



Washington Hancock Community Agency



2007 Annual Report
People Helping People
Changing Lives Since 1966

Executive Director's Report

Economic security remains a distant dream for many families in Maine, including here in Washington and Hancock counties. Over 12.6 percent of all Maine citizens live in poverty according to Maine Community Action Association's *Poverty in Maine 2006* report. The number of children living in poverty is even greater. The rate of poverty in Washington County is 50% higher than for the rest of the State of Maine.

The primary goal for 2007 identified by the Board of Directors of WHCA was to focus on economic development with an emphasis on Washington County. They agree that the best way to achieve self-sufficiency is by having a good paying job with benefits. Down East Business Alliance (DBA) has been working with other economic development entities in Washington County to identify the continuing needs of micro-enterprises and to address those needs. DBA is undertaking the 30th edition of its award-winning Incubator Without Walls program in the Machias Area which began in the fall of 2007.

Substantial progress has been made on the "Needs Assessment." The purpose of the Needs Assessment is to answer several questions: Is WHCA providing the services that are needed by the people we serve in Hancock and Washington counties? Are we doing a good job providing those services? Do the programs really make a difference? Over the past year, WHCA held four community forums at which we received critical input from low-income residents, service providers, and members of the public. We are also undertaking a survey of clients to have better input about what they believe their needs are. The report will be completed during the next year.



Ann Acheson (center) of Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center and author of "Poverty in Maine 2006" moderated WHCA's Needs Assessment meeting in Ellsworth in October.

On the cover: *Children at Wee Care Child Care in Cherryfield spent an afternoon creating the WHCA logo using finger paints. Childcare provider Lori Barbee controlled the chaos as the children patiently worked on their project. Our little artists are: (left to right) Joseph Ray-Smith, Rowan Perrin, Myah Jellison, Brady Reynolds, Savannah Carter and Zoe Reynolds.*

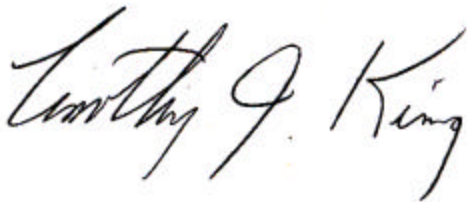
During the past year, WHCA had an incredibly successful capital fund-raiser for Friendship Cottage, the adult day program and caregiver resource center. This program serving the elderly and their family caregivers in Hancock County will be the only one of its kind in the State of Maine. Over \$1,000,000 was raised in just over a year to acquire the Left Bank Café, renovate it, and offer the program. WHCA was successful in obtaining \$340,000 in grants to pay for part of the renovation and purchase a vehicle for transporting program participants. The Caregiver Resource Center opened in November 2007 and the Adult Day Program will start in March 2008.

Community Services completed many of the REACH program goals to provide alternative energy sources. This included installation of heat pumps in 48 homes and a wind turbine to reduce electrical consumption at the Winter Harbor Elderly Housing Complex.

The Helping Hands Garage in Transportation Services has evolved into a successful program that purchases reasonably priced reliable vehicles and underwrites loans at reasonable rates for working families. This successful program has provided over 60 families with reliable transportation to help them reach self-sufficiency.

Family Resource Center Down East is working hard on the Medication Assistance Program funded with a \$250,000 grant from Maine Health Access Foundation. So far, it has helped numerous families in Hancock and Washington counties qualify for free or low cost prescription drugs.

Much has been accomplished during the past year, yet much remains to be done. WHCA has its mission and a group of committed employees prepared to address the needs of those in poverty in Washington and Hancock counties.



Timothy J. King
Executive Director
Washington Hancock Community Agency



Our Mission

WHCA brings community resources together to help people in Washington and Hancock counties achieve self-sufficiency and a better quality of life.

Washington Hancock Community Agency
 Statements of Activities
 For the Years Ended September 30, 2007

