates the Web site, programs the database, and fundraises for the Thanksgiving and Christmas projects. WCAP handles data entry, maintains referral applications, purchases food, arranges volunteers, runs the two boxing events, and works with local fireman and volunteers to coordinate deliveries.

When PFP and WCAP first partnered, WCAP's Thanksgiving program served about 90 families. The consolidation with PFP's database saw that jump to 600, necessitating increased fundraising. PFP handles that, in addition to contributing every dollar WCAP needs to fund the Christmas project — which is about twice the size of the Thanksgiving version.

"I've always come up with the funds so that, no matter what it costs, no one would ever be turned

down," Garelli said. "No one ever has for the last 25 years."

In that time, PFP has raised over \$693,000, and every dime has gone directly to food and sometimes clothing and Christmas gifts for children. Garelli's business, Center Point Large Print, which was named the number-four "Best Places to Work in Maine" small business in 2010, covers all advertising and operating costs.

But while Center Point contributes some money, "For the most part it's all businesses and individuals in Waldo County, plus a few out-of-staters," Garelli said. "No grants or government monies whatsoever — a real grassroots effort."

Garelli said that combining PFP's and WCAP's strengths result in good things happening every year. "The food-boxing parties are

great, especially with the young kids getting an opportunity to learn how to give and become volunteers," he said. "And over the years, many of the recipients in the past actually become volunteers, turn out to help fill and deliver the boxes, which boosts their self-esteem."

Garelli stressed that these annual events are never easy. "Each year it's a major struggle to come up

with the funds, and Joyce [Scott, executive director] at WCAP gets frenzied," he said. "But I always tell her, 'Don't worry, be happy!' After six years, she is beginning to believe it."

In 2010, WCAP and PFP provided 725 food boxes for Thanksgiving and 1,070 food boxes for Christmas to Waldo County residents in need.

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Volunteer drivers make a difference for many people

By Greg Westrich

Across Waldo County, a group of approximately 24 volunteer drivers shuttle those in need to their doctors' appointments or on errands. 18 of those drivers were recipients of the Presidential Award last year for their volun-



If you have a car, some free time, and are at least 25, WCAP could use your help. Become a volunteer driver, and help get people where they need to go. You'll get reimbursed for your mileage, and you'll get the satisfaction of helping others.

teer hours, which total up to be quite a lot. In 2010, WCAP's volunteer drivers drove 953,938 miles total. The drivers use their own cars, donate their time, and receive a mileage reimbursement to help offset costs of operating their vehicle, such as the cost of gas, oil, and maintenance. Without these volunteers, many needy

and elderly residents would have no way to get to doctors' appointments or even to the grocery store. In a part of our state with limited public transportation, volunteer drivers fill a critical need. Waldo Community Action Partners runs the program, and also operates the county's only bus service.

Rose Cardinale of Swanville spent 1,341 hours in her Hyundai Santa Fe last year as one such volunteer. She drives three days each week, but has driven as many as five days when needed. She doesn't anticipate slowing down any time soon. "I thoroughly enjoy it," said Cardinale, who doesn't even mind winter driving. "It's heartwarming."

Cardinale drives eight or nine hours on a typical day, taking several people to their destinations. For trips greater than 90 minutes — such as to Bangor — she waits in her car to take the person back home. On those trips she takes along a book or her laptop to keep occupied while waiting for her clients.

For years, she and her husband



BDN PHOTO BY DAVID M. FITZPATRICK

Volunteer drivers are vital for getting clients to and from appointments on time. But WCAP also operates a regular low-cost bus service, which anyone can use, with routes covering Waldo County and going as far as Waterville, Augusta, and Bangor.

had volunteered around their children's athletic and community activities; after the children were grown, Cardinale began "trying to figure out something I could do." With a laugh, she added: "I have limited abilities." Three years ago she began driving for WCAP. Since

then, she has logged thousands of hours in her car. Cardinale said it never gets boring. "It's such an eye opener," she said. "I meet so many people."

