

Sweetser REPORT



Celebrating Successes and Finding Joy in These Challenging Times

Now more than ever before, Sweetser services are needed to help people create promising futures.



10,463

MASKS DONATED TO SWEETSER



36+

MASK DONORS (AND GROWING)

TOP We are proud of the Class of 2020! Sweetser supported six students who successfully graduated from high school this year.

TOP LEFT Sweetser School-based Clinician Jamie Cooper helped celebrate step-up day for students graduating into 5th grade at the C.K. Burns School in Saco.

LOWER LEFT Pandemic at Play: Developmental Services staff found ways to create joy during a difficult time.

MISSION Providing quality treatment, support and hope to children, families and adults through a network of mental and behavioral health, developmental, and educational services.

VISION Helping people create promising futures.

RIGHT Launch your compassionate career at Sweetser. Visit sweetser.org/careers



Dear Friends, It's an understatement to say that this year has been filled with unanticipated challenges. But I also can't overstate how impressed I have been with the way in which our staff, donors and volunteers have responded.

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Because of your support, we continue to connect with the growing number of children, adults and families who are in need of our services.

Recognizing the important work that we do, Maine DHHS increased staffing statewide for the Intentional Warm Line, offering mutual conversations with trained peer specialists who have life experience with mental health recovery. In fact, calls increased this past summer an estimated 57% since pre-COVID-19.

Technology is a part of all of our lives these days and has been especially important for maintaining connections during the pandemic. Fortunately, emergency federal and state policy changes have permitted services to be delivered via telehealth, which has allowed access to services for more people in this rural state.

There are services that need to be delivered in person, and our staff members in Residential and Crisis Services have supported people of all ages since this "new normal" that began in mid-March.

Our focus remains on delivering services to everyone who needs them, when needed, in spite of the additional costs associated with this pandemic, including personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies.

Most importantly, we continue to make a difference in the lives of those who need our services. This summer, a client shared that while staying in one of our crisis stabilization units she found the staff to be respectful and kind in a place that helped her heal and recover. She called our staff "lifesavers."

Also this past summer, I received a welcome call from Officer Ed Leskey of the Orono Police Department who relayed how very rewarding it was to witness Developmental Services staff member Alyssa Mclaskey interact with her client, who was nothing but smiles while swimming at Pushaw Lake. He added that Sweetser "is making a difference in the lives of others."

Thank you for your support helping to keep Sweetser strong. You are our superheroes!

DEBRA D. TAYLOR, *President and CEO*

Raising Awareness for Eating Disorders Treatment

If Jenna Booth could have a conversation with her 12-year-old self she would have this to say: “Be unique. Embrace your differences. It is so important to love yourself. Self-love can make a huge impact on mental health and wellbeing. Your appearance doesn’t define who you truly are – it is what is on the inside that counts.”

Now at 16, she is starting her senior year at Cheverus High School and is passionate about bringing awareness to the importance of treatment for eating disorders, something that impacted her younger self.

Jenna created Truly Me as a way to share her story and connect with young women and men. She wants them to appreciate their uniqueness just as she learned to do and to use that to battle fears and overcome hurdles. That is the driving force behind the name and the mission.

“There is only one you. Look at yourself in the mirror and truly believe that you are uniquely enough, emotionally and physically,” said Jenna. Her message has caught on with others her age who buy Truly Me bracelets and sweatshirts. But she has received a positive response from people of all ages.

“It was vital that I surrounded myself with positivity. Having a strong independent support system built with family, friends, and an outpatient program helped make up the strong foundation I needed; to rebuild my self-esteem along with my physical and mental health. My hope is to create a safe, supportive, and structured environment for those who struggle with self-love.”

Jenna will bring her message to a broader stage as she competes for Miss Maine Teen USA competition scheduled for November 2020.

If you’d like to support Jenna’s efforts, visit her website at: <https://trulyme1.my-free.website/>



Jenna is raising money to benefit the New England Eating Disorders (NEED) Program at Sweetser. NEED offers evidenced-based treatment for people of all ages and genders. Learn more at sweetser.org



STAY IN TOUCH

Our email list is the best way to stay connected with Sweetser year-round, learn about special news and events, and receive our new Sweetser Spotlight eNews.

Email communications@sweetser.org today!



Update on 2020 Events



The annual [Sweetser/KeyBank Sold on Kids Auction](#) has been changed to an online auction that will run from Friday, October 9th to October 19th. There are many great packages available and bidding will be open to everyone. To find out how you can participate and learn more about this event, please go to [sweetser.org](#) or contact the Sweetser Development office at jhansen@sweetser.org.



