Mission Statement:
Life Enrichment Advancing People (LEAP), exists for the following purpose: To empower people with disabilities to lead joyful lives with dignity, independence, and autonomy by providing comprehensive and individualized supports. The fundamental operating principle followed by LEAP in providing services is to strive for each individual's fulfillment of:

- Physical Well Being
- Self Expression
- Experiences of Joy

Like the trees and plants at our Stone Soup Gardens, LEAP is growing...thoughtfully.

by Darryl Wood

What a beautiful time of year in Maine! The crabapples and the lilacs are in bloom, the weather has finally warmed, and the LEAP building project is nearing completion. In addition to all this reawakening, we also are growing thoughtfully as an organization, and our community trails & gardens project continues to shine a light on local, free, healthy and accessible outdoor options. The steps to growing thoughtfully involve dirt/deconstruction, planting/preparing for the outcome, and bloom, where the completion of plans and work come to fruition, as shared in the photos at right.

Of course, when we grow, by necessity that also includes our internal operations and the services we are able to provide for people in western Maine.

Our growth is popping up in other ways, as in the studied approach to growing our Case Management department. Here, Kristin McPherson, our Director of Case Management is thinking of how best to maximize workflow in the wide open space of her new office...very exciting times as we grow in our plans to better serve & support western Maine people with cognitive and developmental disabilities!

Equality is the public recognition, effectively expressed in institutions and manners, of the principle that an equal degree of attention is due to the needs of all human beings.

~ Simone Weil
Important People You Know in Our Communities...

A Wee Pinch o’ Blarney Involved, Perhaps?

In the long ago and far away month of March (brrr!), there was a legendary tribe of locals who made it a point to treasure and share the sense of fun in their hearts. (Sounds like wisdom to me!)

Here, Natasha, Chris, and Abby get their St. Patrick’s fun on, knowing that their gift of sharing smiles is worth twice as much as that ol’ pot of gold any day! Still, they do hope to spot a leprechaun one of these days...

Emotional well-being is a pivotal facet of whole-person wellness, and here it looks like Sam and Anne both think that’s a great part of self-care! (Their huggable-puggable companion looks like they think wellness activities like this are a smart idea, too...)

It’s so often the little things that bring us the greatest sparks of joy!

For Stephen, joy is found in showing his likes and personality through his attire. He has long been a supporter and enthusiast of all things law enforcement and fire rescue. Here, he is proudly sporting his new fire and rescue suspenders!

According to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the age of Discrimination Act of 1975, LEAP does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, handicap or age in recruiting, hiring, training or promoting. We also avoid discrimination in admission or access to treatment in all programs and activities.
Welcome to our newest staff members!

Aislinn Forbes, Kelley Hebert, Libby Ouellette, Nicholas Davenport, Leah St. Laurent, Shukri Abdirahman, Samantha Crockett, David Velez

We’re glad you joined the LEAP Team!

Central Office & Training Center Updates
by Alfred Dufour

Central Office addition will improve training and events

With the construction moving along steadily, it’s time to look forward to the improvements and relocation of our Training Center. Trainings and events will run more smoothly in a centralized area, while the dedicated training space will allow for more versatility.

Having two classrooms and a few meeting rooms, we will be able to host multiple trainings, meetings and events at the same time. For larger classes and events we will be able to open the two classrooms into one large hall, especially for events such as our well attended Karaoke Costume Ball or Mandt classes.

It’s an authentic joy to watch this needed resource moving forward to its completion...stay tuned!

Legend of the Porch Bandits!

In the long ago and far away...okay, so not so long ago (a recent afternoon) and not so far away (at one of our program sites), Chris and Noreen were thrilled with their new outdoor living opportunity in the form of patio furniture. A comfy place to plan mischief for sure...and isn’t this how all the best legends begin?

Even though it’s still a little bit breezy out, it’s spring, it’s Maine, and we just can’t wait to get out there and enjoy the sunshine!