Volunteer Drivers

- Herman Barr Jr., *Belfast*
- Tammy Barr, *Belfast*
- Theresa "Kim" Bradford, *Clinton*
- Rose Cardinale, *Swanville*
- Bob Caswell, *Fairfield*
- David Chaney, *Searsport*
- William "Butch" Conroy, *Unity*
- Stanley Desjardins, *Northport*
- Donald Dunton, *Belfast*
- Jacqueline "Jackie" Emery, *Montville*
- Richard Greiner, *Northport*
- Neal Harkness, *Belfast*
- Donald "DJ" Harriman Jr., *Montville*
- Philip Heroux, *Belfast*
- Pat Hustus, *Belfast*
- John Lacasse, *Belfast*
- Eric Lavin, *Winterport*
- Sharon McCarren, *Newport*
- James McDevitt, *Liberty*
- Harland Nickerson, *Belfast*
- Regina Panczyk, *Troy*
- Paula Roberts, *Brooks*
- Ken Small, *Belfast*
- Don Smith, *Waldo*
- Darlene Sylvester, *Belfast*
- Rayola Welch, *Clinton*

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LHT assessing the entire Waldo County community

The Living Here Tomorrow Task Force

Linda Baker, QA Specialist, Broadreach Family & Community Svcs.

Dan Bennett, Director of Ops., Waldo County Healthcare

Jason Bosco, Detective, Waldo County Sheriff's Department

Nancy Boyington, Asst. Dir., University of Maine - Hutchinson Center

Linda Buckmaster, Employment & Training Coordinator, Women, Work and Community

Deb Burwell, Partner, Paddling the Rapids

Dale Cross, Executive Director, Waldo County YMCA

Juliane Dow, Community Volunteer

Mary Frenning, Community Volunteer

Elinor Goldberg, Executive VP, Maine Children's Alliance

Jane Haskell, Extension Educator, University of Maine Coop. Ext.

Mike Hurley, City Councilor, Belfast

Jennifer Gunderman-King, Maine CDC and Prevention / DHHS

Meg Klingelhofer, Education Director, New Hope for Women

John Krueger, Selectman, Liberty

Arlin Larson, Secretary, Belfast Ministerium

Martha Marchut, Chief Clinical Officer, Mid-Coast Mental Health Ctr.

Bruce Mailloux, Superin., RSU #20

Jane McLaughlin, Municipal Clerk, Town of Brooks

Margaret Micolichek, Exec. Dir., The Restorative Justice Project

Kim Mitchell, Board Member, WCAP

Shelia Muldoon, Supervisor, Youth Services, Goodwill Workforce Solutions

Leslie Mulhearn, Senior Director, Community Based and Crisis Services, Sweetser

Heather Perry, Superin., RSU #3

Vyvyenne Ritchie, Program Administrator, Healthy Waldo County

Lori Roming, Research and Program Officer, Unity Foundation

Karen Saum, Community Volunteer

Joyce Scott, Exec. Dir., WCAP

Peter Taylor, VP - Program Development and Grantmaking Services, Maine Community Fdn.

Sara Trunzo, Food and Farm Projects Coordinator, Unity College

Mike Weaver, Board Member, WCAP

Alan Wood, Board Member, WCAP

Nina Young, Lands Project Coordinator, Maine Farmland Trust

By David M. Fitzpatrick

BDN SPECIAL SECTIONS

WCAP is focused on serving the needs of low-income members of Waldo County, but the agency has engaged in a county-wide partnership with key stakeholders to consider the entire community's well-being by assessing needs and strengths.

The group is called Living Here Tomorrow, and it's looking ahead to the future instead of reacting only to the present.

"The purpose, originally, was to have the community assist in working on needs assessment in Waldo County. The networking and linkages immediately provided evidence of the value of coming together," said WCAP Executive Director Joyce Scott.

Community members committed to six months to launch the LHT Task Force, and 30 or so of the people invited to participate on the LHT Task Force did just that. The group included a wide range of participants including WCAP, the University of Maine, the Waldo County Sheriff's Department, Waldo County General Hospital, Women Work & Community, the Maine Children's Alliance, and many more. It included volunteers, lawyers, a school superintendent, banking professionals, and others. Everyone contributed information from difference perspectives, which Scott says is vital.

"We all have our issues from the different seats we're sitting in," she

said. "I think [the group] could be a real vehicle for influencing public policy... I think it has a huge possibility for people coming together in new and different ways that we likely can't even think about at this point."

A community-needs assessment is nothing new to WCAP. Two of their federal funding sources — Head Start, which provides early education to needy children, and

ly, that there was little discussion of drug-related crime, schools (positive or negative), or housing.

