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THE What Not Shop - Thrift Store

DONATION HOURS

Sunday: Closed
Monday: 7:30am-3pm
Tuesday: 7:30am-3pm
Wednesday: 7:30am-3pm
Thursday: 7:30am-3pm
Friday: 7:30am-3pm
Saturday: Closed

STORE HOURS

Sunday: Closed
Monday: 9am-4pm
Tuesday: 9am-4pm
Wednesday: 9am-4pm
Thursday: 9am-4pm
Friday: 9am-4pm
Saturday: Closed

While we greatly appreciate donations, if you're donating something that you would **NOT** purchase for your son/daughter, mom/dad or loved one that is stained, soiled, chipped, dented, or damaged, then it isn't something we can sell in our store. Please keep this in mind as you decide what to donate, and what to throw away. Our manpower and time is limited, and a lot of effort goes into making sure the items we sell are of good quality. Also, as a reminder, **WE DO NOT ACCEPT** car seats, weapons, or knives. You must call Vickie Morton at 507-2041 to ensure we can take any furniture, large appliances, televisions or for any large donations and to schedule an appointment to drop off large donations. Thank you so much for your support.

February 2024 What Not Shop Sales

Jan 29 to Feb 2 All Shoes 50% off
Feb 5 Book Sale
2/\$1 Hard Cover
4/\$1 Paperback
50% off Women's Clothing
Feb 12 Fill A Basket \$12.00
Clothing Only/ No Designer
Feb 19 Crafts 50% off
Feb 26th Dishes (unless fine china) .25 cents



HOPE CONNECTION

JANUARY 2024



THE What Not Shop - Thrift Store

Miki Skehan
Executive Director
364-4561

Community Support
Services
Community Case
Management Services
Nursing Home
Outreach Services
364-4561

Shared Living
364-4561

Brain Injury and Other
Related Conditions
364-4561

Home Supports
369-0019

Residential Programs:

Fourth Street
Horizons
New Hope
Kimball Ave
Keep House

Call 364-4561
to connect with
any of the homes

www.hopeassociation.org

"As partners in our community..."



During the second week of December when meteorologists started talking about a rainstorm with winds from the south, they did mention some flooding and power outages. But who would have thought our little River Valley nestled in the Western Foothills would have suffered such a damaging storm? That the Swift River would set a new record, the Androscoggin would hit its third highest level and the area would be flooded as bad if not worse than the flood of '87? That there would be two fatalities at the Red Bridge and the Red Cross would open a shelter at the high school?

It is easy to get caught up in all the negatives during stressful times, questioning all the what ifs that come with the uncertainty during tragedies. Homes and businesses were flooded, entire neighborhoods evacuated. Nursing home residents were transferred to high schools and one nursing home sat perched on its hilltop island, where no one could come or go. People went without power or heat for up to 6 days. At this moment (December 23, 1pm) CMP crews and over 1200 contractors continue to restore power to areas company wide. Bridges and roads remain impassable.

However, let's challenge ourselves to focus on the positives that can take place in the midst of so much chaos and turmoil. Our little community has stepped it up and come together to support one another. People have lent out their unused generators and sump pumps to total strangers. Families have waded through flood waters to help collect needed items and beloved pets.

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Our Monthly Recognition:

ESM
&
Ware Butler

We warmly appreciate your
support to our programs

VISION STATEMENT:

*Hope Association envisions a world
where all people are treated with
respect.*

MISSION STATEMENT:

*As partners in our community,
we will provide leadership,
residential, case management,
vocational and community support
services to individuals and their
families through programs that enhance
independence, dignity, choice and
individual well being.*

Board of Directors

PresidentRichard Philbrick
Vice President ...Dick Lovejoy
Treasurer.....Richard Allen
Secretary.....Amber Durant

Members

Jeanne Gaccetta
Terry Richards
Jeff Sterling
Cindrie Cormier
Richard Jennison
Catherine Ross
Vacant

Western Maine Brain Injury Support Group Co-hosted by : Debra Hanmer and Cynthia Dawson

The meetings are held at 5pm, on the first
Tuesday of each month, at
Hope Association
85 Lincoln Avenue, Rumford, Maine
Please use the front door.

February 6th, 2024 at 5 pm
March 5th, 2024 at 5 pm

These meetings are free and open to
individuals with brain injury, caregivers, or
anyone interested in learning more about
brain injury.

For more information, please contact Jessica Hines
@ 207-507-2029 or by email



For inspiring stories, go to:
Biausa.org

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Neighbors have called to check on the elderly couple living next door. Friends and coworkers have cooked hot meals for those unable to do so themselves. Homes and hearts have been opened to loved ones sleeping on air mattresses in living rooms and spare bedrooms. An aunt bought her nephew a new hot water heater after his had been destroyed from days in a flooded basement.

Our first responders have spent sleepless nights ensuring our health and safety, making rescues in flood waters, blocking off unsafe roads and bridges, and forfeiting time with their own families in order to support others.