Don’t forget to wave when you go by, ya hear? :)
DSP of the Month for January—Linda Stevens

By Kristi Iverson

Linda Stevens is a Direct Support Professional at LEAP’s Weld Rd (WRD) home in Farmington. Her manager says, Linda remains focused on person needs while on shift. She has been a leader in learning sign language, to help a person supported increase their vocabulary, and have a method to “tell” staff what he needs. Linda has also supported the housemate to engage in preferred activities. She supported him to go to Portland for several sporting events; his and Linda’s favorite so far was a Maine Red Claws game. Linda has worked hard to improve professional skills at the worksite. She has improved her skills to help people do things for themselves, instead of her doing the task. When problems arise on shift, Linda can professionally and respectfully discuss problems with her peers to improve the team performance. Linda is fun, kooky, exciting, and supportive in her team work. She is a lead trainer for new DSPs joining the WRD team and works very well with her peers. She thinks “outside the box” to aid her team, like bringing in a garden wagon to help with getting groceries inside the house. She is also the main lead for the gardens established at WRD, that produce a lot of tasty veggies for the guys’ meals during mid-summer and fall. Linda’s peers state she is dependable, helpful and caring—always willing to work and go above and beyond. She is calm, easy to talk to, fun and laid back.

Linda’s onboarding with LEAP started as a Shared Living provider for her son. When he decided it was time to move out and live in a LEAP home she decided to come to work as a DSP for LEAP. Linda’s knowledge of LEAP started in the 80’s when she was looking into what services would be available for her son as he got older. She admires LEAP’s longevity, growth and participation in the community. Linda stays with LEAP because she views it as a great place to work. She says she views her job as a gift due to the uniqueness of all the individuals she has supported during her 4 years of employment. She appreciates that the pay and the benefits allow her to continue to work as a member of her team in a setting this fun and rewarding. Linda recounts an experience where she helped an individual become more independent with their personal care by teaching them to shave. This individual sometimes struggles with staff assistance in this area but by encouraging and being consistent over several months the gained the confidence to complete this essential activity on their own. Linda says it’s little things like this that make a huge difference in people’s lives and it is moving to watch them grow in this way.

Outside of LEAP, Linda spends her time landscaping and enjoys photography, kayaking and swimming. She has both flower & vegetable gardens at home. This upcoming summer she plans to tackle her daughter’s yard and the small pond she has that needs restoration. Linda really enjoys taking pictures of landscapes, wildlife and skyscapes. She enjoys swimming and kayaking at Flagstaff Lake, Popham Beach, Parker Pond and many other places across Maine. These settings are excellent opportunities for fresh air and photographs. Linda plans on spending more time doing the things she didn’t previously have time for, like enjoying more time with her friends and expanding her knowledge on her family genealogy. She would like to have a whole day available to visit the archives in Augusta to help research that. Thank you, Linda, for working at LEAP, supporting your team and striving to make a difference in the lives of the people you support daily.

Celebrating 38 + years of Wellness, Hope and Joy!
DSP of the Month for February—Cynthia Curtis

By Kristi Iverson

Cynthia Curtis is a Direct Support Professional at LEAP’s Industry Road (IRD) home in New Sharon as well as coordinating our DREAM program. Her manager says, Cynthia has been great at building relationships and individualizing approach to the people at IRD. As one individual has high behavioral challenges, Cynthia has led many activities to keep this person engaged. She helped to build yard displays, got them interested in painting rocks, and helps introduce new crafts into their daily routine. For another person who secludes themselves in their bedroom, Cynthia has taken extra measures to ensure 1:1 time and socializing by playing cards, watching programs and soap operas in the common areas of the house, and helping the person choose community sites to visit and enjoy. For another individual, Cynthia promotes fun and similar interests of hiking, camping, boating, and has positive conversations to facilitate that relationship. Communication is focused and direct, but gentle. Peers seek Cynthia to help guide directions during a crisis or escalation. She has been flexible with shifts, has picked up extra to support her team, or traded shifts to help limit OT. Cynthia’s peers state that she brings lots of creativity to the program, and her experience is very helpful for when others have questions. They enjoy working with Cynthia as she is always helpful and has a calming attitude. Cynthia is considered the “mom” of the group.

