Hello Newsletter Readers,

December’s forum highlighted the community work of Heywood Healthcare’s new Quabbin Retreat. Brian Gordon, Program Manager for the Retreat, gave a comprehensive overview on the work to date, and the plans yet to come to fruition.

Substance use disorder is one of the issues that continues to plague our area, as well as areas across New England. This center allows local folks access to a continuum of care for dual diagnosis treatment close to home. This is a huge win for the North Quabbin and referrals are gladly accepted and navigated despite insurance issues or transportation barriers. Please call and connect with Brian or his team to brainstorm any situations that may arise. More information on the program can be found at www.heywood.org/services/the-quabbin-retreat.

See you all at the January 19 Forum for a presentation by Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA) Western MA Chapter! Same Bat Time, Same Bat Channel!

Wishing you a safe, healthy and happy New Year!

Heather Bialecki-Canning
Executive Director
Position Available

ARRSD School-Based Care Coordinator through the North Quabbin Community Coalition/Athol Hospital

The position will serve as the primary liaison between school based and community resources for students and families as well as support on-site counseling services for students, based on internal referrals and parental consent. Students are first assessed by the Guidance Department then connected to the School Based Care Coordinator for help with accessing or scheduling any services outside the normal scope of the Guidance staff. The Coordinator will offer case management support verifying the service(s) were successful and/or if additional help is required for the student or family. For more information, visit www.nqcc.org/pdfs/2017carecoordinator.pdf.
Shoemaker Seeking Crafters

Sharon Raymond, a shoemaker, is planning a shoemaking studio in the LaunchSpace at the Orange Innovation Center. To get started, she is seeking people who would like to hand-stitch "first walkers" toddler shoes at home or at the OIC, then market them in the Pioneer Valley. These shoes are made of recycled materials with no toxic cements and they will be locally made in Orange! She has created an "orange" logo to put on the heel of the shoes, making these shoes unique. Once a crew learns how to make the shoes, it will become a worker's cooperative in which all the work - and most of the profits - will go to the makers. Anyone curious about this opportunity should contact Sharon at sharon@simpleshoemaking.com or at 413-259-1748.

Barbara A. (Cunningham) Corey
March 29, 1927 ~ December 14, 2017

The North Quabbin Community Coalition (NQCC) was sad to learn that its inaugural coordinator, Barbara Ann (Cunningham) Corey, 90, of Petersham, had passed away on December 14, 2017. Barbara was an avid gardener, conservationist and community patron who was committed to being a well-informed citizen.

Barbara earned bachelors and masters degrees in health education from Worcester State College while working as a reading tutor at Mahar Regional High School in Orange. She was a nighttime volunteer at a suicide hotline in Worcester and executive secretary of the American Minor Breeds Conservancy, an organization devoted to preserving endangered breeds of livestock.

Since 1984 until retirement in 1998, Barbara was the first Coordinator of the North Quabbin Community Coalition. In tribute to her tireless advocacy and can-do spirit, the annual NQCC Barbara Corey Award was established to honor someone from the community who exhibits “her passion for life, values and love for the citizens of our region.” In 1994, the local Chamber of Commerce awarded her “Citizen of the Year.” In addition to this work, Barbara was an early member of the Our Daily Bread Food Coop, was both an active volunteer and board member of the Petersham Conservation Commission, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, the Petersham Arts Center, and the First Parish Church Unitarian, among other organizations.

A celebration of Barbara’s life will be held in the spring when the flowers are blooming. Donations in her memory may be made to the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, 1461 Old Keene Road, Athol, MA 01331 or the Petersham Arts Center, PO Box 235, Petersham, MA 01366. Witty’s Funeral Home at 158 South Main Street, Orange, is directing the arrangements. You may read Barbara’s full obituary or offer your sympathy online at www.wittyfuneralhome.com.
You **CAN** stop using...and we **WILL** help.

If you are someone motivated to stop using or new to recovery, our Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) is now available to you in Athol

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How to Join IOP</th>
<th>Athol IOP Hours</th>
<th>Who is Eligible for IOP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Call the Athol Clinic to schedule IOP intake appointment <strong>978.249.9490</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mon:</strong> 2-5:30 PM</td>
<td>Adults 18 and older</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visit Athol Clinic during Open Access hour, M-F 10am-2pm, to complete intake</td>
<td><strong>Tues:</strong> 2-5:30 PM</td>
<td>Those in early recovery and sober within past 30 days</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Wed:</strong> 2-5:30 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speak to your CSO Clinician and let them know you are ready.</td>
<td><strong>Thurs:</strong> 2-5:30 PM</td>
<td>Those able to commit to attending 3 days/week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Fri:</strong> 12-3:30 PM</td>
<td>Those who have been discharged from other treatment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CSO Athol Clinic is located at 491 Main Street**

**978.249.9490**

*Other IOP locations in Greenfield and Northampton.*
Changing Course

To look inward, outward and forward

A free 10-week session for those with children currently in foster care.