Along with the focus groups, WCAP gathered raw data through surveys of community members to identify key informants, with the help of 22 data-gathering groups — WCAP, fire chiefs, town selectmen, faith leaders, the Chamber, etc. Task Force members occasionally asked for follow-ups. The sur-

access to health care, more groups to address economic-development issues, and a more responsive government that invited participation.

The focus groups and surveys defined many things across a wide range of categories, providing the Task Force with a gold mine of information. The Task Force identified seven key areas of overall concern that should be addressed first: poverty, the economy, housing, education, health, public safety, and children/Head Start, in that order. Plenty of other important factors remain on the table.

In 2011, Scott hopes LHT will complete a thorough, thoughtful assessment and delve into creating solutions for some of Waldo County's biggest problems. And she has high hopes for what the LHT can accomplish. If knowledge plus action equals power, the LHT group clearly has a potential for a lot of power.

"I think the sky's the limit," she said. "I really think it's big in terms of possibility. And I think we could use a little possibility."

"I think the sky's the limit. I really think it's big in terms of possibility. And I think we could use a little possibility."

-Executive Director Joyce Scott, WCAP

Community Services Block Grant, which allocates other social-service funding — require it. WCAP generally does a basic assessment every year, with a more robust study every third year. But LHT looks to take that assessment many steps further.

The goal: Get a snapshot of the community as a whole through targeted focus groups. LHT hired facilitator Deb Burwell to do eight focus groups, but Scott said Burwell's excitement led her to do another 10 gratis. The focus groups revealed five critical categories involving the lack of jobs, the impact of lack of good wages and benefits, the impact of multi-generational poverty, the increase of substance abuse, and efficient infrastructure to support change. Those five areas included 22 specific areas and other finer points, as well as a few surprises — name-

veys covered nearly 200 people in 26 Waldo County communities and some outside the county.

The three key points that most agreed on was that Waldo County was a safe place to live, a good place to raise a family, and is appreciated for its natural beauty. But respondents recognized that Waldo County needed better



"The staff are so kind... you can see it in their eyes."

*Kno-Wal-Lin home hospice patient
Peg Golden with her daughter
Joanne Billington*

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Two families' experiences with Early Head Start

By Greg Westrich

On September 13, 2010, Mackenzie Simmons became the first baby born into the Waldo Community Action Partners Early Head Start program. Her mother, Heather LeBlanc, had used the program's prenatal care, and, after Mackenzie's birth, EHS served both the parents and the child.

As Mackenzie grows, she will be eligible to participate in various EHS programs, such as weekly "socializations" with other babies. LeBlanc and her daughter now receive weekly visits from an EHS caseworker armed with information, ready to answer any questions the new mother might have. LeBlanc says that, "parenting is mostly common sense," but still takes all the available pamphlets and looks forward to the weekly visits, which she finds reassuring.

When she's 3, Mackenzie will



PHOTO COURTESY OF WCAP
Baby Mackenzie Simmons with her dad, Chris Simmons, and her mom, Heather LeBlanc. Mackenzie became the first baby born into the WCAP Early Head Start program.

begin Head Start. LeBlanc had been in Head Start as a child. She is excited for her daughter to have "more than a babysitter." Research has shown that children who participate in Head Start, or similar preschool programs, do better in

school throughout their lives. WCAP's EHS program helps families have healthy babies who go on to be successful children.

Katherine Paige, whose three children have all been in either the EHS or Head Start programs,

called it a "wonderful experience." In spring 2007, Paige enrolled her oldest daughter in Head Start. The very shy Paige often watched Deziray from the corner of the room with infant Elyza-Star in her arms. At the suggestion of a WCAP employee, Paige began attending the monthly Parents Group meeting. She said she "wanted to learn more...wanted the knowledge." Mostly she listened, but eventually she became an active participant. When the next election of officers came around, Paige became the group's chairperson.

That led to an invitation to represent Head Start on WCAP's Policy Council. Paige began speaking up, making suggestions, assisting with recruiting, and making recommendations. In 2008 she became Policy Council chairperson. Her husband, Paul, joined the council as well, and the couple represented WCAP at an out-of-state conference.

About the time WCAP was

awarded the grant that enabled the organization to begin the EHS program, the Paiges found out they were expecting a third child. The new baby was one of the first enrolled in the program.