	<u>2007 Total</u>	<u>2006 Total</u>
Revenues, Gains, and Other Support:		
Direct State Contracts	\$5,061,743	\$4,740,503
Direct Federal Contracts	\$71,151	\$161,328
Other Contracts	\$404,704	\$528,463
Program Revenue	\$175,664	\$117,645
Program Reimbursements	\$2,219,413	\$1,964,402
Donations	\$367,416	\$349,915
Sale of Property	\$30,462	\$1,054
Miscellaneous	<u>\$167,261</u>	<u>\$154,857</u>
Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support:	<u>\$8,497,814</u>	<u>\$8,018,167</u>
Expenses and Losses:		
Transportation	\$2,412,394	\$2,025,123
Housing	\$1,520,732	\$1,729,464
Down East Business Alliance	\$196,113	\$258,120
Family Resource Center Downeast	\$1,353,858	\$1,293,583
Community Services	\$1,665,239	\$1,463,782
Expert Energy Services	\$236,203	\$83,428
Keeping Children Safe Downeast	\$0	\$27,624
Friendship Cottage	\$113,449	\$12,820
Other Services	\$326,028	\$349,045
Management and general	<u>\$467,433</u>	<u>\$553,633</u>
Total Expenses and Losses:	<u>\$8,291,449</u>	<u>\$7,796,622</u>
Change in Net Assets	\$206,365	\$221,545
Net Assets - October 1	\$2,086,084	\$1,864,539
Net Assets - September 30	* <u>\$2,292,449</u>	<u>\$2,086,084</u>

* Unaudited totals

Board of Directors

The role of Washington Hancock Community Agency's Board of Directors is to define and meet its overall responsibility by governing the Agency in a manner that is consistent with its mission and responsive to client needs.

The Agency's mission is "*WHCA brings community resources together to help people in Washington and Hancock counties to achieve self-sufficiency and a better quality of life*".

The following actions were undertaken by the Board of Directors during the year ended on September 30, 2007:



WHCA's Board of Directors: Front row: Clover Meserve, Norma Harrop, Janice Howard, Martha Beathem and David Sanderson. Back row: President Jack Corrigan, Executive Director Tim King, Marianne Moore, Chris Lyford, and Barbara Drisko. Not pictured are Michael Hennessey, Bernhard Sund and William Stone.

1. The Board established an Evaluation Committee to judge the effectiveness of the Agency's operating divisions. Down East Business Alliance was the first division evaluated.
2. The Board authorized the purchase and renovation of the Friendship Cottage in Blue Hill.
3. The Board agreed to the following Goals for the agency in 2006-07:
 - a. To support existing micro-enterprises and assist in the creation of new micro-enterprises.
 - b. To enhance partnerships with existing State and county economic development organizations.
 - c. To determine the service needs for the people living in Washington and Hancock counties.
 - d. To improve the quality of life for the elderly.
 - e. To start enterprises to generate new revenues and increase the Agency's self-sufficiency.
 - f. To undertake a planned giving program.
4. The Board authorized an Advisory Committee for the Friendship Cottage.
5. The Board formed a Needs Assessment Committee to survey Agency clients and planned community forums.
6. The Board formed a Mapping Committee to identify the geographic areas benefiting from Agency programs.

During the year the Board preserved the Agency's mission; established and monitored the Agency's policies and procedures, and evaluated the performance of the Agency as a whole. I am grateful to have served with such a dedicated Board of Directors as well as the hardworking employees who make a difference in lives of our clients and neighbors.

—John Corrigan, President, WHCA Board of Directors

Transportation Services

Accomplishments in 2007

Total trips: 156,060
Volunteer driver miles: 1,243,873
Non-emergency MaineCare trips: 132,649
Supervised Workshop trips: 12,220
DHS family reunification trips: 5,678

Total number of clients 3,341

Collaborative Partnerships

Eastern Maine Transportation Collaborative
Hancock County Case Resolution Committee
Local healthcare providers and municipalities
Maine Transit Association
United Way of Eastern Maine
University of Maine Center on Aging
Washington Co. Case Resolution Committee
Local municipalities and US DHHS – CMM - Feds have allowed tax dollars designated by local municipalities for transportation only as a match for US Medicaid.

Funding Sources

Insurance companies
JTG Foundation
Local municipalities
Maine Community Foundation
Maine Dept. of Health and Human Services

- Behavioral and Developmental Services
- MaineCare
- Community Services Center

Maine Dept. of Transportation
Private parties
School unions
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

- Medicaid



“Dusty” Stanley Receives Self-Sufficiency Award

WHCA’s annual Self-Sufficiency Award recognizes someone who embodies the agency mission: to achieve self-sufficiency and a better quality of life. This year’s award was presented to Delorean “Dusty” Stanley at WHCA’s Annual Meeting on October 23.

Just six months ago, “Dusty” Stanley was on SSI and struggling to make ends meet after he became disabled. For a short time, Dusty’s niece and her husband took care of him. They found him a place to live through the Pinebrook Apartments in Franklin. Dusty had a small pick-up, but the truck was in very bad shape. In order to earn a few dollars here and there, he would drive some of the tenants from Pinebrook to their medical appointments and to the grocery store. When his truck became too unreliable and he could no longer take people to their appointments, Dusty came to WHCA for help.