Do you know where to go when you need help?
Are you working towards reunification with your children?
Do you need guidance in communicating effectively?

The sessions will be held at:
Valuing Our Children
217 Walnut Street
Athol, MA

Tuesdays, Jan. 9 –March 13
Time: 10:00 - 11:30

For More Information, call Julie at 978.249.3702
The Orange Revitalization Partnership presents

6:00 to 10:30 pm
December 31, 2017

Starry Night

22nd annual

Free and fun celebration of New Year’s Eve in the heart of downtown Orange!

Zoe Darrow
Magic-1
Will Corey
Ray Hachey
L&D Music
Dance Party
Dan Kennedy, Piano

Open Mic
Stargazing
Parade of Stars
Karaoke
Hayrides
Fireworks

Evenspeak
Trevor the Games Man
Shakin’ All Over
The Green Sisters
Tim Van Egmond
Inside/Out Dance Co.

An Accidental Wedding

The Starry Starry Night Committee
wishes to thank these major contributors

Witty’s Funeral Home
CastleRock
Heyes Forest Products, Inc.
Kimball-Cooke Insurance

Whipps, Inc.
The Law Offices of Pamela E. Oddy, P.C.
Orange Oil Co.
Orange Rollerskating
Pete’s Tire Barn
Orange Business Association

StarryStarryNight.org

Designed and created by Amber Robidoux / Orange Graphix
Programs at The United Arc

Adult Services ~ Community Support and Residential Homes
The United Arc provides a variety of services to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities that promote personal well-being and self-fulfillment as individuals live and work in the community.

Primary United Arc services provided for adults include:

- Community Support Program — Varying levels of support based on individual need is provided to adults living semi-independently in individual homes throughout the community.
- Group Residential Homes — Intensive support to adults living in a group setting.

Family Support ~ For Families of People with Disabilities
The United Arc provides a flexible array of services for families that care for or include a family member with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Primary United Arc services provided for families include:

- Family Support Centers
- DDS/DESE and Intensive Flexible Family Support Services (IFFS)
- Youth Transition Program
- Positive Parenting Resource Center

Self Advocacy ~ People with Disabilities Becoming Empowered to Speak up for Themselves
The United Arc sponsors self-advocacy groups which offer peer support, leadership development, social events and learning opportunities for adults with intellectual or other developmental disabilities. Self advocacy and social groups include:

- Frontier Club
- Pioneer Club
- Friends in Common
- North Quabbin Friends

Positive Parenting ~ Resources for Parents with Disabilities
The Positive Parenting Resource Center provides services and supports families headed by parents with cognitive challenges, intellectual limitations or learning disabilities. Primary United Arc services provided for positive parenting include:

- Individualized Parent Support
- Parent Education and Support Groups
- Supervised Visitation
- Intensive Structured Supported Family Living
- Consultation
- Mentoring Support
- Grandparent Support
- Affiliations

For more information on The United Arc and its programs, visit www.theunitedarc.org. Contact info: info@theunitedarc.org or **Turners Falls** ~ 294 Avenue A, 01376 ~ 413-774-5558 | **North Quabbin Office** ~ 361 Main Street, Athol, 01331 ~ 978-249-4052 or 866-777-8150 | **Greenfield Office** ~ 111 Summer Street, 01301 ~ 413-774-5558 | **Holyoke Office** ~ 208 Race Street, 01040 ~ 413-774-5558.
“Looking Forward: A Winter Breakfast with the Rainbow Elders” will take place on January 17 from 9:30 to 11:30 am at the Greenfield Corporate Center Cafeteria, located at 101 Munson Street in Greenfield, MA, and the location of LifePath’s new main office.

Bring your hopes and dreams, friends and neighbors – or just yourself – and gather with other LGBTIQA elders to enjoy a light breakfast with friendly faces, new and old. “The January event is a great opportunity to come together and eat and visit,” says Dave Gott of the Rainbow Elders Steering Committee. JR, another Steering Committee member, adds, “And the kinds of activities that go on besides the actual food, which is yummy, gives us a lot of interaction with each other, and it’s fun to learn about different folks. It’s a very open and welcoming venue for all of the LGBTIQA elders in the area.”