Cynthia started working at LEAP in the spring of 2008, and has worked in several different programs. Cynthia heard about LEAP through some people that she knew who worked here. They said it was great and she was ready for a change. For years she had worked at nursing homes, and then at the Augusta Cohen Center as an activity coordinator. When they decided to make changes with her position, she decided to give LEAP a try. She stays at LEAP because she sees that LEAP respects the individuals supported and the workforce, and treats them well. She thinks LEAP is a great organization. While working at Hidden Circle, Cynthia recounted an experience where she took the ladies who lived there on a whale watching trip. During that experience they saw many whales, and were treated like queens on the boat. This trip even involved an overnight hotel stay where they went out dancing and about town. It was a very special trip for all of them, and one they would recount for years later.

Outside of LEAP, Cynthia spends her time creating stained glass that she sells at several local businesses including Sugarwood Gallery in Farmington and The Flower Barn in Livermore Falls. She also cross-country skis and is participating in a water Zumba class at the UMF gym. Fitness is important to Cynthia because her true passion is sailing and traveling requires her to stay strong and fit. She owns a one of a kind sailboat named “The Golden Eye” (which was originally designed by an engineer who designed boats for Disney), that she and her son are restoring. Cynthia plans on sailing around the world when she retires in about 4 years. One dream of hers for this trip is to scuba dive along the Great Barrier Reef.

Thank you, Cynthia, for working at LEAP, supporting your team and striving to make a difference in the lives of the people you support daily.

“It is good to love many things, for therein lies the true strength, and whosoever loves much performs much, and can accomplish much, and what is done in love is well done.”

— Vincent van Gogh
DSP of the Month for March—Lynn Lee

By Kristi Iverson

Lynn Lee is a Direct Support Professional at LEAP’s Oliver House home in Farmington. Her manager says, “Lynn knows the individuals, their care, what works for them and what does not.” She is very involved in their day to day care. Lynn is also a fierce advocate for the Oliver House individuals at medical appointments, ensuring they get the treatments and care they need. Lynn is especially good at helping to bridge communication in a variety of settings for the people she serves in the community, at planning meetings and with guardians. Lynn’s peers state that she is a great team player and role model. She is known as a quick thinker in stressful situations and frequently goes above and beyond.

Lynn started working at LEAP 21 years ago. She knew she wanted to work in in human services when she was 17. She started out working in nursing homes and continued that until several years ago. For years, late administrator Darlene Rowe pestered Lynn to try working at LEAP but moving from nursing home geriatric care to residential care in a LEAP setting was a big adjustment for her. Right away she saw the benefits of working with the people we serve. Lynn enjoys the individuals she supports and loves working at Oliver House. She is proud to provide people with opportunities to grow and live their lives. She refers to Oliver House as her home. Lynn has made many memories over the years, but especially one trip where she accompanied an individual to an eye appointment and met a previous caregiver, Nellie Pinkham. Nellie knew this person from their early years spent at Strong Nursing Home. The supported individual and Nellie caught up on old times, and Lynn stated it was really nice to see the individual she cares for, who communicates non-verbally, expressing happiness and making a connection.

Outside of LEAP, Lynn participates in a vintage camper group. This group meets up at least 4 times a year for events and is comprised of members from all over New England. Lynn loves LEAP and what we do. She plans on staying with LEAP through retirement and beyond. She hopes that services like this will always be available for individuals with different abilities.

Thank you, Lynn, for working at LEAP, supporting your team and striving to make a difference in the lives of the people you support daily.

“It takes everyone’s commitment to create and sustain an inclusive environment,” said Julian-Hayes. “And all of the students benefit when they see that being different is okay.”...

“It is important to value everyone’s unique strengths and abilities,” said Raymond. “Everyone needs to model, practice and be a messenger about inclusivity and the benefits for all.”

LEAP’S 3rd Annual Chili Challenge at Tuck’s
by Darryl Wood

On March 16th, Chili Chefs assembled their concoctions and tried to impress the patrons of Tuck’s Ale House for the third Annual Great Chili Challenge. A total of 10 competitors put a lot of effort into the preparations and the results were fabulous. Commonly overheard in the crowd were words to the effect of “They are all so good, how can I choose a favorite?” Well, choose a favorite they did, but the results were very close.