Through the Helping Hands Garage program Dusty was able to obtain an affordable, reliable Buick LeSabre. With his new car, Dusty became a volunteer driver for WHCA and is now self-sufficient.



When April Morse came to us in June 2007, she was homeless and driving a car with over 200,000 miles on it. She applied to Helping Hands Garage and wrote in her application, “The car I have is about to die and is not fixable, a hazard. And I need to get to work.” She noted that her ex-husband is a “semi driver and he has all his driving buddies on the look out for the car I use now. Please help!” The staff at HHG helped April purchase a 1998 Malibu which is running well. She has been able to take several home care jobs and is currently applying for full-time employment. She is now a student at Calais Technical College, studying childhood education. She says of HHG, “It came just in time. I couldn’t ask for better.” When asked what happened to her old car, she said, “I sold it for parts and it helped me make one of my payments.”



Transportation Services

WHCA’s Transportation Services staff and volunteer drivers travel over a million miles each year, helping people access medical services, employment opportunities, senior food programs, and other important services.

Contact us for ride information:

Tel: toll-free 1-877-DRIVEYOU
(1-877-374-8396)

local: 664-0012 or 546-7547

Email: crobbs@whcacap.org

For general inquiries:

Tel: 664-2424 or 546-7544, ext. 4410

Email: Lbelfiore@whcacap.org

Mission:

Helping Hands Garage is dedicated to helping income eligible people buy vehicles that provide transportation to work for them and their families at a reasonable cost and finance rate. Our primary goals are to enable people with low incomes to develop good credit histories so they will qualify for loans from mainstream lenders, and to provide them safe, affordable transportation so they can commute to work and access medical services. This program has grown considerably; and has a successful repayment history. To date, HHG has helped over 60 clients.

Family Resource Center Downeast

Accomplishments in 2007

220 children received subsidized child care
46 childcare providers received food reimbursements / training
702 children received nutritious meals and snacks
74 families received child safety seats and instruction
521 families served via clothing distributions
116 families received Christmas gifts
16 needy families helped with Thanksgiving food baskets
59 jail inmates assisted with community re-entry services
2 local schools participated in the "Baby Think It Over" program
11 mandated reporter trainings offered
840 books and literacy activities distributed
125 providers received resource kits and training
1494 children received toothbrushes and brushing packs

Funding Sources

Local municipalities
Maine Children's Trust
Maine Dept. of Education
Maine Dept. of Health and Human Services
Maine Health Access Foundation
Reading is Fundamental (RIF)
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
United Way of Eastern Maine

Significant Developments/Achievements

The state has decided to centralize child care vouchers and slots programs, so our division has been tasked with finding other funding sources.



Joseph Ray-Smith tries his hand at creating the WHCA logo with fingerpaints at Wee Care Child Care in Cherryfield.

Family Resource Center Downeast has numerous programs. It provides assistance with the cost of child care for eligible families and children. It administers the Child Care Food Program, a United States Department of Agriculture program that insures healthy meals are served to children attending child care by reimbursing providers with the cost of serving those meals. The Washington County Child Abuse Prevention Council coordinates various activities designed to prevent child abuse and neglect through education and coordination of community efforts. The council also sponsors the "Baby Think It Over" program which provides education about proper care of children through the use of realistic, computerized "babies." FRCD also operates the Reading is Fundamental program, Downeast Medical Assistance program and provides car seats for children.



Funding Cuts

Many children benefited from Maine Department of Health and Human Resources funding of the childcare slots program, like Alicia Cote (shown above). The program provided a network of support for licensed family childcare homes. Funding was used for supplies such as crayons, paints and craft materials and for training, child safety programs and other services. The program has an uncertain future as funding has been cut dramatically.

Family Resource Center Downeast

helps build strong families, develops healthy children, and creates safe communities by providing services and support systems that build on family strengths. We offer an extensive library and information clearinghouse for families, child care providers, and other community members.

