

# The COASTAL OPPORTUNITIES

*The late George Robishaw, one of the original Knox County advocates of education and training for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, and a longtime board member of Coastal Opportunities, proudly assessed the organization as “one of the best organized and operated programs in the state.” Surely he would be pleased today to see how the leadership and staff of Coastal Opportunities have changed the lives of hundreds of individuals in our community.*

- **1971:** Mid-Coast Activities Center, on Free Street in Camden, provided the first sheltered-workshop environment for adults with developmental disabilities. Robert Mindell was the director. (It later evolved into the Coastal Workshop and then Coastal Opportunities.)
- **1974:** Thomas Corcoran welcomed as Executive Director of Coastal Workshop
- **1975:** Coastal Workshop participants begin to use a few rooms in a Limerock Street (Camden) building owned by Tibbetts Industries
- **1975:** First Cash for Clothes Sale, to benefit Coastal Workshop
- **1977:** Camden Association for Handicapped Citizens (formed in 1951), with assistance from the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA), purchases entire Tibbetts Industries building for use as a workshop with contracts from local businesses
- **1981:** Jim McBrien becomes Coastal Workshop director and establishes the Coastal Redemption Center, a work option for clients and a gift to the environment
- **1984:** Joseph Curll welcomed as Executive Director of Coastal Workshop
- **1986:** Vera Brandes Home opens in Thomaston, the organization's first group home (for six residents)
- **1989:** Katherine Brown Home, an ICF-IID home for eight residents, opens in Hope, with Kay Brown's son as one of the residents





# Timeline at FIFTY YEARS!



- **1993:** George Robishaw Home opens on Rankin Street in Rockland
- **1997/98:** Shirley Drinkwater Home, a duplex on Meadow Street in Rockport, opens for four residents
- **1998:** Julia Spear Payne Apartments, providing supported living for two residents on Limerock Street in Camden, opens
- **1999:** Annette Overlock Home, on Canns Beach Road in Owls Head, opens for three residents
- **2005:** Jenkins Home, a one-story duplex on Rankin Street in Rockland, opens for four residents
- **2009:** Coastal Workshop renamed Coastal Opportunities, to better reflect the activities and goals of the organization, including more community integration
- **2009:** Coastal Opportunities headquarters on Limerock Street in Camden renamed the Thomas F. Corcoran Center
- **2015:** The Worthington Home, an independent-living apartment complex in Camden, opens its doors to three Coastal Opportunities clients
- **2019:** The 90th and last semiannual Cash for Clothes Sale, benefiting Coastal Opportunities
- **2020:** New Katherine Brown Home, for eight residents, dedicated on Limerock Street in Rockland
- **2020:** Executive Director Joseph Curll retires after 36 years
- **2020:** Clifford Winn welcomed as Executive Director of Coastal Opportunities
- **2021:** Coastal Opportunities emerges from the Covid-19 pandemic shutdown and celebrates its *50-year anniversary*