Natalie Wood of Farmington won by one vote over Josh Stinchfield. In third place was Ross Bean, followed by Greg Hannen. A total of $400 was raised for individuals supported by LEAP, which for this year is earmarked to send any person supported by us who wants to go to an accessible camp for a week.

LEAP would like to thank everyone who participated in this great FUNdraiser, including the volunteers and chefs as well as the staff and Patrons of Tuck’s Ale House.

In this photo, LEAP board members Tom Saviello and Ellie Duley flank LEAP DSP, Wes Babula.

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“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”
~ Jane Goodall

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Will I Become a Community Hero?
by Deelight Zitzelberger

Everyday heroes are all around us, and we even get to hear about them on the news once in a while. Usually, though, the people doing the greatest (and sometimes anonymous) good in our own communities are acting outside the limelight...on purpose.

Because LEAP is a nonprofit, we rely on sustaining relationships with citizens from all walks of life. So, your planned giving makes a difference in the quality of life for people we serve...

As you make plans to become one of our Monthly Partners, please accept our ongoing gratitude for the power of your quietly meaningful gifts.

As you reflect on where your own giving budget may have the greatest impact at the local level, please do visit http://www.leapcommunity.org/about-us for more giving options, or contact Darryl@leapcommunity.org with any questions.

Our team of faithful donors will always have room for YOU!

On behalf of the families we serve, Thank You for your generosity and believing in our mission.

If I look at the mass, I will never act. If I look at the one, I will.
~ Mother Teresa
2018 Winter Olympics
by Alfred Dufour

On a snowy January night, the LEAP Frogs made the trek to Sugarloaf for our first Special Olympics Winter Games, although Ross Bean is a seasoned veteran. The Winter Games are highly attended and there aren’t enough accommodations. To make this fair, counties, on a rotating basis are required to either find their own accommodations or travel each day. This year was Androscoggin and Franklin County’s turn to sit out and since we are fortunate to be close, we traveled each day. While Ross and Ben Harvell attended the welcome luncheon at the American Legion in Farmington, Alfred attended the coach’s meetings and got the check in and registration completed. After that it was time for the welcome banquet. Dinner was a homecooked potluck style featuring casseroles, shepherd’s pie and lasagna. Shortly after dinner was a karaoke party then back to Farmington to get ready for the race.

Day One
The morning started early, and we arrived at Sugarloaf shortly before 8:00am for check-ins and run scheduling. Athletes have a one on one with schedulers to ensure they get to the correct area for their races. If teams don’t have a one on one, students for Carrabassett Valley Academy volunteer for this. We are fortunate to have LEAP staffer Ben Harvell, who also skis. After the morning meeting, Ross and Ben headed up the mountain to scope out the course and get in a few warm-up runs. The morning consisted of Giant Slalom and Slalom time trials (2 runs each).

After lunch, Ross and Ben marched in the parade of athletes and attended the opening ceremonies and lighting of the torch. After posing for a few pictures, it was time to hit the slopes for a few more runs before the afternoon races. Then onto Super G trails and Giant Slalom finals. With Giant Slalom completed, Ross skied off with a first place medal!

That evening Ross got to participate in the festivities with Ben. They went to the Champions’ Banquet, Torch Light Parade and Fireworks. After that, they went to the dance where Ross was one of the first people on the floor to ‘cut a rug’.

Day Two
The morning began early again but the skis were waxed and ready to make tracks for the slalom and Super G finals. After the runs were done and the heat sheets were turned in for Division 6 Intermediate racers, RB placed 6th for Super G and for the slalom, he took the GOLD!!! After the final ceremonies, we closed the books on our very successful first Winter Games.

Androscoggin Regional Swim Meet
Another program we started up recently is our Swim Team. Time trials are required to compete at the state meet. Franklin County does not have a regional swim meet so we were fortunate to be able to compete in the Androscoggin Regionals at Bates College.

We arrived at Tarbell Pool to register and get settled in. Shortly after arrival the pool was packed for the event. Ross has competed in the 25m freestyle in the past and this year he added the 50m freestyle as well.