Contact us:

Tel: 546-7544 or 664-2424 ext. 3311
 Email: lcorkins@whcacap.org

Collaborative Partnerships

- ACCESS
- Bangor Savings Bank
- Blue Hill Hospital
- Center for Community Inclusion
- Child and Family Opportunities
- Child Development Services
- Clear Channel
- Community Health & Counseling
- Danforth Health Center
- Down East Health Services
- Down East Sexual Assault
- Eastern Agency on Aging
- East Grand Health Center
- Eastport Health Center
- Family First
- Ford Motor Co.
- Giving Tree Partners - Machias
- Harrington HeadStart
- Harrington Health Center
- Hancock County Children's Council
- Hancock County Local Children's Cabinet
- Hancock County Jail and Volunteers
- Hancock County Sheriff's Department
- Hannaford Stores
- Indian Township
- Keeping Children Safe Coalition
- Local childcare providers
- Lubec HeadStart/Preschool
- Machias Career Center
- Machias Congregational Church
- Machias High School Adult Education
- Machias Valley HeadStart
- Maine Coast Memorial Hospital
- Maine Primary Care Association
- Maine Roads to Quality
- Maine Sea Coast Mission
- Mount Desert Island Hospital
- Milbridge Library
- Moose-A-Bec HeadStart
- Muskie School
- Parents Are Teachers Too (PATT)
- Pleasant Point Indian Reservation
- Public Health Nursing
- Quoddy Bay Children's Center
- Regional Medical Center of Lubec
- SAD 37
- St. Croix Health Center
- Sumner Adult Education
- The Next Step
- Town of Machias
- United Bikers of Maine- Hancock County
- United Bikers of Maine – Washington County
- United Way of Eastern Maine
- University of Maine at Machias
- University of Maine Center on Aging
- Washington County Council to Prevent Child Abuse
- Washington County Local Children's Cabinet

Community Services

Accomplishments in 2007

LIHEAP clients served: 4597
People helped with past due rent: 18
Families provided FEMA assistance: 9
Families receiving electric low income rates:
Bangor Hydro 2758
CMP 97
EME 375
Food delivered to local pantries: 84.4 tons of food worth \$63,038.71
Life Line families: 3218
Voucher & Moderate Rehab Section 8 vouchers: 170 vouchers 15 Mod Rehab
Seniors served by Keeping Seniors Home program: 26
Families received PUC appliance replacements: 202
Households receiving THAW Fund emergency assistance: 27
Households receiving Keep Me Warm Funds: 365

Collaborative Partnerships

Community Health and Counseling
Electric companies:

- Bangor Hydro-Electric Co.
- Central Maine Power Co.
- Eastern Maine Electric Co.
- Swan's Island Electric

Jasper Wyman and Son Co.

Local churches, food pantries/soup kitchens, oil dealers, and town offices

Maine Dept. of Health and Human Services

Maine State Housing Authority

MCI

Public Utilities Commission

Telephone companies:

- Verizon
- TDS Telcom
- Union River

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

Funding Partners

Local municipalities

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

Federal Emergency Management Authority

United Way of America

Maine Dept. of Health and Human Services

- Maine Breast and Cervical Cancer Program

Maine State Housing Authority



Jo-Ann Choate (left), Dale McCormick, Eleanor West and Tim King attended the ribbon cutting ceremony in August.

Windmill Installation

Washington Hancock Community Agency hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony in August at Mill Stream Heights apartments in Winter Harbor to mark the completion of a new ten kilowatt electricity-generating windmill designed to meet the common power needs of the 16-unit facility. This windmill serves to advance the mission of WHCA's REACH Initiative, conducted in collaboration with MaineHousing and Kennebec Valley Community Action Program. As a result of this energy efficiency initiative, eight of the sixteen Mill Stream heights apartments also now have new cold-climate heat pumps that greatly improve energy efficiency.

Numerous state and local officials attended the ribbon-cutting, including Dale McCormick, Director of MaineHousing; Jo-Ann Choate, MaineHousing Energy Programs Manager; John Joseph, owner of Joseph and Associates; Dick Fickett, owner of Fickett Property Management; Tim King, WHCA Executive Director; Eleanor West, WHCA Community Services Director; Roger Barto, Winter Harbor Town Manager; John Rush and Kate Burgess of Evolo Energy Solutions; Don and Claudia Lewis, owners of Nyle Corporation of Brewer; and several directors of Winter Harbor Housing.

THAW Fund Receives a Boost

The Heating and Warmth Fund received a much needed boost in the fall when the *New York Times* published an article by Erik Eckholm, “Barely Getting By and Facing a Cold Maine Winter.”

