

# Morrison Center

Building a Brighter Future for People with Disabilities

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### Executive Director

## Spotlight on Programs

Morrison Center's mission—*why we exist*—is to provide comprehensive services for children and adults with and without developmental disabilities by creating a positive learning environment to encourage individual growth and potential. We achieve this through our core programs:

### Preschool and Childcare School AHEAD 1 and 2 Community Integration Seedling

We serve approximately 110 clients from York and Cumberland Counties; our youngest is 2 years old and the oldest is 72 years young. We are committed to promoting the well being of each individual we support, along with their families and our community as a whole. We continually strive to support and encourage our clients by inspiring a feeling of hope in their lives, by respecting their needs and individuality and by treating them with unconditional positive regard. Through each of our programs we seek to capitalize on our client's strengths and help them to thrive in the least restrictive environment possible. We encourage clients and their families (or guardians) to be active participants in their program planning.



To effectively meet our vision of excelling in providing quality support services to individuals, Morrison Center relies upon 51 staff members. The staff is comprised of teachers, speech therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, direct support personnel, nursing and administrative staff.

Morrison Center strives to be an acknowledged leader in the community by providing new and innovative ways of supporting individuals with challenges; please come by the Center for a tour to experience first hand the many accomplishments of our clients and staff!

60 Chamberlain Road, PO Box 1539  
Scarborough, Maine 04070-1539

## From the Directors Desk

“So what is it like being in your new building?” I was asked the other day. Well, I thought about this for a minute or two and realized that it is quite different, and there are many changes that we have had to deal with as an organization. One would think that the reaction would be “It’s wonderful! Everyone’s so much happier!” now that we have this beautiful building with all of its space. This is true and we are very fortunate to be here, but the transition has also been interesting and, in some cases, even challenging.

Back at our old building when we were getting ready to move, it appeared that we had acquired a lot of “things”. We were not in the habit of saying “no” to anything so the challenge became: what do we keep and what do we get rid of? We had to learn how to “chuck it” by getting a big dumpster. For the items we kept, we had to figure out where they would go in our new building. Somehow, we managed to pull it off and even *develop* a system for our storage.

After moving into our building, the next issue that arose was how to make sure all of our children and adults, when arriving first thing in the morning, would get to their respective program areas, and then to their buses at the end of the day. After a series of meetings and discussions, we were able to, again, set up a system that seems to be working well. However, again, it was a struggle.

The last and probably the most critical issue was: now that we are all together, how will we all get along? In some cases, staff didn’t even know each other, communication was an issue, setting priorities and working toward the common goal could be a challenge. Well, in the end, staff members rallied and we all learned valuable lessons about human behavior.

Of course, we all know that strong relationships are built around...food! When staff realized that being in one building meant that we could count on the Ahead Program to cook a wonderful lunch each week, it went a long way to bring about some smiles. In the end, we have certainly grown as an organization and my personal thanks to all of the people who have worked so hard to make this transition a wonderful one.



Until next time.....Jim

## Spotlight on Morrison Programs

### Friends First Preschool And Childcare Program

With the move to the new Scarborough Center in September 2009 came expanded services in our Preschool and Childcare Programs. “Friends First Childcare” began as an integrated childcare program for children with and without disabilities between the ages of 2 to 5 years old.

The childcare program includes a three hour preschool program, providing children with experiences designed to encourage their growth in fine and gross motor, social, emotional and cognitive development, and currently has 23 participants.



A very special part of this new program is the chance, during different times of the day, to integrate with the “Friends First Special Purpose Preschool”, or developmental preschool. This preschool program offers individually based programming for children ages 2 to 5 years old who have been identified as needing special education services, and currently has 17 program participants.

Friends First Preschool and Childcare staff includes licensed/certified special education teachers, education technicians, physical, occupational, speech/language therapists, and a school nurse. Teachers and clinicians function as a close team to provide an exemplary childcare and preschool experience for each child. Together our children enjoy lovely new classrooms, a totally accessible playground, and many fun activities such as cooking, music, dramatic play, art, yoga, and gardening.



### Volunteers

For the past several months, Morrison Center has enjoyed the participation of a group of dedicated volunteers in many of our programs. Our new building has made us so much more visible in the community that many people are curious about what we do, and come to take a look...and keep coming back, again and again! We’re so fortunate to benefit from their talents!

What are our volunteers doing? Being the friendly voice on the phone and the smiling face at the desk in our reception area; giving clients extra one-on-one attention and helping staff at lunch time; doing wonderful art projects; playing with preschoolers; organizing the storage of old records; teaching yoga; giving manicures to clients; helping with special events, and more. What would we do without them?

