



# COASTAL OPPORTUNITIES

## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Newsletter - Summer 2011

### CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION, CELEBRATION FOR A CAUSE

The year was 1971. While the rest of the world was listening for news of Mariner 9 entering Mars orbit, buying the first commercially available microprocessor, and traveling to the newly opened Disney World in Florida, the families and those who work with adults with developmental disabilities and autism established the Mid-Coast Activities Center. Forty years ago, the Camden Association for Handicapped Children and the Camden Trainable School evolved into a sheltered workshop. Now, in 2011, Coastal Opportunities Inc. (formerly known as Coastal Workshop) is celebrating its **Fortieth Anniversary**. From humble beginnings in the basement of a Camden church, Coastal Opportunities has expanded exponentially, with several residences and day programs, all of which provide a warm and loving environment for our clients.

I am sure you have seen the many Coastal Opportunities vans on the roads of Knox County as they transport our participants to their activities and volunteer work in the community. Take the time to become acquainted with our clients—you'll find your life enriched by their cheerfulness and enthusiasm. You will encounter them at the YMCA, the library, Hannaford, and many other locales in and around the county.

On behalf of the Coastal Opportunities Board of Directors, I wish to congratulate and thank the staff for forty years of dedicated service. Your love and care for our clients makes our board proud. I would also like to thank the many volunteers and those who have made generous contributions and donations. With such strong help and support, we can look forward to the next forty years!

*Ann McDonald Bey*

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### A REMARKABLE 40 YEARS!

Coastal Opportunities has been assisting adults with developmental disabilities to become participating members in the social and economic community of Mid-Coast Maine for more than forty years, providing a high level of service to a segment of society often overlooked.

Back in the 1960s, the Camden Association for Handicapped Children recognized that, in addition to their programs for young people, there was a great local need for services to developmentally disabled adults. So, in the early 1970s, the Mid-Coast Activities Center was formed. Priscilla Taylor, Nancy Jackson, Sharon Kinne, and I oversaw a fledgling program consisting of about ten adult participants. Meeting in the basement of the Littlefield Memorial Baptist Church in Rockland, we made pine-cone birdfeeders, encouraged artwork, played games, and danced to "Jeremiah Was a Bullfrog." Some of the participants had transportation, but we had a rotating schedule for driving some clients ourselves, including an always memorable trip with a very talkative and amusing young lady who lived in Appleton.

As that operation continued, the Board of the Mid-Coast Activities Center was working toward an expanded and more structured program. In 1971, the First Congregational Church of Camden donated use of a house on Free Street, Bob Mindell was hired, and adults with developmental disabilities were well served.

In 1974, Tom Corcoran became executive director, bringing experience from a Massachusetts organization with both residential and workshop programs for its clients. Tom developed such a long list of work projects for local businesses that it was a challenge to accommodate all the requests. In 1975, the flourishing organization was renamed the Coastal Workshop. As enroll-

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ment in the program grew to thirty or forty, the Free Street building became overcrowded, so Tibbetts Industries provided space on Limerock Street for clients to produce work on their five-punch press. In 1977, the forward-looking Camden Association for Handicapped Children arranged to purchase the Tibbetts building, which ultimately was renovated as the Thomas F. Corcoran Center we know today.

During the 1980s, when funding became available for residential facilities, the Vera Brandes Home in Thomaston was the first group home established by Coastal Opportunities. Joe Curll, who has served as executive director since 1984, was instrumental in expanding the residential program, with some structures being designed and built to meet the needs of specific individuals. Recognizing the importance of this incredible service to both clients and their families, Coastal Opportunities renovated and built a total of six residences and also operates supported-living apartments at two locations in Camden. The program houses thirty-two clients.

With the residences located in five neighboring communities, Coastal Opportunities maintains a fleet of vans, most of them adapted to wheelchairs or other special needs.

Also in the 1980s, the Coastal Workshop purchased a doughnut business, renamed it Coastal Bakery, and produced immensely popular doughnuts on Willow Street in Rockland. Two



staff members did the frying; clients did the sugaring, some cooking, bagging, and labeling. Even Maine Governor John McKernan showed up to sample the goodies (see above photo).

In 2010, the Board elected to change the organization's name to Coastal Opportunities, reflecting the fact that the clients now have many more opportunities than supervised working.