Katherine's involvement with WCAP continued to grow. As chairperson of the Policy Council, she was expected to participate in WCAP board meetings, representing the interests of the Head Start and EHS programs. Now, after four years of active participation and three children to care for, Paige says it was time to just be a parent again. She remains the alternate community representative on the WCAP board and often participates as a parent with the Parent Group and the Policy Council.

Paige is now active with Deziray's Girl Scout troop and school activities. When asked how her participation had changed her, Paige said, "It got me out of my shell."

Early Head Start program benefits from ARRA expansion grant

WCAP has received an Early Head Start ARRA Expansion Grant, which allows Waldo County Head Start to offer services to families who are expecting, or who have children who are under age 3, with 50 slots funded.

Home-based services are the heart of the program. They have four home visitors who each see 10-12 children ages 6 weeks to age 3. Their Early Head Start nurse offers in-home services for up to five pregnant moms and/or infants to 6 weeks. The number of pregnant women being served fluctuates since at any given time they are delivering. The families participating in the home-based program are

invited to attend their socialization groups, held in two locations in Waldo County, one at the Belfast Head Start site and the other at the former Unity Elementary School. The socializations offer families times to meet and learn about their children's development, and for the children to interact.

The additional five slots are for families with infants or toddlers who need daycare services; Mill Lane Child Care Center, run by their collaborative partner, Broadreach, serves those children. These children receive Early Head Start services as part of their child-care experience and receive family support services through a family

advocate.

Why Early Head Start? What's so important about offering services to children so young or to pregnant moms? Research shows that the first three years of life are critical to healthy brain development. Studies reveal that children's early language development sets the stage for early literacy and school success (EHS Evaluation Report, April 2006). Children who are exposed to language whether it is through books, songs, finger plays, or conversation, score much higher and do better in school. Literacy therefore is a strong component to the services provided by Early Head Start.

Other skills offered support physical, social, and problem-solving development. Families play an integral role in the home-based services. Parents are seen as their children's primary teachers and actively participate in goal setting and working with their children between the home visits. Through this process, parents gain a better understanding of their children's development and become active participants in their children's edu-




cation. These skills will serve them while the child participates in the program and in the public schools.

All parents are encouraged to attend parent meetings held at their local Head Start centers. They are also invited to participate on Policy Council, WCAP's board of directors; they currently have three EHS parents who are doing so. There is a representative from each socialization site as well as one from the Mill Lane child-care option.

Since they have been providing EHS services, they have accomplished two milestones. The first is the birth of their first EHS baby. The second is the first transition from our Early Head Start program to our Head Start preschool program. They are excited to see the impact that their program has had on the community in the short time it has been in place and look forward to sharing more accomplishments with you next year.

Healthy Waldo County

As part of the Healthy Maine Partnerships, Healthy Waldo County, works to promote healthier lifestyles through community involvement. The partnerships work on five main areas of health promotion; Tobacco, Substance Abuse, Nutrition, Physical Activity/Sun Safety, and Chronic Disease in the areas of: Early Detection and Access to Self-Management Supports. Please contact us, 207-930-6761, if you have interest in helping promote the work of prevention in any of these areas.



Healthy Waldo County

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Fax: 207-338-6207
Email: vritchie@wchi.com
website: www.healthywaldocounty.org

A Local Healthy Maine Partnership

Neighbor for Neighbor is educating and mobilizing

Over five years ago, after a budget meeting of the FEMA board of directors for Waldo County resulted in a resounding outcry for the duplicating of holiday services to be addressed, the Neighbor for Neighbor Coalition was created.

N4N is a clearinghouse of local social-service providers that centralizes resources during the holidays; instead of those in need sometimes receiving the same service from multiple groups in the county who provide holiday projects, they now connect with all resources through one shared N4N Coalition application. In summary, N4N reduces system scamming — when people get duplicate services at the expense of others who may get nothing.

The coalition includes 27 partners, including groups who provide holiday projects, and many referral agents in the community who are key to getting N4N applications to those in need.

Referrals come from counselors, churches, schools, medical professionals, town offices, and other social-service agencies. For example, Ellie Weaver's job as the nurse

at Troy Howard Middle School in Belfast gives her a keen visibility of needy children that others might not have, and she can make referrals through the coalition network that help families that may be unaware of such options.

"There are people who will do things for people in this town. It's pretty amazing."