Ross was excited to be competing and did very well, placing fourth in both races. He also improved his 25 meter time by 10 seconds and 50 meter time by 25 seconds.

When we asked how he felt about the competition, he said “good”. He also said his favorite part of the day was swimming with his peers.

State Swim Meet
Once again, we found ourselves at Tarbell pool. Over 200 athletes competed in the event, consisting of 25m, 50m, 100m races in freestyle, breast stroke, butterfly, back stroke and relays. The event was so well attended that they were quickly at capacity and the overflow were able to watch the event from the field house.

Ross competed in 25m and 50m freestyle, again improving his times. 25m by 3 seconds and 50m by 6 seconds and bringing home the bronze in 25m and 5th in 50m.

It was an excellent day and Ross got to see lots of people he knew. Truly a great start to our swim team!
Walk for Autism 2019
by Megan Goodine

Team LEAP participated in this year’s Walk for Autism on Sunday April 28th at the Farmington Fairgrounds. Close to 40 supported individuals, staffers, family and friends donned their LEAP tees for the walk to promote autism awareness. Although it was a chilly day, participants enjoyed meeting up with friends, petting goats and rabbits, face-painting and a wellness walk around the track. A fire truck from the Farmington Fire Department was onsite for tours and photo-ops.

For anyone who knows Ross, this was the highlight of the event!

As seen above and below, Caitlyn, Noelle, and Andrea even got to enjoy some pet therapy before the walk!

Special thanks to DSP Hannah West who coordinated Team LEAP for the second year in a row.

Her efforts to register, rally and organize our team were greatly appreciated.

Matt Levensalor supported her role and managed the bottle drive to raise over $200 for the event.
We’re All About Celebrating Easter and Capturing Joy!

Finding candy eggs, enjoying warmer weather, and fun fellowship are just added smile-makers...

Our First Annual Easter Egg Hunt at LEAP’s Stone Soup Gardens was a huge hit among the people we support, direct care staffers, managers, and family members of all ages. We sure got reminded that Somebunny loves us!

Photo credits: Katrina Fay
New Face at FARE
by Megan Goodine

Deanna moved from Rumford to Fare House in Turner this past February. She had asked her case worker to help her find a home where she could live with other women her age who may have similar interests. Deanna says that is exactly what she found at FARE House. In recent months, she has enjoyed coloring with Erika, watching movies with Ali and going to UMF with Rhonda. As an avid animal lover, she was happy to meet “Boo” and glad to know that Rhonda is willing to share her cat with her peers. She has attended Jam Nights, Karaoke, the Healthy Cooking Competition and an Easter Egg Hunt at Oliver House.

Getting out and active in her new community has been a game changer for Deanna. She is looking forward to starting a new Community Supports Program soon and is hopeful to increase her circle of friends and acquaintances even more.

She is kind, has a great sense of humor and enjoys making people laugh. Deanna is an avid cook, and spaghetti and meatballs are her claim to fame in the kitchen. Her housemates enjoy the meal a lot. “Staff are great and help me a lot.” Deanna shared that she appreciates that staff support her with daily needs but also help her be more independent. She appreciates staff’s hairdressing skills too.

Upon moving to FARE House, Deanna identified some areas of support that she wanted staff to assist her with. Like many young adults, she wants to be able to keep up with her bedroom and household tasks on a regular basis before it becomes overwhelming. She has asked staff to make a schedule to ensure she stays ahead of the game in these areas. Deanna also wanted to make healthy choices and get active by swimming. She has been going to the UMF Fitness Center with Rhonda for a couple of months and really enjoys the pool. Brushing up on her Math and English skills have also been a long-term goal for Deanna and we are hopeful to help her make some connections with the local Adult Ed.

Her grandparents are very important to Deanna and she keeps in close contact with them as well as her sister, mom and friends from the Rumford area. She is proud of her great penmanship that she has had since childhood and credits her Grammy Myles for this skill. Deanna is hoping to go to camp in Cupsuptic this summer with her family, where they have been going since she was a kid.

At home, Deanna is often found doing puzzles, sharing pictures on Facebook or with her friends socializing. She’s making plans to go to the beach, picnics, and Funtown this summer. In the fall, she is hoping to attend the prom hosted by her caseworker and other community members. Then on to holiday season with family again. Deanna loves the holidays and is looking forward to making new memories with her housemates too.