At this point, Coastal Opportunities has a strong program overall but continues to deal with intermittent setbacks because of regulations that limit or eliminate funding for services. Negotiations are ongoing to keep the Redemption Center open, but the mailroom and other contracted projects have had to shut down, and there is now a cap on services we can provide. It is indeed difficult to maintain services with decreasing funding, but we will continue to work toward building on the first forty years of excellence as we move forward.

Jean Boobar



PHOTO BY MIKE PIEPER

## GETTING AFLOAT

How do you get afloat if you don't have a boat? That was the dilemma facing the Fishing for Friendship Committee, part of the day program at Coastal Opportunities. In the midst of last winter's snows, with everyone dreaming of spring fishing, committee members and their coordinator, Marie Lufkin, came up with the idea of appealing to the well-known generosity of Maine's Old Town Canoe Company. Here's what happened.

On February 22, the committee sent a carefully handwritten letter explaining the history of the fishing program at Coastal Opportunities, starting with making wooden lures in the woodworking shop and then creating unique "Dreamwalkers"—walking sticks that were sold to raise funds for fishing gear. When the "Dreamwalkers" sales had earned enough money to purchase a canoe at Old Town Canoe's annual "seconds" sale, the letter went out to Old Town, along with photos of last year's Fishing for Friendship Derby and copies of the Coastal Opportunities brochure and newsletter.

The response? A letter from Old Town's Community Relations Department offering to donate an Old Town Discovery canoe to the program and to provide a huge discount on another canoe. As Marie Lufkin put it in a letter to Old Town: "This is beyond our hopes . . . I cannot express enough the joy and excitement you gave to everyone when the news was announced."

Three clients pulled lucky numbers out of a hat, enabling them to ride with Marie in her pickup truck to Old Town, where they expressed their gratitude enthusiastically. Returning to Camden, there were high-fives all around. Groups of Coastal Opportunities participants posed proudly with the canoes, the red truck, and a big "Thank You" banner. Committee members then produced handmade thank-you notes, many with drawings, and sent them with the photos to the Old Town firm.

Next on the agenda? Screenings of films from the Rockport Public Library on canoeing techniques, and lessons on canoeing safety at the Penobscot Bay YMCA.

Thank you indeed, Old Town Canoe, for launching Fishing for Friendship into a whole new realm!

Kathleen Brandes



## WELCOME TO THE FRONT OFFICE!

Entering the Thomas F. Corcoran Center at Coastal Opportunities, visitors are treated to the smiling faces of the “ladies of the front office.” No matter how busy they are, they’re always willing to take time to help with requests and questions. When I recently stopped by, however, I was met with groans and expressions of mock horror—I had come to interview *them*, and I carried a camera!

I first spoke with Ann Tani, who is responsible for Accounts Payable as well as staff files and benefits. She also orders supplies, answers the phone, picks up and sends out the mail, and acknowledges gifts. At one time, Ann coordinated the apartment program for Coastal Opportunities clients, but she left to take a position with another local nonprofit. After a few years, she was drawn back to Coastal Opportunities, where she makes good use of her math skills to keep up with the steady flow of bills. She also finds significance in her work, referring to the financial management as the heart of the operation—crucial to providing the myriad services, programs, and housing for dozens of developmentally disabled adults. She sits at the hub of activity, with staff, clients, and visitors passing through at all hours of the day. Ann refers to Coastal Opportunities as a special operation.

Sharing office space with Ann is Dusty Hopkins (yes, Dusty is her given name). Arriving about three years ago with a banking background, Dusty welcomes the challenges of working with Accounts Receivable. This means long hours of navigating the incredible maze of agencies and funding programs that enable Coastal Opportunities to stay afloat. In her quest to make that happen, she has repeatedly had to explain to funding sources how information needs to be reported in order for the system to work. She even went so far as to drive to Augusta

to speak directly to an official about processing contracts—which has spurred other social-service agencies to contact her for advice. Dusty is self-taught and so tech-savvy that she has rebuilt computers as a hobby. Audits fail to intimidate her, and she is confident in keeping track of cash flow. As a member of a passionate team, she appreciates her “indirect” role of assisting Coastal Opportunities participants.