If you have time or talents to share, please give Betty Libby a call at 883-6680, extension 103. She’d be happy to talk about how you, too, might join our family.

# Spotlight on Morrison Programs—cont'd

## K-12 School Program

Morrison Center’s School Program is an educational program approved by the Department of Education and funded by local school districts. The program serves students ages 5 through 20 who have individualized education programs (IEPs) that are developed with the student, parent or guardian, classroom team and local school department. The classroom team includes a special education teacher, physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech/language pathologist, consulting psychologist, and education technicians.

Strong features of this program include a high staff to student ratio to provide individualized services, a high level of expertise for students with physical and feeding challenges, including use of computers and switches, pre-vocational training and community based activities, knowledge of ABA and behavior planning, to name a few. Students are provided with highly stimulating and quality activities that include such things as therapeutic swimming, yoga, and functional life skills training.

The School Program classroom is a beautiful, light-filled space specially designed to serve students with disabilities. It features a large classroom with access to an adaptive playground.



*Check out our newly redesigned website!*  
visit us at

**[www.mdcmaine.org](http://www.mdcmaine.org)**

*Follow us on*  
**Facebook!**  
*and become a fan...*

## Community Integration Program

The Community Integration Program (formerly AHEAD IV) consists of 5 clients and 3 Direct Support Professional staff. As the name implies, this is the program that is “out and about”, experiencing the community each day!



The clients in this program are all over the age of 20, and enjoy such responsibilities as delivering the agency mail daily to the Scarborough Post Office, volunteering for Meals on Wheels, helping out with building-wide recycling and shopping for necessary supplies at Sam’s Club.

But it’s not all work and no play for these active clients; they also find time to have fun! Clients contribute to a traveling music group that visits the Truslow Center in Saco once each month. They enjoy swimming through the aquatic program offered by the Center for Therapeutic Recreation, and, when the warmer weather arrives, such excursions as picnics, hikes, and visits to local parks and beaches.

# Morrison Center

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Web: [www.mdcmaine.org](http://www.mdcmaine.org)

Come Discover...  
The Morrison Center's new state-of-the-art

## Greenhouse

### Upcoming Special Events

#### Annual Spring Sale & Open House

May 13th and 14th  
8am - 4pm

geraniums • annuals • vegetables

#### Specializing In

Odd & Unusual Plant Varieties

succulents • collectibles • curiosities  
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Corporate sales brought to your door

## Morrison Center

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60 Chamberlain Road, PO Box 1539, Scarborough, ME 04070-1539  
(207) 883-6680  
<http://www.mdcmaine.org>



Plants are grown with love, by our adult program participants with developmental disabilities. Your purchase helps to support this program.



Save the date!

## The 18th Annual “Shot in the Dark” Nite Lite Golf Tournament & Summer Celebration

Friday, August 27, 2010, 5pm

A 9-Hole event at Purpoodock Club in Cape Elizabeth featuring cocktail reception, putting contest, dinner & live auction—all to benefit the many programs at Morrison Center.

Team Registration \$500, Individuals \$125  
Call 883-6680 FMI

### May

- 5/03 Cheverus High School Arrupe Service Project  
Students Begin at Morrison Center
- 5/04 Staff Meeting, 2:35pm
- 5/13-14 Annual Spring Sale & Open House  
Morrison Greenhouses 8am-4pm
- 5/20 United Way Day of Caring
- 5/25 Board Meeting, 8am
- 5/31 Memorial Day, Center Closed

### June

- 6/1 Staff Meeting, 2:35pm
- 6/8 High School Graduation, 1pm
- 6/10 Spec. Purpose Private School Meeting, Augusta
- 6/14 Last Day of School, DT Preschool  
Last Day of School, K-12
- 6/15 Teacher Workshop
- 6/28 Summer Session Begins, DT Preschool
- 6/29 Board Meeting, 8am

### July

- 7/05 Independence Day Observance, Center Closed
- 7/06 Staff Meeting, 2:35pm
- 7/06 K-12 School Program Begins
- 7/27 Board Meeting, 8am
- 7/27 Axis Dance Company at Morrison Center,  
Demonstration and Workshop, 10am-noon

### August

- 8/03 Staff Meeting, 2:35pm
- 8/14 DT Preschool Graduation
- 8/14 Last Day of School, DT Preschool  
Last Day of School, K-12
- 8/27 18th Annual Shot in the Dark Golf Tournament  
Purpoodock Club, Cape Elizabeth, 5pm
- 8/31 Board Meeting, 8am

### September

- 9/06 Labor Day, Center Closed
- 9/07 Staff Meeting, 2:35pm
- 9/28 Board Meeting, 8am