Welcome to LEAP, Deanna...we look forward to supporting you in reaching your goals and more!

“I dream my painting and I paint my dream.”
~ Vincent Willem van Gogh
Globetrotter Magic!
by Kevin Averill

Mike and I recently went to the Cross Insurance Arena to watch the Globetrotters take on their arch-rival, the Washington Generals. We had baseline seats a little bit off court, but were able to see everything well. We had a lot of laughs, as they did many entertaining acts throughout the game. We and the cheering crowd were awed at times, by some of the unbelievable plays by the teams! Mike was so enthralled with this professional team that he wants to see them play again the next time they come to town. The Globetrotters were able to squeak out the victory with a down to the wire 2-point lead, 81-79.

Rhonda Call is the winner for WOW
by Loretta Crockett

Rhonda Call is the winner for WOW, she attended the most events out of everyone at LEAP. WOW stands for Working On Wellness, and is one of our most impactful areas of focus in maintaining health and energy. On her left is Deb Leclair, who is the FARE House WOW champion, and also took third place in event attendance.
Introducing Luke Bubar!
by John Howard III, DSP for IRD

Introducing Lukas “Luke” Bubar, a creative young man of many names. Luke is supported by LEAP in a residential setting in New Sharon, having previously lived in shared-living with Rispah in Strong. Luke’s Mom, Robin, brought him to LEAP in hopes of more independence and growth for him. He moved in here in 2015, with a close friend of several years, and has been full of energy and imagination since. Luke likes the many staff supporting him, and enjoys his family supports including Jessie, Journey, Corey, Hunter, and brother-in-law Randy.

Luke has many hobbies and dreams. LEAP has helped find many creative outlets for him. Luke frequently goes to the library to complete his many research projects. He is a hobby historian and enjoys fan fiction stories about his favorite subjects, like WWE Wrestling, Jurassic Park movies, Waverly Hills, and his love of old-time country and biblical musicians. Luke has over 12 binders of facts and fan fiction. He often transforms himself into one of his personal heroes. One day he may be Johnny Cash or Elvis (2 of his favorite musicians). When there is danger he may morph into Walker, Texas Ranger or Chuck Norris himself. Luke’s vivid imagination and sharp wit make him a wonderful individual to work for.

Mr. Alan Jackson (one of Luke’s many personas) is a very independent man, who assists with many responsibilities. He handles many chores and upkeep tasks at his home, and usually before being asked for assistance. We never know what his room will look like, as another hobby is rearranging his furniture. He is a helpful person, always looking to give his housemates or staff a hand, just for the sake of helping. He also attends Work First, works at the local Touch of Class Too Thrift Stores, and assists with Meals-On-Wheels to earn his living.

Hercules (also Luke) took part in the Special Olympics for several years doing equestrian activities with his housemate. He placed well during the last competition and Hercules got a first-place ribbon at one of the events!

He trains with Deb and Jim Farley of Salus Equito, and hopes to participate in the Special Olympics again this year.

Reading and research is a big part of Captain Jack Sparrow’s (still Luke) day. The Captain has an interest in ghosts and some scary stories but saves those reads for the daytime. He has extensive historical research on the Waverly Hills Haunted Sanatorium. He also enjoys reading and watching Ghost Stories with a cup of hot cocoa. Luke has his own computer and manages his internet searches independent of staff. When he finds exciting literature, he takes his research and surfing to his local library, where he may print out pages for the continued growth of his binders.

Mr. Elvis Presley (one of Luke’s musical identities) loves to express himself with music. We find young “Elvis” serenading staff and housemates, strumming on one of his many guitars. “Elvis” loves music and finds personal relation to his favorite musicians like Johnny Cash, Alan Jackson, and Elvis himself. Armed with a collection of CDs, he practices his favorite tunes weekly. Elvis also enjoys Jam Night and “Sing Loud/Sing Proud” Karaoke with his good buddy Alfred, when he has the opportunity to attend. Luke’s love of Elvis has grown over years, and he now owns his very own, Elvis-style, jumpsuit, fully equipped with tassels and sequins!