Across the hall from Ann and Dusty is Diane Pomerleau’s domain, from which she administers office matters. After seventeen years at Coastal Opportunities, she reports that she has to stop and remember which hat she is wearing as she shifts



Dusty Hopkins



Ann Tani



Diane Pomerleau

from taxes and general-ledger matters to conferring with staff or getting hugs from clients. And, speaking of clients, Diane always makes sure she has some empty bottles in her office, because one special man stops in each day to collect them to take to the Coastal Redemption Center—then he gives a hug of appreciation. The staff now numbers close to 100, including substitutes, and Diane is familiar with each one. She used to attend staff meetings, but because of the large number of staff and their responsibilities at so many sites, there no longer are full staff meetings, only meetings of supervisors. Diane is passionate about computers and confident that she can fix anything that goes awry. Her long tenure speaks to her commitment to the program and the people of Coastal Opportunities.

All three of the “ladies of the front office” greatly appreciate working with Joe Curll, whom they all hold in high esteem as an administrator. What a team!

Jean Boobar

Photos by Jean Boobar

## GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN . . .

In 2010, Coastal Opportunities lost two faithful former staff members. May they rest in peace.

Carla Henry  
Brad Turnbull

## A SALUTE TO STAFF!

The following staff members **TWENTY YEARS**

were recognized in May for their dedication and many years of service to Coastal Opportunities:

Happy O’Neil

**TEN YEARS**

Valerie Kelly

Joanne McCray

Allison Weaver

## ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

### OVERVIEW

In the fall of 2009, our Community Services (Day Habilitation Program) received a **three-year accreditation** for our programs and services from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). This accreditation recognizes the work our agency does to maintain a high standard throughout each year in the areas of Safety, Programming, Administration, Finances, and Human Resources. Our staff deserves recognition for the work they do each and every day to maintain these standards.

In fiscal year 2009-2010, we again experienced **reductions in funding**. The most dramatic reduction was the elimination of the Department of Health and Human Services Grant, which we had received for more than thirty years to support the Bulk Mailing Program, which provided paid work for twenty to twenty-eight participants with developmental disabilities.

In response to these cuts, we reduced the amount of earned time off for each employee and the percentage of the match in our 403-B plan, and we eliminated one paid holiday. We also reviewed all of our loans on homes and vehicles and worked to either pay down or renegotiate all loans that had interest rates of over 6 percent.

To incorporate the above changes and to bring our **policy manual** into compliance with new laws, we worked with our attorney, Bob Kline, to update existing policies and add new policies that he recommended. All of his recommendations were red-lined and reviewed by the Personnel Committee of the Board. Laurie Bouchard then meshed his suggestions with our changes and brought the manual into final form. The full Board then reviewed the new and changed policies and approved the updated policy manual.

During the year, we unexpectedly had to replace several capital items. In an effort to avoid surprises and to get some perspective on potential capital expenses, we worked with Randy Scamfer to develop a **planned-maintenance schedule** for our capital items. This schedule, which will be updated on an ongoing basis, will allow us to look out ten to twenty years at upcoming expenses for capital items and help us to plan for replacement of capital items from year to year.

We are working hard to minimize the impact of the funding reductions on services and the staff who provide them.

**Coastal Opportunities** provided Residential Services, Community Services, Home Supports, and Work Supports to adults with Developmental Disabilities from July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2010, to further the mission of Coastal Opportunities: **To assist adults with Developmental Disabilities to become participating members in the social and economic community.**

In fiscal year **2009-2010**, we provided services to **129** adults with Developmental Disabilities. We provided Community and Work Services to **69** participants and Residential and Home Supports to **60** residents, including services to **19** adults in our Crisis Program. We employed **97** full- and part-time staff, at a cost of **\$2,769,996**, to further our mission.



### Organizational Employment

#### Work Services

Coastal Opportunities provided meaningful work at the Coastal Redemption Center to six participants, and one of these participants also worked with supports at the YMCA for one day per week. We provided **889** hours of support to the participants in this program.

### Organizational Employment Objectives (and Results) for 2009-2010

1. To maintain Vocational Rehabilitation certification for agency-operated vocational services.  
*We were able to extend our certification to the fall of 2011.*
2. To develop a transition plan with local school systems for students with developmental disabilities by June 30, 2010.  
*We worked with local school systems in the spring of 2010 to try to identify any services we might offer to outgoing graduates.*
3. To develop a curriculum for Work Services that will assist individuals to make employment choices by June 30, 2010.  
*Because of turnover in this position, we continue to struggle with developing and implementing a curriculum.*

### Organizational Employment Objectives for 2010-2011

#### Community Integration

Community Integration activities are designed to provide participants with the skills they need to access the community. This program provided services to **69** participants in the following areas:

