Community Members Unite to Fight Addiction

A partnership led by volunteer community members has created a unique collaboration between Sweetser and law enforcement that can help save lives in Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Arundel.

The 2nd Annual Above Board Gala was held in August at the Colony Hotel in Kennebunkport, where 200 people in attendance raised more than $55,000. The funds will support a Certified Crisis Response Provider Program through Sweetser, which will expand crisis services in that area through “ride-alongs” with police officers in the three towns and include follow-up visits for calls that do not meet the level of any emergency crisis at the time.

Kennebunk Police Chief Bob MacKenzie said, “This type of initiative will be invaluable to the citizens of our communities that are in need,” adding that the partnership with Sweetser will give those with substance use disorder the best chances of a positive outcome. “I believe this type of initiative will reduce repeat calls and keep situations from escalating as it will connect those that are in need with resources, potentially saving lives.”
Dear Friends, We are so appreciative of everyone’s efforts that made this year’s Sweetser/Harvard Pilgrim Cycle or Stroll for Suicide Prevention the biggest and best yet.

Thanks to the efforts of our volunteers, sponsors and those who walked or rode the beautiful Eastern Trail we raised $11,000 for prevention efforts. Please mark your calendar for September 13, 2020 to participate next year!

Sweetser joined the Zero Suicide international movement in 2013. We believe that suicide deaths are preventable for people under care – an aspirational challenge that health systems should accept.

To support this important goal, the Sweetser Training Institute has hosted free two-day workshops in Cognitive Behavior Therapy – Suicide Prevention taught by members of the Beck Institute. In its first year, more than 250 clinicians throughout the state have benefited from this training, made possible through funding from the Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention and SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration).

In the last issue, we shared with you an event that volunteers in Sanford organized on behalf of Sweetser programs. Now we are fortunate to have met another group of dedicated community members working to make their towns safer and healthier. Above Board was founded to unite against addiction in the York County community. Their successful annual gala has brought together a community that is passionate in its efforts.

Funding from Above Board will support a unique partnership between Sweetser crisis support staff and police officers in Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Arundel, who will build relationships of trust and shared language that becomes very important when working as a team with people in crisis. When an individual experiences a moment of crisis it is often the first time they are receiving support for their addiction and mental health issues. It’s that moment that leads them to the community connections and treatment that will set them on the path to recovery.

Recovery from addiction and mental health challenges is a journey, but all of the community partnerships we are engaged in will make a difference in the lives of many who need support to receive care and live successfully in their community. Every community can benefit from these collaborations.

DEBRA D. TAYLOR, President and CEO

QUALITY IN OUR WORK

Sweetser has been recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as a TCPI (Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative) Exemplary Practice! A formal Letter of Commendation was presented in September to the Northern New England Practice Transformation Network (NNEPTN) team. In 2016, Sweetser partnered with NNEPTN, led by Maine Quality Counts (now Qualidigm) to engage in quality improvement efforts to enhance the way we provide services.

Through this partnership and funding from CMS, Sweetser was provided with local and national resources. The work of this dedicated team continues, and the partnership will expand to include all programs and departments within the agency.

A relentless advocate

The organization’s director, Sally Manninen (in photo at left) said of Maggie: “She is our North Star when it comes to teaching and reminding us of the importance of good mental health. Maggie collaborates with us on many projects including providing training to schools and parents on the connection between youth mental health and substance issues. She is a relentless advocate for understanding the true harms of adolescent marijuana use on mental health.

“This past year, Maggie helped the York Hospital community through the sudden loss of a dear friend and coworker. Maggie is helping change our local culture by providing Mental Health First Aid to schools and to all York Hospital staff. She serves on our Advisory Board and the Opioid Round Table. Above all, Maggie role models that relationships matter and that we all need to take time for each other.”
The 30th Annual Sweetser/Prime Motor Group Golf Classic was held on a beautiful day in June at the Dunegrass Golf Club in Old Orchard Beach. This year’s tournament was dedicated to longtime Sweetser supporter and Prime Motor Group founder, Ira Rosenberg, who passed away unexpectedly in March. The event raised more than $55,000 in support of Sweetser’s statewide programs and services.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS**

**FIRST PLACE**
Brian Gilbert Associates (gross) and Patrons Oxford Insurance Company (net)

**SECOND PLACE**
KeyBank (gross) and CGI Business Solutions (net)

**THIRD PLACE**
W.B. Mason (gross) and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care (net)

Thank you to everyone who participated, including our volunteers!

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS:**
Sweetser is grateful for the valued support we receive from large and small companies, civic clubs and foundations. Donations and grants are invaluable to helping Sweetser meet the needs of our clients and programs throughout the state. Thank you for helping create promising futures for those we serve.

LEAVE A LEGACY

One of the easiest ways to leave a legacy and make a significant contribution is to include Sweetser in your will by simply filling out the form below. Thanks to the generosity of many friends over the years, bequests have played a significant role in helping Sweetser provide services to thousands of children, families and adults each year. For more information about making a planned gift to Sweetser, please contact Director of Development Todd Henry at thenry@sweetser.org or by calling him at 207-294-4484. Thank you!

I, [Your Name], hereby give, devise and bequeath to Sweetser in Saco, Maine, [$_] dollars or [% of the residue of my estate].

Signed: ____________________________
This ______ day of ______, 20____

Witnessed: ____________________________

RECENT CORPORATE & FOUNDATION SUPPORT

MAINE WOMEN’S GIVING TREE awarded $5,000 for uninsured/underinsured school-based clients in Cumberland, Sagadahoc and Lincoln counties.

ELK’S NATIONAL FOUNDATION granted $1,500 for Family Art Night at Sweetser’s Edie J. Parquette School in Saco.

THE CUMMINGS FUND awarded $4,630 for residential travel expenses.

THE MARGARET S. VOIGHT FUND awarded $370 for residential travel expenses.

THE TOWN OF WEST BATH provided $2,252 to support Sweetser services for community residents.

SYSTEMS ENGINEERING donated $775 after conducting a successful Jeans Day with its employees.

MARC MOTORS awarded Sweetser $1,070 from their July charity oil change promotion.

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We are grateful to volunteers that participated in this year’s United Way of York County Day of Caring. The Saco campus hosted employees from Unum and staff from the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Thanks for such an incredible job with landscaping and painting!

Sweetser School-based Clinicians say thank you to the Maine Women’s Giving Tree for their support of uninsured and underinsured clients.

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Our Goal is Zero Suicide!

The Sweetser/Harvard Pilgrim Cycle or Stroll for Suicide Prevention was the biggest and best event yet, raising $11,000 with 175 registered to participate! Thank you to everyone who helped raise awareness and funds for this crisis that impacts everyone in our community.