Triple H (Luke) enjoys hanging out with the guys of his house, sometimes for a “Man Talk”, for a 1:1 outing to Walmart to hang with the boys, or to cheer on the wrestlers of WWWE entertainment. LEAP has brought many new positive interactions with people that are Luke’s peers and he treats like family. As you can probably tell “Triple H” loves WWE Wrestling. For the last two-years, Luke went to Augusta and Portland for WWE events. Those nights out are truly cherished by him. He likes to show off his championship belt he got from the recent event in Portland. As an avid fan he collects DVDs, posters, calendars and cards, and also decorates his walls with images of these wrestlers.

Yet another dream and goal for Luke is to visit Jurassic Park. The many movies of the dinosaur chain have inspired a love of ancient reptiles. Luke recently asked to go to a museum to learn about dinosaurs and maybe see the bones of a T-Rex. If he could go anywhere in the world it would be to Hawaii on the island of Kauai. Through research, Luke has learned this is where the remains of the Jurassic Park Movies are found. Dinosaur bones and major locations from the Jurassic Park movies are kept alive, and Luke desires a trip to see it all. Hawaii is a long-term goal but a museum tour to Connecticut, with family, is planned for later this year.

Luke Bubar is a smart young man with a bright future. With his independence & helpful nature he has expressed that he would love to become a DSP one day or help our staff and DSPs to do their jobs better. He can accomplish many things to help his peers and staff in their roles. I believe LEAP has improved his quality of life and hope that we can all contribute to Luke’s future growth and independence.
TFR3 enjoys focusing on healthful and fun activities!
by Kim Sequoia

So much fun can be had simply by enjoying gentle, healthy activities around our homes and community. Here are few memories captured of Beth cheering for her favorite team, Brian and Natasha showing off the fruits of their painting practice, Deb lifting weights to maintain aerobic health, Brian and Deb enjoying a breezy outing at the autism walk, and Beth showing off her Patriots pride!

Creamy, crunchy, sweet and tart… Snacks like this are good for the heart!

The trees are a'blooming, the gardens are ready for planting, and our Stone Soup Garden trails await… come on up and join in our wellness adventures!

Here are Sarah, Meg, Sam, Marge, Kristin and Wendy, along with Mandi and Darryl enjoying the fruits of a fine springtime wellness walk on our trails!
TFR3 hosts the first Ladies’ Day Social!
by Kim Sequoia

This idea was generated by DSP Sasha Gieseman and with the help of DSP Karina Zamudio, they organized the event for early May. Each participant painted two plant pot containers and planted purple petunias and marigolds. A tic-tac-toe board and rocks were painted for each house to enjoy.

After the planting and craft activities, everyone was invited to a brunch with home made waffles drizzled with warm fruit and a dollop of whipped cream and sausages on the side.

The three programs plan to gather once a month for crafting, park picnics, potluck luncheons and other social activities.

Next time: A Ladies Day Patio Party at Davis Road. “Teamwork makes the dream work!”
A Will to Seed Wellness, Hope and Joy into Our Communities

By including LEAP in your planned bequests, you can sow support for the needs of developmentally disabled adults in many western and central Maine communities. This is your opportunity to advocate and provide meaningful impact at the personal level for years to come. We hope that in considering your gift, you will contact our Executive Director, Darryl Wood, at 778-4817 x104. To learn more about other giving and monthly partnering options, please click the Donate Now button at www.leapcommunity.org. Your donations can help to fill the needs not covered by MaineCare & Medicaid Funding. Your support can be targeted to an individual, a program, a specific project, or a general donation. Together, we each can make a difference today and every day! LEAP is a 501 (C)(3) Charitable Organization. Our mailing address is 313 Farmington Falls Road, Farmington, ME 04938

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I want to provide a tax deductible donation to the agency. Enclosed please find my gift of:

___$25.00 ___$50.00 ___$100.00 Other: __________________

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“Defeat may serve as well as victory to shake the soul and let the glory out.”

Edwin Markham

LEAP is a 501 (C)(3) Charitable Organization.