#### Volunteer Activities

Program participants had the opportunity to volunteer at the following **17** sites: Nativity Lutheran Church, Windward Gardens, the Food Pantry, Camden First Aid, Owls Head Transportation Museum, The Humane Society of Knox County, Camden Animal Shelter, Tanglewood 4-H Camp, The First Congregational Church of Camden, Knox Center, Goodwill, Merryspring, Meals on Wheels, Bartlett Woods, South Thomaston United Methodist Church, John Street United Methodist Church Senior Meal Site, and the Salvation Army. Nine percent of the total participant time was spent in volunteer activities. Of that 9 percent, 45 percent of the time was spent at the Owls Head Transportation Museum and Tanglewood.

#### Community Activities

Participants spent scheduled time at the following sites: Camden and Rockport Public Libraries, Hannaford Supermarket, Walmart, Penobscot Bay YMCA, local banks, bowling, and trips to local restaurants. All of these activities had the purpose of assisting participants to access the community.

### Community Integration Objectives (and Results) 2009-2010

1. Program participants will maintain or increase progress toward their individual goals. Target: 90 percent.  
*Participants maintained or increased in their progress on 80 percent of their goals. This was a slight increase over last year.*
2. Program participants will maintain or increase the amount of time spent in integrated community settings. Target: 22 percent.  
*Nineteen percent of participants' time was spent in integrated*



community settings. This was a slight decrease over last year's 22 percent.

3. Program participants will maintain or increase the amount of time spent participating in volunteer activities. Target: 10 percent.

*Participants spent 6 percent of their time at volunteer sites. This is an increase over last year's 5 percent.*

4. Coastal Opportunities will maintain enough staff to ensure that Community Integration is accomplished in small groups with a 1:3 maximum staff-to-client ratio. Target: 60 percent. *Thirty-one percent of Community Integration activities occurred in small groups; last year's average was 60 percent. Some of this is reflective of more accurate measurement and some is due to the elimination of 1:1 staffing as a result of adjusting to budget cuts.*

5. Coastal Opportunities will continue to strive for customer satisfaction. Target: 100 percent.

*Family, guardian, caseworker, and residential staff comments indicate 100 percent satisfaction.*

## Goals for 2010-2011

1. Program participants will maintain or increase progress toward their individual goals. Target: 90 percent.

2. Program participants will maintain or increase the amount of time spent in integrated community settings. Target: 10 percent.

3. Program participants will maintain or increase the amount of time spent participating in volunteer activities. Target: 10 percent.

4. Coastal Opportunities will maintain enough staff to ensure community integration is accomplished in small groups with a 1:3 maximum staff-to-client ratio. Target: 60 percent.

5. Coastal Opportunities will continue to strive for customer satisfaction. Target: 100 percent.

## STRATEGIC PLAN

Several goals remain in effect for Coastal Opportunities in accordance with our most current Strategic Plan. The Board reviews the plan in the fall of each year.

### 1. Develop a fundraising plan to investigate new opportunities and alternatives to increase fundraising capabilities

*The committee decided that the tasks should be delegated either to the Communications Committee for the information or to the Finance Committee for the policy part. The policy aspect is pretty well in place and the information piece has been delayed because the Communications Committee felt it was important to update the brochure and the website first. The brochure has been updated, and our newsletter includes information on planned giving.*

### 2. Develop public awareness

*We are contacting local schools each spring to see whether anyone leaving school might be interested in our services. We are also looking to contact local legislators and keep them informed about the many financial and other challenges we are facing. A slide show*

### Coastal Opportunities

#### Statement of Activities

Years Ended June 30, 2010 and 2009

	2010	2009*
Operating revenue		
Net patient service revenue	\$ 3,876,572	\$ 3,768,056
Department of Health and Human Services grant	199,620	221,437
Redemption center and client sales	264,379	274,977
Other revenues	30,304	27,660
Total operating revenue	4,370,875	4,292,130
Operating expenses		
Program services	3,216,256	3,360,999
General and administrative	688,866	646,759
Total operating expenses	3,905,122	4,007,758
Operating income	\$ 465,753	\$ 284,372

\* Certain amounts in the 2009 column have been reclassified to conform to the 2010 presentation.