Mr. Eckholm wrote: “In this long-depressed ‘down east’ region, where the wild blueberry patches have turned a brilliant crimson, thousands of elderly residents live on crushingly meager incomes. This winter promises to be especially chilling, with fuel oil prices rising and fuel assistance expected to decline. But many assume that others are worse off than themselves and are too proud to ask for assistance, according to groups that run meal programs and provide aid for heating and weatherizing.”

The article drew response from all over the country and donations were made to the fund by generous individuals from as far away as California. The fund was particularly crucial this year because of cuts to LIHEAP funding coupled with the steep rise in the price of oil.



Dolly Jordan has been using WHCA programs for over ten years now. “Without the programs, I’d be lost,” she says. “I wouldn’t know how to make ends meet.” Dolly was featured in the story in the *New York Times*. She says she has become pen pals with some of the readers who learned about her through that story. Through WHCA, she has weatherized her home for the winter and that has helped. “I’m doing pretty good now,” she says. “I’m doing OK.”

Significant Developments/Achievements

We received an award and were able to work with MaineHousing through a REACH Grant to install a windmill and cold climate heat pumps to replace electric heat in an elderly and disabled complex in Winter Harbor.

We were able to start taking applications July 5 and get the fuel assistance to folks early so they would have a tank of fuel to start the winter.

We were able to move someone who came to us in the Able Program into full time job status.

We were able to raise enough money through our fund raising efforts to serve 27 families in crisis with our THAW Fund.

Community Services

WHCA’s Community Services staff provides many direct and support services to prevent hunger, hypothermia, and homelessness. We work hard to connect people in need with programs that help make them secure.

Contact us:

Tel: 7:30 – Noon: 1-800-828-7544

7:30 – 4:00 pm: 664-2424, or
546-7544, ext. 4445

Email: Lhardison@whcacap.org

Housing Services

Accomplishments in 2007

	<u>VALUE</u>
133 homes weatherized	\$370,366.00
48 new heating systems	\$126,964.00
59 oil tanks replaced	\$106,770.00
264 refrigerators replaced	\$151,489.00
3,392 light bulbs replaced	\$7,637.43
27 homes repaired	\$363,731.07
1 CMP new home powerline extensions	\$2,800.00
9 lead abatements	\$133,650.00

3 families assisted with home purchases
12 HoMEworks homebuyer education classes

Collaborative Partnerships

Bangor Savings Bank
Bar Harbor Banking & Trust
Central Maine Power Co.
Eastern Maine Development Corp.
Hancock County Planning Commission
Machias Savings Bank
Maine Sea Coast Mission Society
Neighbors Helping Neighbors
Union Trust Co.

Funding Sources

Local municipalities
Maine Community Foundation
Maine Dept. of Economic and
Community Development
Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection
Maine Dept. of Health and Human Services
Maine Office of Community Development
Maine State Housing Authority
Town of Machias
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture - Rural Development

Significant Developments/ Achievements

A new Housing Director, David Struck, was hired this year.

Housing Services efficiently managed the statewide Above Ground Storage Tank Program.

We maintained a very efficient appliance replacement program, exceeding the original contract.

The 3rd Fall Free Auction raised \$4,136.



Housing Services staff dedicate time, energy, and resources to helping people maintain safe, affordable, energy-efficient housing.

Contact Us

Tel: 546-7544 ext. 3318 or
664-2424, ext. 3383
Email: dstruck@whcacap.org

Fall Free Auction



Housing Director David Struck (left) watches as District Attorney Michael Povich describes an item in the Fall Free Auction.

More than 100 fun and practical items were donated for Washington Hancock Community Agency's Third Annual Fall Free Auction, which was held at Jordan's Snack Bar in Ellsworth. District Attorney Michael Povich officiated at the event which raised over \$4,000 for the Fall Free program..

Items in the auction ranged from simple and practical things, such as a coffee mug from S.L.

Woodworth in Eastport or an oil change from Stanley Subaru in Ellsworth, to fun things, such as a 1969 Mustang die cast car from NAPA Auto Parts in Bucksport or a pink leather jacket from Jekyll & Hyde in Bar Harbor. The list included gift certificates to area restaurants and stores, clothing, jewelry, ski resort passes, ferry tickets, hardware items, lamps, a couple of cat leashes and a stuffed monkey. The event benefited our Fall Free program.

The Fall Free program is designed to address safety issues in the homes of elderly residents. Among older adults, falls in and around the home are the most common cause of injuries and hospital admissions. The money raised at the auction will be used to make necessary safety modifications to such areas as ramps, floors, stairs, railings, walkways and bathrooms.



