

HIGH HOPES CLUBHOUSE



"The Road To Meaningful Employment"

A Program of Kennebec Behavioral Health
26 College Avenue . Waterville, ME 04901 . Tel. 207-877-0038 . Fax 207-877-0322

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOUNTAIN HOUSE-CLUBHOUSE INTERNATIONAL RECEIVES WORLD'S LARGEST HUMANITARIAN PRIZE

WATERVILLE: Kennebec Behavioral Health and its affiliate vocational clubhouses in Augusta, Waterville and Lewiston are celebrating the announcement that Clubhouse International and Fountain House/NY, both pioneering organizations that have created a successful model to help those suffering from mental illness to reclaim their lives and realize their potential through work and the support of a caring community, have been selected to receive the 2014 Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize of \$1.5 million. The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation presents the annual award, the world's largest humanitarian prize, to organizations that are doing extraordinary work to alleviate human suffering. An independent international jury makes the final selection.

"On behalf of Clubhouse International and our 340 member Clubhouses around the world, who share in this recognition, I want to express our sincere and deep appreciation to the Hilton Foundation and everyone associated with the Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize," said Joel Corcoran, Executive Director of Clubhouse International. "It provides the opportunity and inspiration for us to dramatically scale up our work fostering sustainable Clubhouses. It gives us the great hope of reaching many more individuals living with mental illness everywhere that would otherwise be exiled to a life of isolation and despair, who will now have access to hope, opportunity, dreams, and a future rich with purpose and respect."

Kennebec Behavioral Health Clubhouses are - High Hopes Clubhouse in Waterville; Capitol Clubhouse in Augusta; and Looking Ahead Clubhouse in Lewiston. Collectively, these three Clubhouses provide employment supports and therapeutic care to 617 adults with mental illness every year. Each Clubhouse is staffed in such a way that member participation is essential to the functioning of the program and successful completion of daily tasks. All members participate in the "work-ordered day," which is an in-house prevocational program that simulates work outside of the Clubhouse. Focus is placed on members' strengths



Clubhouse International

Creating Community: Changing the World of Mental Health

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and abilities. The day-to-day operations of the Clubhouse are the joint responsibility of members and staff, who work side by side.

Lisa Soucie, Director of High Hopes Clubhouse in Waterville was thrilled to hear about the award. "Clubhouses around the world make a difference in peoples' lives", she stated. "Maine Clubhouses are committed to continuing to run fully Clubhouse International Accredited Clubhouses and for that Maine citizens can be assured that the best possible service is being given to people living with mental illness. Involvement in a Clubhouse changes and sometimes even saves members' lives".

For details about Kennebec Behavioral Health's services or supports including its three Clubhouses, go online to www.kbhmaine.org or call 207-873-2136, ext. 1905.

For more information about Clubhouse International, please contact Joel D. Corcoran, Executive Director, Clubhouse International at dcorcoran@clubhouse-intl.org or 212.582.0343.



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