*about Coastal Opportunities is now on DVD and has been presented to the Rotary Club and other groups. The program coordinator has also spoken to a local school group about our programs. Currently, the goals in this area include: to contact local schools each spring and to form a committee to link Board members with local legislators by August 31, 2010.*

### 3. Offer Vocational Rehabilitation Services to participants by July 1, 2010

*We have worked with Vocational Rehabilitation and have been able to place some participants successfully in the Coastal Redemption Center. We also place and support a participant at the YMCA whose role has been expanding there from two days of work to three. Currently, we are supporting two individuals through this service.*

### 4. Maintain or increase the average starting wage of direct-care staff and have all staff certified as Direct Service Professionals (DSPs) within one year of their start date

*Coastal Opportunities continues to provide quality staff development. Currently, 100 percent of our full- and part-time staff is DSP-certified. We have maintained a float position and continue to assess the base wage for experienced staff as they are hired on a case-by-case basis.*

### 5. Maintain adequate funding to provide Crisis Services at the George Robishaw Home

*We were able to negotiate additional funding to keep the home open for the entire year. The home is constantly working to maintain a balance between state grant and Medicaid funding.*

*Josh Curre*  
Executive Director





## A CAMDEN HARBOR FRIENDSHIP WITH BETTY FROST

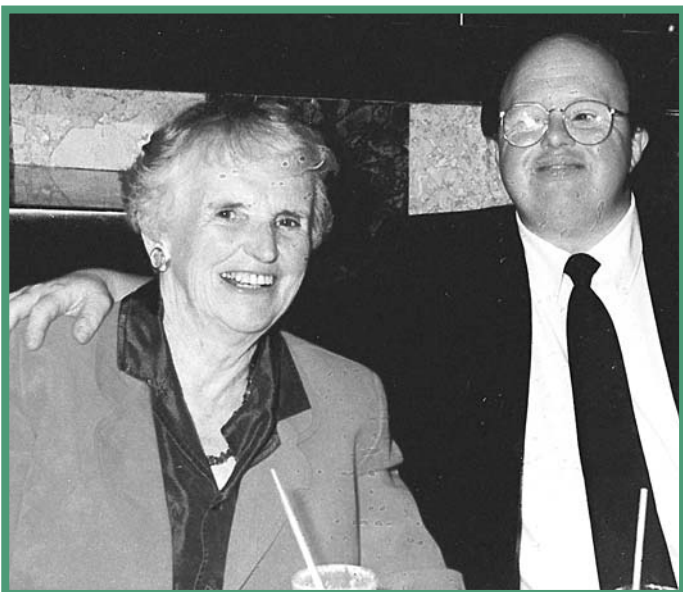


We met Betty Frost in the summer of 1993, when we were new in Camden. I was sitting on one of the floats in the harbor, waiting for Ken and our girls, who were sailing out to Curtis Island in a borrowed 14-foot sailboat. When Betty appeared, we greeted each other, commented on the lovely afternoon, and our friendship was off and running. She told me of her beloved husband, her children, her early years in Camden, and her yearning to go sailing again. I assured her that my husband would be delighted to take her out, but that the boat was tiny and unsteady. She was not at all fazed. The boat pulled up to the dock, I introduced everyone, she donned a life jacket, and they were off—Betty sitting in the bow, eyes closed, the breeze blowing on her face. You could tell she was in heaven.

After that, we became like family. In exchange, we were treated to stories of a life well lived. She should have written a book. We did not know Jack well, since he was not living year round in Camden by that time, so we only got to see him once a year. The little we did know of him was that he was like the mayor when he was here—greeting everyone robustly, dressed to the nines, his face wreathed in smiles. At times he would become very businesslike, especially when he had a mission to accomplish. He treated us like family too, even though our time with him was brief.

We often think about Betty and Jack—now living in the Midwest—and we wish they were still a part of our lives here in Camden. They were a big part of this town, and life somehow seemed more exciting when they were here.

Laurel and Ken Ames, Camden Bagel Café



## A FAMILY AFFAIR

*The original objective of this article was to honor Betty Frost and her son Jack. However, all the interviews revealed that each member of the Frost family “raised” Jack, while Jack, in turn, “raised the family”! Indeed, it really has been “a family affair.”*

The Frost family of six moved to Maine in 1972, when their youngest son, Jack, was fourteen years old and his siblings had already left home. He was born with Down syndrome, at a time when little information on this condition was available. The family always embraced Jack as an equal within the family. His mother and father, two brothers, and one sister took him with them wherever they went. In a recent interview, Betty said that Jack’s father, known to the Midcoast community as “Jack the watercolor artist,” taught Jack how to be a “gentleman,” while his brothers and sister instilled in him confidence and a sense of adventure. In a telephone interview, his sister Ginnie commented: “We knew that Jack wasn’t normal, but we loved him deeply and felt very lucky that he was our brother. He taught our family so much, and that understanding has carried over to the next generations—to Jack’s nephews and nieces and now to his grandnephews and grandnieces. He has shown us how to embrace people for their abilities, rather than dwelling on their disabilities.” Several doctors told the Frosts that they had never seen such a positive family response.