There are countless other noble acts of selflessness and loyalty that have taken place this week and will continue in the weeks ahead. No matter how big or small, all acts of kindness and aid are much needed right now, especially during the holiday season. And the individuals that choose to attend programs at Hope Association have proven that they feel the same by upholding their mission statement that begins "As partners in our community..."

Individuals have assisted with making and sorting donations at the Red Cross Shelter. The central office on Lincoln Avenue was open to individuals, employees and the public, offering hot showers, hot meals and a warm and safe place to spend the night. Individuals spent time making holiday treats for first responders who were surely in need of a pick me up. The What Not Shop is a source for those in need to find clothing, linens and household items in need of immediate replacement. Anyone interested in this resource can reach out to the What Not Shop.

To anyone still affected by this storm, know that you are not alone and so many people are thinking of you. To anyone and everyone who has shown some kindness, act of bravery, initiative or effort in a good deed, Hope Association thanks you and wishes you and yours the best.



Doreen Richard’s Retires after 46 yrs — 3m and 30 days
Written by: Jessica Hines, Executive Assistant

When I was a teenager, I attempted to run away from home, once (maybe twice - I was a handful...).

One of those times, I ran away to my friend Sandy's house, outside of town. Her house was pretty, and cozy, and decorated for the season, and was also home to an extensive salt and pepper shaker and BettyBoop collection. I liked it there.

Sandy was one of the last two of the 5 daughter's raised in that house that still lived there, and I was hopeful that Sandy's mom wouldn't mind, at all, another kid to tend to. I mean after all, she had 5 wildlings of her own, what's one more? A lot more than she was willing to deal with, it turned out. When she returned from work that evening, Sandy's adorable mom, with her BettyBoop eye lashes, kindly had me call my family to pick me up at school, drove me back to town, wished me well, and left me sitting on the steps of the high school to be the continued problem of those burdened to love me.

But then....

Years into my adult life and a lifetime away from my friendship with her daughter, I found myself getting ready for work in the mornings, looking forward to seeing my friend and coworker, Sandys' mom, on shift at Horizons Unlimited, in her shirt that matched her pants that matched her shoes, that matched her pen and paper that day, that matched her glasses, that matched he..... you get the drift!

Fate had brought Doreen Richard and that bratty, snot-faced-runaway-kid back together, again, and for the next 14 years (and more since then) we worked as part of our team, at Horizons, through the comings and goings of staff, through the vibrant life and peaceful passing of the people we supported, through so many fun moments and so many challenging ones, too. Sandy's mom would become my friend, my teammate, and one of my most cherished mentors, and I'm so grateful that even though she really tried to shake me, she got stuck with me, anyways.

After 40+ years at Horizons Unlimited, today, is our very dear friend, Doreen Richard's, last day of work at Hope Association. She is retiring, and I could not be more sad for us or more happy for for her.

She is a ball of light and energy and has been an unforgettable friend and support to every individual who has resided at Horizons since it opened, and every staff too.

At the recent passing of our friend Marty, Marty's cousin Jan expressed gratitude, for all staff but specifically for the role Doreen played in Marty's life. We surmised that Doreen may have been the only one of us that Marty found consistently tolerable and didn't, at least, roll her eyes at from time to time. She trusted Doreen, and knew, for sure, her heart.

Doreen is the historian of Horizons and knows its story inside and out. In fact, Horizons story is just as much Doreen's story, than anyone else's. She's been there from the very start, through every single bit of it. She is an important piece of the heart and soul of us.

Mrs. Morency, was the first Residential Manager at Horizons after its construction in the 1970s, (and the only residential manager to ever live on site). She was Doreen's manager when she started. That early relationship, I think, helped set the course for Doreen's commitment to the people she has supported over the last 4 and more decades.

When Covid19 hit us in 2020, many of us were offered an opportunity to go home and wait it out. Doreen was among those offered that opportunity and she declined. When I asked her, later, after the government had stepped up to help with the living expenses of those forced to be out of work, if she regretted choosing to come to work, though offered the opportunity not to, her response was an immediate, wide eyed "NO", followed by something like, (and I may be paraphrasing a bit), "Can you imagine? Now Jessie, what would Elsie Morency have thought of that? She would've just turned over in her grave if I would've just got up and left these guys because the shit hit the fan. Nope, no thank you. I'm where I'm supposed to be."

And she was. And for today, she still is. And tomorrow, I hope she wakes up in a place she deserves to be, retired, with a whole other lifetime of possibilities out in front of her. I am excited for that.

We are going to miss you around here, Doreen. You are loved and appreciated by us. Thank you for so many years of commitment, and wisdoms, and cooking tricks, and giggles, and problem solving, and care, and seasonal decorations, and initiative, and follow up, and follow through, and guardian relationships, and friendship, and med orders, and med passes, and hand holding, and teaching, and shopping trips, and meals out, and trainings, and rolling with the punches, and all of it. I'm not sure you can ever know the impact you've made.

I'm so glad that you couldn't get rid of me as easily as you thought you could, that day, way back when. Turns out, I needed you... to make me better at what I do, and, maybe, to just make me better.

So much gratitude for all that you have done for this Association that we love and its people, for so long. I wish you the happiest retirement and many many days of doing exactly what you want, and nothing other.