Fall Free
Looking out for those we love

Down East Business Alliance

Accomplishments in 2007

95 tax returns prepared for low income and elderly tax payers
24 tax payers received an Earned Income Tax Credit

20 businesses attended Get ME Market Ready workshops for farmers and food producers
12 farmers' markets visited and assessed
320 hours of DBA staff time was dedicated to the farmers' markets assessments
183 hours of business technical assistance provided to 14 specialty food producers
245 hours of DBA staff time was dedicated to research and planning regarding a food distribution network in Washington County

4 Loans approved for local micro businesses for \$33,000
2994 hours of business technical assistance provided to 38 business members of the Experiential Tourism Incubator Without Walls (ET-IWW) project.
20 business workshops for ET-IWW members
\$1,763 of business improvement stipends granted to 9 micro businesses
24 jobs created
3 businesses started

Funding Partners

The Betterment Fund
Finance Authority of Maine
Maine Community Foundation Component Fund Penquis
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture – Rural Development
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
- Community Economic Development
- Community Services Block Grant
Univ. of Maine Center for Tourism Research and Outreach



Farmers' Market Assessment Project

This summer, DBA received funding from an anonymous donor through a Maine Community Foundation component fund to perform assessments of local farmers' markets. The purpose of the project was to see what recommendations could be made to make the markets more sustainable. Stronger farmer's markets result in stronger local food production, more economically healthy food producers and healthy eating for local residents. DBA staff performed assessments at 12 markets in the two counties, visiting each market at least once, but more often at least two times. The final report has several recommendations to strengthen markets and improve local food sales. We found that markets with strong municipal support and committed market managers fared the best. The work done this summer is forming the basis for grant proposals this fall and winter and will continue to provide supporting data to DBA proposals for some time to come.

DBA channels resources to boost prosperity for local entrepreneurs. Through comprehensive training and technical assistance programs, DBA sparks business growth and employment expansion.

Contact us:

Tel: 664-2424 or 546-7544, ext. 4453

Email: dba@whcacap.org

www.downeastbiz.org



Steve Ftorek (left) met with fellow IWW business owners Sara Somes and Lynda Caron at an IWW event in Machias in the fall.

DBA Marks 30th IWW

Through the Incubator Without Walls program, Down East Business Alliance has helped dozens of small businesses and micro businesses get launched and grow. Since 1996, IWW has been providing business training and technical assistance, marketing assistance, business counseling, growth grants, loans and other resources along with an opportunity for small business owners to network with other businesses. This year, DBA began its 30th IWW program for small businesses.

Steve Ftorek, who runs Cobscook Hikes and Paddles with his wife Tessa, is a veteran of the IWW program. Steve says that the contacts he made with other businesses through the program led to key partnerships with elder hostels and birdwatching groups. “Your business grows because of the contacts you make,” he says. “The workshops are great for the networking which helps other people put you out there, too.”

Steve also says he learned through IWW that marketing is very important. He’s gotten the word out about Cobscook Hikes and Paddles through his website. Many of his customers now come from out of state and from Southern Maine. “We’ve learned how to reach people better in this new, Internet age,” he says.

Micro-enterprises (businesses with four employees or fewer), are part of a growing trend in this area, particularly in Washington County. Approximately 32 percent of jobs in Washington County currently come from micro businesses and in Hancock County they account for almost 30 percent of jobs.

DBA is helping local businesses grow, one business at a time.

Collaborative Partners

Bar Harbor Bank and Trust
 Coastal Enterprises, Incorporated
 Cobscook Bay Resource Center
 The First
 Four Directions Development Corporation
 Machias Savings Bank
 Maine Dept. of Agriculture
 Maine Kitchen Coalition
 Maine Dept. of Economic and Community Development
 Penquis
 Small Business Development Center
 Sunrise County Economic Council
 Town of Bucksport
 Town of Machias
 Town of Stonington
 Union Trust Company
 University of Maine Center for Tourism, Research, and Outreach
 University of Maine Cooperative Extension
 Washington County Community College
 Washington County Council of Governments
 Women’s Business Center, Washington County
 Women, Work, and Community

Significant Developments

DBA began to research distribution and farmers’ markets solutions to improve food sales for farmers and food producers in Washington and Hancock counties.

DBA opened an office in the town of Machias.

DBA acquired resources to offer two new Incubator Without Walls projects in FY 2008.