Betty became a strong advocate for Coastal Opportunities (then called Coastal Workshop), suggesting a fundraiser fashioned after an Illinois program in which she had participated. She insists, however, that Jean Boobar should be credited with putting that suggestion into action—and the Cash for Clothes Sale has been a resounding success for more than thirty-five years.

Coastal Opportunities Executive Director Joe Curll noted recently that Betty did more than simply introduce the concept of the Cash for Clothes Sale: “She was instrumental in keeping

the sale going by recruiting volunteers to take on the many committee leadership positions." The sale has a chairperson or co-chairs . . . plus chairs for treasury, cashiers, telephoning, donations, publicity, equipment, and shifts during the sale and cleanup. "I attended one of Betty's 'teas,'" said Joe, "where she was very good at convincing new and existing volunteers to accept leadership positions. Betty's efforts and those of many others have combined to consistently raise \$8,000 to \$10,000 a year for Coastal Opportunities through this sale!"

Betty is currently living in Michigan, near her daughter and family, but the Frost family maintains their camp on Norton Pond, where she and Jack have returned each summer to spend time with family and friends since moving from Maine.

Jack lives in an apartment within St. Coletta in Jefferson, Wisconsin, where everyone in town refers to him as "The Mayor of St. Coletta!" He takes frequent trips to spend time with family members and is especially close to his nieces and nephews.

Betty and Jack, along with the entire Frost family, are recognized here for their contributions both to the community of Camden and to the community of Coastal Opportunities. Applause! Applause!

Mary and Ross Holt



## THANK YOU, SHRINERS!

Clients of Coastal Opportunities enthusiastically participate in special activities throughout the year—from the Halloween Dance to Christmas parties to the summer picnic to Sea Dogs games—but the BIG EVENT in the spring is the well-loved Kora Shrine Circus. April means Augusta and a chance to attend a Friday evening or Saturday morning performance featuring elephants, trapeze artists, clowns, and much more.

The group-home residents have been enjoying this end-of-winter event for many years. As Shelly Henry, supervisor at the Vera Brandes Home, explains it, "Everyone can go and everyone enjoys it." The "Big Top" (aka the Augusta Civic Center) has first-rate facilities for folks with special needs, so all Coastal Opportunities group-home residents are able to attend. Some really love the food, and some love the souvenirs, but all enjoy the show!

The relationship between Coastal Opportunities and the local Shriners is a long and happy one. For years, Coastal Redemption Center employees have removed aluminum pop-tops from returnable cans and saved them for the Shriners. This aluminum is then recycled for the benefit of the Shriners' Pediatric Burn Center in Boston. In return, the local

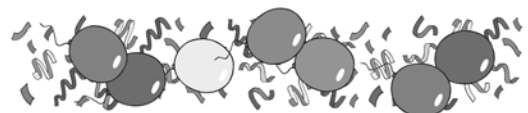
Shriners have generously remembered their Coastal Redemption Center and Coastal Opportunities friends each year by giving them free tickets to the circus.

If it's April, it's time for the Shrine Circus!

But the generosity doesn't end in April. Not only do the Shriners treat Coastal Opportunities participants to the circus, they also arrange for an annual "Day at the Union Fair" each August. In conjunction with the midway company, the Shriners offer free rides and assistance for people with disabilities for a portion of a day. All that plus free lunch.

**Thanks for everything, Shriners!**

Claire Sanford





## A VISIT WITH LEENIE WEINTRAUB

*Leenie Weintraub is in the business of changing lives, giving back to others the joy she's discovered in a lifetime in art and teaching. I spoke with her after one of her classes at the Corcoran Center at Coastal Opportunities.*



**Dan:** How long have you been doing this, Leenie?

**Leenie:** Oh, ten years or more; for four years before that, I was teaching out of my studio at home. We have class here every other Wednesday, alternating with a class at the Olive Coates Center. About ten clients have participated in each hour-long class.