The [Sweetser/Prime Motor Group Golf Classic](#) was changed from June to September 21st at Dunegrass Golf Club in Old Orchard Beach.

The [Sweetser/Harvard Pilgrim Cycle or Stroll for Suicide Prevention](#) event normally held in the fall was cancelled. We expect this fun event to be held in the fall of 2021 on our Saco campus along the beautiful Eastern Trail.

The [Cornelius Sweetser Heritage Society dinner](#), which honors supporters who have made an extraordinary commitment to Sweetser, has been canceled until next September. We look forward to recognizing and honoring these members next year when times are safer for indoor gatherings.



FROM TOP 2019 Sweetser/KeyBank Sold On Kids Auction, Sweetser/Prime Motor Group Golf Classic, and the Sweetser/Harvard Pilgrim Cycle or Stroll for Suicide Prevention

Sweetser wishes to thank our 2020 major event donors



SUPPORT

Sweetser is grateful for the valued support we receive from companies, civic clubs and foundations. Donations and grants help meet the needs of Sweetser clients and programs throughout Maine. Thank you for helping to create promising futures for those we serve.



GROWING GOODNESS

Sweetser Intern and UNE student Briellen Crowley (left) helped students at the Eslie J. Parquette School pay forward seeds donated by Johnny's Selected Seeds and an anonymous donor. They grew plants for an annual sale hosted by the Saco Grange #53. Proceeds benefited adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities participating in Cultivation Works' Teenie Greenies program.

NEW CORNELIUS SWEETSER HERITAGE SOCIETY MEMBERS

We wish to thank and recognize Mrs. Polly N. Camp, The Honorable S. Peter Mills, and Mrs. Jo A Nickerson, as the newest members of the Cornelius Sweetser Heritage Society. Their many contributions to Sweetser span over 35 years!

SAFE, SECURE DONATIONS

YOU CAN GIVE WITH CONFIDENCE

You may have read that many nonprofit donor databases were part of a breach of Blackbaud. Though Sweetser does use this software, we wish to reassure you that our donor information was not part of the data breach.

PLANNED GIFTS KEEP SWEETSER STRONG

Over the years, many loyal supporters have included Sweetser in their estate planning. These gifts have made a tremendous impact to provide perpetual support as part of Sweetser's permanent endowment, ensuring that our services will continue to help those in need for future years.

A simple will is the easiest way to leave a legacy. There are several other giving options to consider as well. Any gift, large or small, is greatly appreciated.

If you would like more information about making a planned gift to Sweetser, please contact Development Director, Todd Henry at 207.294.4484 or thenry@sweetser.org.

THANK YOU FOR DONATING FACE COVERINGS AND MASKS!

Masks help us keep clients and staff healthy. If you would like to donate, contact Volunteer Manager Sue Hawthorne at shawthorne@sweetser.org. Thank you to the following, including those who have given anonymously:

Jeanne Bard	Diane Johnson	Rebecca Ryan
Pat Beaudoin	Julia Klippert	Seacoast Mask Makers
Michelle Beaulieu	Briana LaPointe	Sewing Masks for Maine
Jo-Ann Bertrand	Nellie Littlefield	Southern Maine Community Organizations Active in Disaster (SMCOAD)
Marvin and Judy Blunier	Maine Dept. of Corrections, Women's Prison	Susan Stanley
Ken and Kathy Campbell	Paul and Margaret Marks	United Way of York County
Jeffrey and Jackie Chaplin and Family	Martin's Point Health Care	Rynep VanEldik
Common Threads of Maine	Naomi Menikoff	Christine Washington
Nana Cronin	Vonla Murdock	
Dorothy David	OOB365	
Misty Day	Partners For World Health	
Sarah Del Tergo	Joanne Pineau	
Leslie Fetzer	Muriel Quinn	
Susan Hawthorne	Candace Remellard	



COVID-19 Relief

During these challenging times, we are grateful to the Libra Foundation, the Virginia H. Somers Foundation, the United Way of York County and the Maine Health Access Foundation for awarding grants to Sweetser to help ease the financial strain caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We also wish to thank other supporters who have contributed and continue to support our services for those who need and depend on Sweetser in times like this.

**To donate masks,
contact volunteer manager
Sue Hawthorne at
shawthorne@sweetser.org**



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INSIDE

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in These Times**

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SAVE THE DATE

Our annual auction is going online!

**SWEETSER SOLD ON KIDS
OCTOBER 9-19, 2020**

Get ready to have a great time bidding on wonderful packages and products to support essential Sweetser programs.

SWEETSER.ORG

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1-800-434-3000
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