"Together WE Can Grow a Better Community."

Visit us on the web at: dancing-trees.org
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Volume V Issue III **January 2009**

DancingTrees is Committed To:

- **Children**
- **Animals**
- **Environment**

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"Christmas is for Everyone" and it certainly was!

The positive impact of your generosity during this difficult economic time is beyond yours and ours wildest expectations.

Together as a community, we put wrapping paper or bows around more than 3000, items and gifts heading for Lovell, Bridgton, Fryeburg, Harrison, South Paris, West Paris, Norway, Greenwood, Bethel, Lewiston, Casco, Bryant Pond, Oxford, and Otisfield.

In addition to sharing our most heartfelt thanks, we thought it might be fun to share some statistics from the 2008 "Christmas is for Everyone" Project.

- The most requested necessity gift by an adult was - gloves or blankets
- The most requested fun gift by an adult was - cleaning products, food, and/or toothbrushes
- The most requested necessity gift by a child was - a coat or boots (it was a tie)
- The most requested fun gift by a child was - Dora or Spiderman
- Every person received: 100% of the necessities they requested (defined as: gloves, hat, mittens, underwear, socks, boots, coats, & pajamas)
- Every person received: 90% of the fun gifts they requested (defined as non-mechanical, non-electronic: toys, puzzles, arts & crafts, dolls, trucks, cars, and sleds)
- Every request for food, toilet paper, feminine products, wood, or shoveled walkways was answered
- Each family received a bag of Christmas candy and a board game to promote family time
- Each child received at least one book at their reading level.

Animal Corner, by the Vice President, Ali Kiger.

- A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.
- A hummingbird weighs less than a penny.
- A mole can dig a tunnel 300 feet long in just one night.
- All polar bears are left handed.
- Butterflies taste with their feet.
- Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds, but dogs only have about ten.
- Elephants are the only animals that can't jump .
- The ant always falls over on its right side when intoxicated.
- Many hamsters blink only one eye at a time.
- A snail can sleep for three years.
- Penguins can jump as high as 6 feet in the air.
- No two zebras have the same markings.
- A dragonfly can spot an insect moving 33 feet away. Sources: www.thatsweird.net & www.weird-websites.com

Inspiring Moment for the E.D., Jacki Kennagh

To describe the magnitude of the "Christmas is for Everyone" Project is nothing short of extraordinary! How does one say, "No" to someone who asks for help requesting food and toilet paper for Christmas; or to the single parent of (3) and guardian for (2) grandchildren requesting winter coats - they have none, or to the destitute Grandmother who has custody of her (2) grandchildren (one who is disabled and requires 24 hr. care)? You can't. These real life accounts were daily occurrences at DancingTrees. At some point, one questions where is the money going to come from? Has it already run out? How are we going to help the next person? Miraculously funding came! **Thank you to all of our donors!** Also, a special thanks to the woman who gave a very large donation to our organization. You blew fresh air into this dedicated team. Your donations will support many calls and programs yet to come. Thank you all!

Quote and Word of the Day…

Quote of the Day: "Hold a true friend with both hands" - Simple words from Jake and Rocket

Word of the Day:

Obfuscate: To confuse. Perfect if you want to confuse someone who is not being clear with you —Tell her to stop **obfuscating**. Pronounced **OB-fuss-kate**.

From the Desk of the Secretary, Nicky Howell

Gelsey Kirklands' quote "fortunately for children, the uncertainty of the present always give way to the enchanted possibilities of the future" perfectly describes my feelings while volunteering with the 2008 "Christmas is for Everyone" project. Regardless of a families present situation, DancingTrees promoted possibilities in many ways. My new year's resolution is to encourage holiday manners throughout out the year (we're so much nicer to each other during the holidays)! As secretary, I have been busy with year end statistics, write-ups for different reports, assisting with 2009 grant applications, and keeping up with the E.D., Jacki. In closing, I wish to publicly shout from the mountain tops, "Thank you" to DancingTrees': Board, volunteers, membership, and the E.D. (they are the bestest)! On a serious note, will we ever be able to give enough thanks to the wonderful woman who kept track of us during the Christmas project? Her especially large donation took DancingTrees from the red into the black which sent us on our way to the next project. Thank you!

Current and Upcoming Events…Save these dates and join in the fun!

- **Eat & Educate Program**

DancingTrees is in the process of partnering with The Good Shepherd Food-Bank, nutritionist, & frugal chefs to offer possibilities for your weakening food dollar. Learn how to feed your family of (4) on approximately $30. or less for (1) wk. For approximately $30. you will receive food and recipes for all meals. Our goal is to dispel the notion that eating healthy is expensive. Stay tuned by visiting our web site for specifics.

- **Annual Healing Day**

Saturday, 02/14/09

Save this date! Numerous Healing Practioners will be available to provide a hands-on introduction to the various forms of healing to include massage to guided imagery, breath to tarot card reading. Our annual feel good lunch will be available again this year. Get the specifics through the Advertiser Democrat, The Bridgton News, and DancingTrees' website.

- **Cleaning the Saco River Spring 2009**

DancingTrees invites you to bring your kayaks and canoes to help remove refuse from the Saco River. As one of our communities most beloved waterways, keeping the Saco River clean benefits everyone! Stay tuned for more information on this fun filled family event!

- **DancingTrees Needs Your Feedback.**

What would be fun for you and your family? What do you want to learn? Are you interested in volunteering at any of our upcoming events? Do you have a skill you wish to share with others? What interests you? Please give us your ideas.

Ongoing Events…Our Friends of Fur and People need our Help Now!

Oxford Hills Food Pantry Needs:

- Powdered Milk, Canned Goods, & Toilet Paper

Responsible Pet Care of Oxford Hills Needs:

- Bleach, Paper Towels, Cat Food, & Cat Litter

Harvest Hills Animal Shelter, Inc. 207-935-4358

They are always looking for volunteers to walk dogs and play with cats. If you have a spare hour, give them a call.

"**Freezin for a Reason**". Patti Murphy and Andy Scott will take a dip into the icy waters of Highland Lake on 01/24/09, to raise funds for Harvest Hills Animal Shelter, Inc.'s "**Freezin for a Reason**" campaign. To donate, contact Patti Murphy at Down East, Inc., (207-647-5443) or Andy Scott at The Magic Lantern Movie Theater (207-647-9326). Lets support these brave souls in their efforts. **Lets Fill the Boxes!** Please deliver your non-perishable food and pet care donations to any of the following drop off sites :

Jacki and Tim Kennagh's 409 Halls Pond Road, South Paris

The Magic Lantern Movie Theater 9 Depot Street, Bridgton

Raven Merrill and Peter Morton's 68 Prospect Street, South Paris