

## Seasonal Work.

By Jackie Lee

Seasonal Work in Maine is hard work but for some it is the only way they can make it through the winter. People often depend on it as their sole income, others as a supplement. After raking blueberries in the oppressive heat of August, then picking apples in the fall, the season turns cold and people move on to make Christmas Wreaths for the holiday season. This brings much needed income for poor families during the Holiday Season.

People bring to H.O.M.E. beautifully fresh balsam fir wreaths by the truckload and their work is evident by their pitch stained hands. We are humbled by their hard work and often wonder how it is possible for them to make so many at a time.

H.O.M.E. pays \$5 each for a double sided wreath – it's not a lot considering the hard work they put in. Most bring 100 sometimes 200 wreaths at one time and use the money they make for Christmas, heating fuel or to keep their clunkers on the road.

We buy wreaths only from our poorest neighbors and they resume this enduring work each season. In fact they count on it! We always look forward to seeing the wreath makers each year to renew our friendships and catch up on family news from year to year.

This year we have some new wreath makers and look forward to making friends with them. One wreath maker from years ago, recently moved back to the area and is very grateful for the opportunity to earn some extra money and reconnect with old friends.

So, when you fill out the wreath order form inside this paper, know that you are making a difference not only on someone's door for the holidays but in the lives of a family or person who desperately needs the income...

## Daycare.

By Adrienne Graves, Chelsea Carney and Deanna Thomas.

In May, h.o.m.e. Daycare welcomed new director Adrienne Graves. Graves, the mother of two, brings new leadership qualities to the position. She has over fifteen years experience working with children as well as in management at all levels both in area schools and in owning her own Daycare. She earned degrees in Early Childhood Education and in Business Management.

Daycare also welcomes teaching assistants Deanna Thomas and Chelsea Carney. Deanna, mother of two, and her husband moved from Virginia to Maine where he is pursuing his military career in the Navy. Chelsea, a recent graduate of Ellsworth High School is pursuing a degree in education while working part-time at the center.

The Daycare Center has been remodeled from wall to wall with fresh paint, trim, flooring and a bright new revamped kitchen. Thank you to the St. Luke's Church from Barrington, Rhode Island and to the workers at h.o.m.e. who put in long hours to help make our Center beautiful! True Value in Bucksport and Sherwin Williams of Ellsworth donated paint and Marden's gave a generous discount on the flooring.

Currently rated Level One, the Center is working on becoming Level Two by qualifying through the Quality of Maine rating system. a Parent Policies Handbook has been created as well as a Daycare Brochure.

Enrollment at the Center is up. Children six weeks to 12 years old are welcome and can be enrolled part-time, full-time, for drop-in or after school care as well as for vacation care. Space is still available but filling up fast. Aspire, vouchers and private pay are all accepted.

The Center is collecting UPC labels from participating Campbell products. Our goal is 10,000 labels. We have been able to redeem the points for Circle Time Mats and educational materials we otherwise could not afford to purchase. Please continue to collect labels and send them into us or drop them off at our Orland location. Every point helps us achieve our goal! We also accept returnables. Thank you to all those who contribute to our Daycare!

Please call (207)469-7961 x 17 to arrange a visit or for more information.

## The Learning Center

By Karen Botta- Learning Center Coordinator  
Josh Prochaska-Fundraiser

Greetings from the Learning center!

This past year has brought many changes and new opportunities to the learning Center. We are happy to welcome our newest addition, Josh Prochaska. Josh recently moved here from Arizona, and joins us as a part-time teacher and fund-raiser. Currently, he is scheduled to teach ESL and a basic math class.

We are working to increase our capacity to help the community through rigorous fund-raising efforts. We are pursuing several competitive grants with the hope of updating our educational materials and expanding our class roster. Even with this increase in fund-raising efforts the Learning Center's activities would not be possible without the generous donations and support from the local community; a special thanks to Bucksport Middle School for its donation of math textbooks.

We are also working on staff development and plan to offer a personality-type identifier workshop. The aim of the workshop is to help us identify our individual and group work styles and values. It is our hope that by having a better understanding of how we work together, communication amongst staff will be improved, thereby increasing overall productivity.

Our most popular class this fall has been Creative Writing taught by Karen Saum. This class is designed to help students express themselves creatively through writing. Students explore their ideas and values by writing about personal experiences. Our goals for students in this course are to have them gain an appreciation for the written word, increase their confidence in their own writing, and instill a lifelong love of writing.

We are always looking for donations of school supplies, textbooks or volunteers. Check in anytime for a complete schedule of courses being offered.

Thank you for your continued support!



Tristen , a child attending Daycare



Sanley attends Daycare after school at H.O.M.E.

## Bookkeeping

By Mary Mahan/ Ruth Bennett/Cora Bigelow

With 2010 almost behind us we look forward to 2011. Ruth and I have continued to keep the records current and reliable.

With all the changes in our economy and the decreases in some donations, H.O.M.E. has continued to serve those who depend more and more upon our services each and every day. With our efforts we have provided many meals and shelter for those who are less fortunate.

We had a great group of volunteers get the exterior wall in our office completed. This will help to keep us warm when the wind blows. Also, thanks to Josh Moore and Jason Cromeenes for finishing it up.

We are still working toward having a complete audit of the financials. This has a great impact on our grant writing success. It is this information that lenders and foundations look at for our financial stability. It is no surprise that bookkeeping has outgrown the present office setting. One of our Capital Improvements is to expand our office into the outer area. This will give us the ability to work more efficiently.

Our financial reporting has improved greatly and with a new part-time grant writer on board the reports allow him specific information necessary for his grant writing. Thanks to Tracey for being so patient while we all get through our reporting hurdles. Gerald Botta has utilized the information bookkeeping has to offer for various loan programs. We are striving to make the information much more organized.

We look forward to the years ahead and all the new experiences we will share.

Thank you



A meeting at the lake .



"Just remember: Noah's Ark was built by amateurs. The Titanic was built by professionals." - Anon