**Dan:** I really like these paintings—they've all been done by our clients?

**Leenie:** Yes, the way I teach, I may do an example of an idea we have, but they do all their own work. I don't touch it. We all look forward to class—it stretches abilities and right-brain development. Linda did this wonderful picture of Easter eggs on a balloon—formerly, she could only draw pumpkins. We use holiday themes to get ideas going. Donald, who formerly drew only

circles, has done this nice bunny. Craig does amazing work. With his health condition, you might not expect this to be



possible, but I think that working on art actually helps keep his mind functioning better.

**Dan:** And when did you find out that art was your passion?

**Leenie:** At age five, I knew I would be an artist, but I do have many interests. After years at art college, there was my foolish restaurant idea—Mama and Leenie's on Main Street in Camden—because I love to cook. Cake decorating and all that. But the building was falling over—not much foundation under it—so I got out of that.

**Dan:** I notice you wear quite a bit of jewelry.

**Leenie:** Yes, I make a lot of this—everything means something. Favorite pets and people, and symbols like ginkgo leaves, hearts, and infinity. I also make Swap Shop sculpture—you know, trash to treasure. And I'm



very involved with a Scottie dog rescue league—I have two that were rescued from terrible conditions.

**Dan:** You're a renaissance woman with a successful approach to teaching.



**Leenie:** Well, some have called me Peter Pan—I don't age, I'm always playing. But I know that art

is good therapy. I have a little gift for working with individuals in a group. My ideas are like numbers on a clock—if one is not working, I quickly try the next one. Here we use different media. Right now, drawing with colored pencils works well—everyone has done this as a child—but then we wet it with a brush and it turns to paint. Then you can go over it again. Everyone can do it. I like to have no agenda here—we all discuss what we want to do and then I help the students to get there, usually working from imagination, not real objects. These pictures of jelly beans, roses, and trees are in pointillist style. Here are some by Katie, Caroline, and Tracy. And a staff member, Jim, helps out too.

**Dan:** I've learned a lot about art and teaching today, Leenie. Thank you!

**Leenie:** You're welcome—come again anytime.

Dan Scofield

Photos by Ann M. Bex



# 40th ANNIVERSARY



More photos on the back cover





# 40th ANNIVERSARY



Six longtime participants at Coastal Opportunities show their appreciation for the \$5,900 raised at the October 2010 Cash for Clothes Sale. The sale, held twice each year, raises about \$10,000 annually for Coastal Opportunities. Photo by Amy M. Rollins

## NEXT CASH FOR CLOTHES SALE

Fall and winter clothing

October 22-24, 2011

American Legion Hall, Camden

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Daniel Scofield**

**Nancy Wolfertz**

**George Robishaw**  
HONORARY DIRECTOR

**Joseph Curll**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## THE SCHOONER SOCIETY

Established in 2009, The Schooner Society encourages friends of Coastal Opportunities to make planned gifts to ensure the future care of citizens with special needs in our communities. Coastal Opportunities, founded in 1971 and celebrating its fortieth anniversary this year, has been nurtured and sustained by planned gifts and bequests from a prior generation. Now it is our generation's turn to "gift" the future. Friends who would like to assist Coastal Opportunities have a range of options—a bequest, a life insurance policy, an annuity, a charitable remainder gift, or another form of deferred giving. All such benefactors will be enrolled and recognized as life-time members of The Schooner Society.

To get started with the planning process, contact Coastal Opportunities board member Jim Jenkins at (207) 594-8857 or 594-9001.



### WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO COASTAL OPPORTUNITIES IN 2010

Bill & Alcy Achorn  
Anonymous  
Archie & Isabel Bailey  
Bank of America  
Jean Boobar  
Marion H. Bowman  
Camden Hills Regional High School  
Student Council  
Camden Home for Senior Citizens  
Camden Rotary Club  
Camden Yacht Club  
Cash for Clothes  
Lurelle Cheverie  
Marjorie Christie  
City of Rockland  
Ruth Cole  
Tom Corcoran  
Joe Curll & Hilda Livingstone  
Bob Davee  
John F. Dennemark  
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Rita Grinnell Elliott  
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Town of St. George  
Town of Thomaston  
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Guy & Dawn Brandes  
Hans Brandes  
Kathleen Brandes & Michael Drons

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Barbara Crampton

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**In Memory of Russell Fales**  
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