-Ellie Weaver

"Neighbor for Neighbor was [designed] to bring all those people together under one roof," Weaver said.

With federal dollars drying up, N4N has agreed to take on a new, expanded role. Their goal is to build a referral network to better inform the community of ways to access local resources year-round. "These needs are not just at the holiday time," said Weaver.

The Neighbor for Neighbor Coalition will begin meeting to develop a referral network in the spring of 2011, in hopes of creating a feeling of "no wrong door" in Waldo County. Their first project will be a 2-4 sided referral sheet that groups resources by type (i.e. clothing, heat, food, dental, etc.) and be made available to bus drivers, churches, local businesses, and any other group or individual who is often times faced with having to assist an individual in finding direction toward filling their individual needs.

Through the many social-service organizations in Waldo County, there are many options, and Neighbor for Neighbor will work to solidify a network through which anyone can find what they need. The ultimate goal will be to bring Waldo County residents to a place where they can find their way and feel assured by the referrals they have been given.

"There are people who will do things for people in this town," Weaver said. "It's pretty amazing. And it doesn't take much to rally them once you get them going."

The Neighbor for Neighbor Coalition

Bank of America
Belfast Co-Op
Belfast Soup Kitchen
Belfast United Methodist Church
Broadreach Family & Community Services
Crossroads to Calvary / Salvation Army
First Church of Belfast UCC
Lincolville Central School
Maine Families
MidCoast Christian Fellowship
MSAD #3
Neighbors Cupboard
People for People
Belfast Rotary
RSU #20 - Belfast Area High School
RSU #20 - Elementary Schools
RSU #20 - THMS
Searsport Lions Club
Searsport Food Cupboard
Senior College
Spectrum Generations / TRIAD
Swanville Community Church
Volunteer Regional Food Pantry
Waldo County Head Start
WC Kiwanis Club
WCAP
Wings of Love

WALDO COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERS - WALDO COUNTY HEAD START REPORT

Each Head Start agency must make available to the public an annual report that discloses the following information from the most recently concluded fiscal year. During the program year covering September 1, 2009 - August 31, 2010, Waldo County Head Start:

- Total amount of public and private funds received and the amount from each source:

State DHHS Revenue	.....\$233,051.00
Medicaid Carryover	.....\$37,803.60
MSAD #3 Revenue	.....\$19,080.06
MSAD #22 Revenue	.....\$6,026.08
Federal	.....\$1,118,644.29
Federal COLA	.....\$88,481.00
Training	.....\$17,476.00
Town Funding	.....\$18,962.00
In-Kind	.....\$358,900.20
Head Start Body Start	.....\$4,907.00
Early Head Start	.....\$533,552.83
In-Kind	.....\$2,622.40
- In 2009 Head Start lost \$9,000.00 in State Funds.
- 2009 is the last year that Head Start received

Medicaid Funding

- 15% of Federal Head Start funds used to support administrative services. 85% used to support direct services to provide child development programming.
- Total number of children and families served: 197 (HS) 50 (EHS)
- Average monthly enrollment: 182 (HS) 41 (EHS)
- Head Start eligible children served living in Waldo County: 98% (HS) 100% (EHS) Results of most recent financial audit:
 - No audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with Circular A-1-33, Section .510(a)
 - WCAP qualified as low risk auditee
- Percentage of enrolled children who received medical exams: 95% (HS) 61% (EHS)
- Percentage of enrolled children who received dental exams: 91% (HS) 2% (EHS)
- During the 2009-2010 year, Head Start families took part in a number of parent involvement activities including the participating in Center Parent Groups and Head Start Policy Council, and as volunteers in classrooms, kitchen and on field trips and buses representing a total of 7,174.50 volunteer hours. Jeannine Fitzgerald

provided a special parent training event on the topic of "Parents Understanding Their Child's Behavior". Parents also participated on the Health Advisory Committee and the Annual Self Assessment process.

Waldo County Head Start is committed to providing successful transitions for children and their families from Head Start into public elementary school. Waldo County Head Start partnered with SAD #3, RSU # 20, SAD # 22 and with Broadreach to provide Pre-K programs in Belfast, Searsport, Unity, and Winterport. Skills that are taught to prepare our Head Start children for public school include school readiness skills such as letter recognition, letter sounds, numbers along with the necessary social skills to support a smooth transition. Additional activities to support children and families include visits from the Kindergarten teachers to the Head Start classrooms, field trips to their anticipated classrooms and when possible rides on the public school busses. Head Start teachers and family support staff also worked with families individually to answer questions and offer assistance during the transition process.

HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL 2010-2011

V = Voting; A = Alternate

BELFAST PROGRAMS

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Kristi Jackson (V) Secretary

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Ashley Hoffman (V)

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Ashley Quimby (V)
Donna Fletcher (A)

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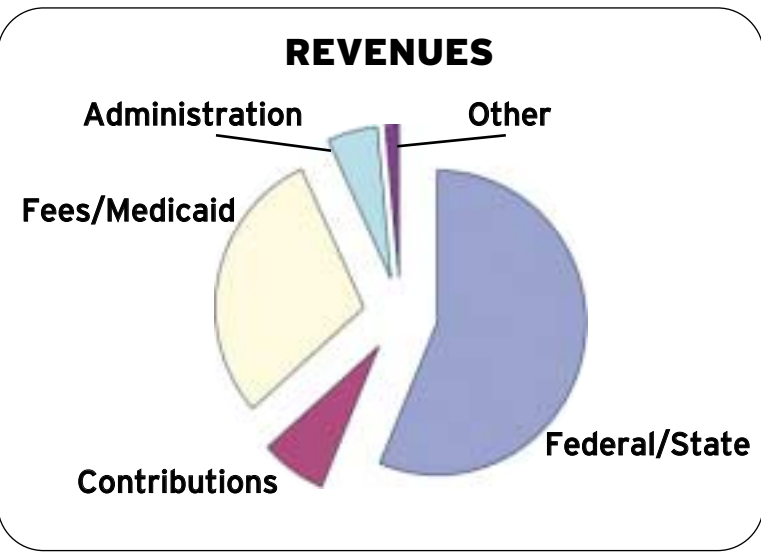
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WALDO COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERS 2010 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST

Summary of Services Report Period, October 1, 2009 to September 3, 2010

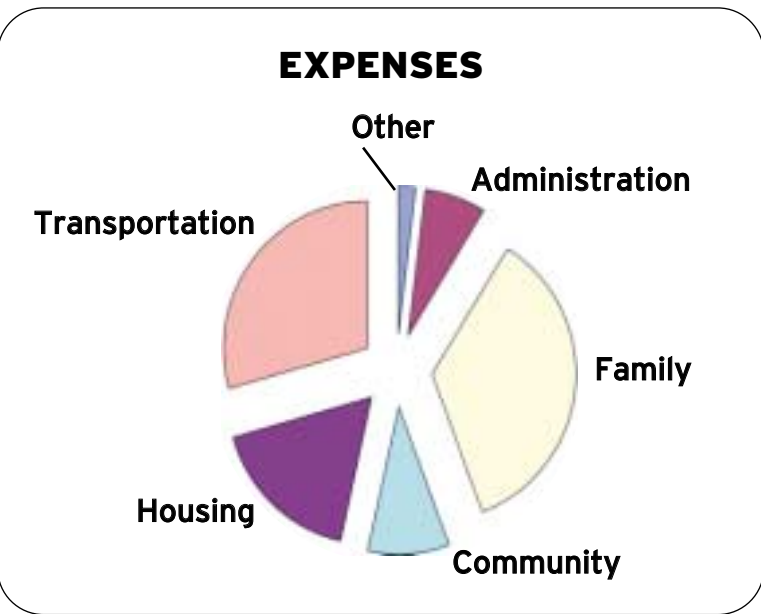
WALDO COUNTY

Program Services Provided	Number Served		Dollar Value of Service	2010 Financial Request	
Transportation	2,842,584 736	Waldo Vehicle Miles Out of County Miles	Operating Inkind Total	\$1,820,628.00 \$182,281.00 \$2,002,909.00	\$60,085.00
Home Energy Assistance (HEAP)	3,034 6,737	Households Individuals	Operating Benefit Amount Total	\$133,291.00 \$2,554,776.00	\$53,762.00
Energy Crisis Intervention (ECIP)	269	Households	Operating Benefit Amount Total	\$- \$79,497.00 \$79,497.00	\$1,825.00
Head Start and Child Nutrition	268 268	Households Individuals	Operating Inkind Total	\$1,474,069.00 \$358,901.00 \$1,832,970.00	\$36,660.00
Weatherization	200 371	Households Individuals	Operating Benefit Amount Total	\$366,396.00 \$1,013,251.00 \$1,379,647.00	\$27,592.00
Home Repair	10 25	Households Individuals	Operating Loan Amount Total	\$29,766.00 \$153,887.00 \$183,653.00	\$3,674.00
Donated Commodities (TEFAP/FEMA)	1,177 3,040	Households Individuals (monthly, not annually)	Operating Food Value Total	\$6,199.00 \$108,527.00 \$114,726.00	\$2,346.00
Central Heating Improvement (CHIP)	91 Households 207 Individuals		Operating Benefit Amount Total	\$23,870.00 \$97,980.00 \$121,850.00	\$2,756.00
Early Head Start	46 Individuals 54 Visits	Operating	\$147,782.00	\$2,955.00	
			Total	\$147,782.00	
			TOTAL	\$8,551,101.00	\$191,655.00



WALDO COUNTY

Program Services Provided	Number Served	Dollar Value of Service	2010 Financial Request
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)		\$235,700.00	\$18,507.00
County Wide Services Under Community Services Block Grant			
Keeping Seniors Home	103 Households	Received the combined services of several programs	
Electric Lifeline Program (ELP)	1092 Households		\$412,752.00
Child Care Food Program	26 Homes/140,773 Served		\$164,954.00
Dental Project	97 Households/118 Served		\$12,881.00
Appliance Replacement Program	27 Households		\$11,278.00
Keep Me Warm	60 Households		\$14,291.00
Credit Assistance	3 Households		\$8,400.00
Safety Seat Program-Seats	129 Car Seats		\$7,740.00
Safety Seat Program-Checks	114 Safety Checks		\$2,280.00
Holiday Projects			\$54,783.00
700 Families received Thanksgiving Baskets			
1100 Families received Christmas Baskets			
		Total	\$689,359.00
Ongoing Initiatives			
Neighbor for Neighbor Clearing House for 1142 Families			
Updated Community Assessment			
"Where in Waldo" Website			
		TOTAL	\$925,059.00
		GRAND TOTAL	\$9,476,160.00
			\$210,162.00



WCAP AUDIT REPORT FOR 2008 AND 2009

ASSETS	2009			2008		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
CURRENT ASSETS						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$4,919	\$316,183	\$321,102	\$38,001	\$361,050	\$399,051
Accounts receivable	42,581	-	42,581	22,410	-	22,410
Grants receivable	648,508	-	648,508	459,734	-	459,734
Loans receivable - deferred	-	160,182	160,182	-	162,247	162,247
Loans receivable - repayable	-	18,211	18,211	-	19,178	19,178
Prepaid expenses	37,592	-	37,592	33,298	-	33,298
Total current assets	733,600	494,576	1,228,176	553,443	542,475	1,095,918
FIXED ASSETS						
Land	12,200	-	12,200	12,200	-	12,200
Buildings and improvements	131,899	-	131,899	131,899	-	131,899
Furniture and equipment	130,048	-	130,048	130,048	-	130,048
Vehicles	668,589	-	668,589	668,589	-	668,589
	942,736	-	942,736	942,736	-	942,736
Less: accumulated depreciation	(855,946)	-	(855,946)	(816,442)	-	(816,442)
	86,790	-	86,790	126,294	-	126,294
TOTAL ASSETS	820,390	494,576	1,314,966	679,737	542,475	1,222,212
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS						
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Accounts payable	142,293	-	142,293	64,441	-	64,441
Accrued payroll & compensated absences	51,937	-	51,937	100,595	-	100,595
Payroll taxes & accrued other	7,549	-	7,549	6,885	-	6,885
Current portion of long-term debt	5,500	-	5,500	10,162	-	10,162
Deferred revenue	-	326,621	326,621	-	223,868	223,868
Advances	-	46,020	46,020	-	131,731	131,731
Escrows Payable	169,113	-	169,113	186,771	-	186,771
Total current liabilities	376,392	372,641	749,033	368,854	355,599	724,453
NET ASSETS	443,998	121,935	565,933	310,883	186,876	497,759
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND ASSETS	\$820,390	\$494,576	\$1,314,966	\$679,737	\$542,475	\$1,222,212