Friendship Cottage Groundbreaking Ceremony

At the groundbreaking for Friendship Cottage held Monday, October 29, two things were made abundantly clear. First is that the project's very existence and success to date is thanks to the overwhelming support of the community. Second is that much work remains before the planned opening of the new Adult Day Service program in March 2008.

"This could not have happened without the cooperation and assistance of many people," stated Tim King, Executive Director of Washington Hancock Community Agency (WHCA). Emphasizing that Friendship Cottage is truly a community-based project, King took the opportunity to thank a number of folks in attendance and the more than 350 area residents who have contributed to the purchase and for the renovation of the facility.

Brooksville resident John Eysenbach, who co-chaired the successful capital campaign with Surry resident Albert Small, was on hand as King recognized the campaign committee for exceeding its goal and raising more than \$1 million to date from individuals, businesses, private family foundations, and federal grants.

King thanked Blue Hill Selectman Jim Schatz, also in attendance, for the town's support in securing the federal grants and recognized members of the WHCA board of directors and the Friendship Cottage advisory board, many of whom were on hand for the groundbreaking. Those WHCA

board members included Joan Weber (Little Deer Isle), Martha Beathem (Ellsworth), and Craig Schoppe (Ellsworth) while Ms. Weber, Oz Bonsey (Surry), Joan Bothwell (Penobscot), Barbara Clark (Ellsworth), Nance Eaton (Brooklin), and Dr. John Tyler (Blue Hill) represented the project's advisory board.



Caregiver Resource Center Opens at BMMH

The Friendship Cottage Caregiver Resource Center (CRC) opened in its temporary quarters on the third floor in the Blue Hill Memorial Hospital (BMMH) this fall. Services offered in the center include information on community resources, federal and state program information, caregiver education, support groups, long-term and transitional-care planning, and relief from the stress and burden of care giving.

This space in the hospital's old wing has been most generously donated to the project until renovations on the future home of Friendship Cottage are complete. BMMH Social Service Director Anne Dickens and hospital CEO Tim Garrity have been instrumental in making this happen and we thank them for their efforts.

Through a happy partnership with WHCA, the respected and dedicated staff of Eastern Agency on Aging (EAA) will provide professional staffing for the resource center. Volunteer opportunities also exist in the center. Brooksville resident Gerry Bryan, the chair of the Friendship Cottage advisory board, states, "The Caregiver Resource Center will be there to answer your questions and help you build a team to cope."

"We're very excited to be part of this," says Val Sauda, EAA community services director, "This will really be the best place to get information on the local level."

EAA Executive Director Noelle Merrill sees the center as an opportunity to increase her organization's visibility and accessibility in our community. "Most of our field staffers work out of their homes," Merrill said, "This will put our representatives out in the public where they are able to be seen."

A Salute To Volunteers

Extreme Home Makeover Taps WHCA for Volunteers

When “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” hit Milbridge in September, WHCA was behind the scenes to help make it all happen. Volunteer coordinator Bobbi Harris rounded up around 400 able bodies for the project, many of them from WHCA.

The volunteers worked night and day to help build a new home for Brittany Ray and Ron Smith. The couple was selected for the project because of their contribution as teachers. Ray was named Maine’s Teacher of the Year in 2006. Broughman Builders worked along with more than 100 local contractors to construct the home using hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of materials and services provided free of charge. WHCA’s contribution could best be described as “sweat-equity.”



Bobbi Harris was wearing many hats as the volunteer coordinator and she wore this same smile throughout the whole week of work.



David Sanderson Receives Annual Ethel Schwalbe Award

WHCA Board Member David Sanderson (below left) received this year’s Ethel Schwalbe Award for his outstanding service. Tim King (right) presented the award at the Annual Meeting in October.

Blake Donates \$5,000 to Help Other Drivers

Transportation Services received a \$5,000 donation from one of our volunteer drivers this year. The gift from Gloria Blake of Jonesport (right, shown here with Linda Belfiore) will be used to help volunteers pay for repairs so they can safely drive people to needed services. WHCA intends to seek matching funds to increase the amount available to help with these repairs.

Gloria has served as a volunteer driver for more than three years and at one time relied upon this service.



Employee of the Year: Steve Bobrovnikoff



Steve Bobrovnikoff was honored for 18 years of service to WHCA this year and presented with an award at the annual holiday party. Steve began driving for WHCA's Transportation Services in 1989. Barbara Donovan, who was Transportation Director at the time, called him "Steady Eddy," for his consistently good work and attitude. Steve was also noted for his punctuality. In presenting the award, Tim King said, "He will be remembered as the driver who called exactly at 6:30 every morning without fail. We could set our clocks and watches by his phone call." He was always genuinely concerned for his passengers and paid attention to their special needs. Steve is retiring and will be missed by the entire staff at WHCA.