Registration is requested by Thursday, January 11 and can be done by clicking here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/looking-forward-a-winter-breakfast-with-the-rainbow-elders-registration-41224532687, or by calling Lynne Feldman, Director of Community Services at LifePath, at 413-773-5555 x2215 or 978-544-2259 x2215.

Even if you’ve never attended a Rainbow Elders event before, you are welcome to attend this one! “Some folks who come to our gatherings are new to the area,” says Dave. “They may want to make new connections with individuals with like experiences. Whether or not they come back to gatherings, they get a chance to be connected to others with common experiences. That inspires me to do what I do.” “Try us out,” says JR. “We have great food, great company, it’s free, and if you need a ride, call the RSVP number, and we’ll try and help you get there.”

There is no charge for this event, but a suggested donation of $10 is appreciated and will be used to cover expenses for this and future Rainbow Elders events. This is a drug-, alcohol-, and fragrance-free event.

Special thanks to Program Champion Lathrop Communities and sponsoring Advocates: Barton’s Angels Home Health Care, Franklin Community Co-op/Green Fields Market & McCusker’s Market, Rockridge, Victory Home Healthcare, and WestMass ElderCare; as well as Community Partner: Franklin County Pride.
Athol Bird & Nature Club

The 2018 Bird and Nature of the North Quabbin calendars are available online now! — To order, visit https://atholbirdclub.org/abnc-calendar/abnc-calendar-form.

Jan. 10: 7pm — African Safari Presentation - Mitchell R. Grosky will be presenting a slideshow on his African safari in the summer of 2016.

Membership Time: Thanks to the many folks who have already joined the ABNC or renewed. Their dedicated volunteers hope to continue to provide the public with programs that excite and delight our community. They hope that their passion is contagious and that they can continue to meet new people and broaden our community of nature conscious citizens. Sign up online today at atholbirdclub.org/abnc-membership/membership-form or print out a membership form and mail it in to 100 Main Street, Athol MA 01331.

Healthy Families Program Supervisor Position Open

Community Action is seeking a compassionate, hard-working professional for its full-time Healthy Families Supervisor position based in the Franklin County/ North Quabbin region. Healthy Families is an intensive parenting support program that provides in-home coaching/support to pregnant and parenting teens and their babies. The primary role of the Supervisor is to provide individualized weekly supervision to home-visiting staff utilizing a reflective practice and providing clinical and administrative support. The Supervisor also coordinates referral/intake systems and plans/implements group services in cooperation with the home-visiting team. This position receives intensive orientation and training in the HF model and ongoing supervision.

Requirements include a Bachelor's degree in Human Services or field related to working with children and families. A minimum of three years of relevant experience is required including at least two years of experience providing clinical support and one year of supervision and leadership experience. Knowledge of infant/ toddler development and parent-child mental health is required. Must have understanding of prevention service delivery based on promoting protective factors of families. The position is based in Orange, Massachusetts and the program covers all of Franklin County and the North Quabbin region. Community Action offers excellent training and generous employee benefits.

To apply, send a Letter of Interest and a resume to caad310@communityaction.us. No phone calls please. Screenings begin immediately and continue until position is filled. A full job description is available at www.communityaction.us.
Mission Statement: The North Quabbin Community Coalition is a community-wide alliance committed to improving the quality of life for all those living and working in the North Quabbin since 1984.

Congressman James P. McGovern’s Local Office Hours in Athol

Congressman James P. McGovern, serving the 2nd Congressional District, Massachusetts, has local office hours at the North Quabbin Community Coalition, 251 Exchange Street, Athol. Staff will be available on the third Friday of every month from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm to meet with you and provide assistance/advocacy with matters pertaining to federal government agencies and to discuss concerns, thoughts or opinions regarding matters pertaining to the federal government. To schedule an appointment or for additional information, please contact Eladia Romero, District Representative at 978-466-3552.

Seeking Literacy Volunteers

The Literacy Volunteers of Orange/Athol offers free, confidential, one-to-one tutoring for adults, paired with professionally trained tutors to learn at their own pace and in the best way for them. They are seeking volunteer tutors and are offering an informational meeting for those interested on January 9 from 5:00 to 6:00 pm at the Athol Public Library, 568 Main Street, Athol. The free training will begin in February and there is a two hour per week commitment. Please RSVP to 978-249-5381 or lvoa01331@gmail.com. “Building a more literate community one learner at a time.”