Special Thanks to Joan Weber

Joan Weber joined WHCA's Board of Directors in 1998. In 2000, she received the Ethel Schwalbe Award, given to a member of the board who goes above and beyond the normal duties of a board member. Through the years, Joan has served on numerous committees, been on the executive committee and assisted in the hiring process for the Keeping Children Safe program. She retired from the board this year. The board awarded Joan special emeritus status for her many years of outstanding service to Washington Hancock Community Agency.



A Tribute to William Stone

William Frank Stone, a former member of WHCA's Board of Directors, died Dec. 1, 2007, at his home in Prospect Harbor. Bill graduated from University of Maine with a Bachelor of Arts in 1956. He received the Ph.D. in 1963, and enjoyed a 31-year teaching career at the University of Maine.

Bill was active in Democratic politics and ran for local and state offices. He wrote a book entitled "The Psychology of Politics," published in 1974. He was a founder of International Society of Political Psychology.

Bill married Barbara Wilson McCleave in 1991 and they moved to Prospect Harbor in 1995, where he indulged his love of sailing. Bill enjoyed one season as a stern man on a lobster boat in Corea. He and Barbara shared many travels, especially to Latin America and Europe. He was chairman of Schoodic Futures, a community development group. He conceived and put into motion the organization of Friends of Schoodic, now part of Friends of Acadia.

Bill had been on the Board of the Washington Hancock Community Agency for a number of years and was active in many other organizations and projects. Bill served on the micro enterprise loan committee for many years, helping businesses in both counties get started. He was a lifetime learner, insatiably curious, well read and always ready for new experiences and projects. We at WHCA are grateful for his contribution and commitment to our mission.

How to Reach Us

All Divisions:

Milbridge: 546-7544 Fax: 546-3216
Ellsworth: 664-2424 Fax: 664-2430
TDD 546-7607

Division Phone Numbers:

Email Addresses

Community Services	7:30 – Noon: 1-800-828-7544 7:30 – 4:00 pm: 664-2424; 546-7544	lhardison@whcacap.org
Down East Business Alliance	664-2424, ext. 4453	dba@whcacap.org
Family Resource Center Downeast	664-2424 or 546-7547, ext. 3311	lcorkins@whcacap.org
Housing Services	546-7544 or 664-2424, ext. 3318	dstruck@whcacap.org
Transportation Services	Open weekdays 8:00 am - 3:30 pm. To obtain a ride, call 1-877-DRIVEYOU (1-877-374-8396) from non-local calling areas. From local calling areas, please call 664-0012 or 546-7547	<u>Rides:</u> crobbins@whcacap.org <u>General inquires:</u> lbelfiore@whcacap.org

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General inquiries:
psmith@whcacap.org

Community Services
Down East Business Alliance
Finance Division
Transportation Services

P.O. Box 299
248 Bucksport Road
Ellsworth, ME 04605-0299

Make a Donation:

WHCA is a nonprofit organization. If you'd like to help us help others, contact us or visit our website to find out how you can support the work we do.

Thank you

Drop by:

Our Milbridge office (corner of Main & Maple St.) and our Ellsworth office (248 Bucksport Road) are open Monday-Friday (except holidays), from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Visit us online:

www.whcacap.org

This annual report was produced with the support of a Community Services Block Grant and the Maine Dept. of Health and Human Services. Written and designed by Ellen Hathaway, WHCA Resource Developer, with assistance from WHCA staff.

Back cover photos: (clockwise from left) Transportation Director Linda Belfiore (center) accepts a donation from volunteer driver Gloria Baker. Marcia Weaver of WHCA is on the left. Jim Buddington, a graduate of DBA's Incubator Without Walls program, shows off a batch of Sisters Salsa. Lee Hardison (left) of WHCA chats with Susan Farley of WABI-TV the day the REACH windmill was started in Winter Harbor. Installing the windmill was a Community Services project. Connor Lola (left) and Damien Frey enjoy a car ride at Lots of Tots in Princeton. Lots of Tots participates in WHCA programs. (Photos by J Martin, WHCA staff and courtesy Lots of Tots.)

Printed by Bangor Letter Shop, Bangor, Maine (www.bangorlettershop.com)



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