

‘Tis the season

It has been a joyous holiday season indeed. For the first time since COVID, residential home and program managers were able to get together with DEH administrators for a Christmas party, held at Pat’s Pizza in Ellsworth. Guests enjoyed lunch, a super-fun Yankee gift swap, and a competitive game of



Downeast Horizons Jeopardy hosted by Executive Director Tony Zambrano. The winners were all sent home with a prize. Thanks, Tony!



Executive Director
Anthony Zambrano

Board of Directors

Armand Auclair, *President*

Dana Young, *Vice President*

Jeff Fernald, *Treasurer*

Tina Barrett, *Secretary*

Duane Bartlett

Jennie Gray

Gerry Montoux

John Moore

Lorraine Ouellette

Michael Tadenev

Visit our website:
www.dehi.org

Email us at:
dehinfo@dehi.org



77 Union Street
Ellsworth, ME 04605
207.667.7464 phone
207.667-1977 fax
Toll Free: 1-855-894-3599
dehinfo@dehi.org
www.dehi.org



Downeast Horizons

Downeast Horizons assists and supports individuals with developmental disabilities to live complete and fulfilling lives.

Rinse & repeat



When it comes to keeping things clean, no one beats Downeast Horizons! Every winter, we join forces with Profitable Solutions Fundraising to put together and distribute the annual laundry order. This is a wonderful program for all of our residential homes, programs, shared living providers, and employees. Profitable Solutions are able to offer five-gallon buckets of concentrated laundry detergent (enough for up to 500 loads!), fabric softener, dishwasher pods, trash bags, and more at great bulk pricing.

DEHI goes national

Viewpoint, the esteemed educational program hosted by Dennis Quaid, is excited to announce a new episode in partnership with Downeast Horizons!

Filming took place in August 2024 at the Brewer Center, and the show will feature key members of the Downeast Horizons team along with individuals benefiting from their programs.

The seven-minute feature story will explore how community support and tailored programs empower individuals with developmental disabilities to lead active and fulfilling lives in their communities. We also produced a 30-second commercial in collaboration with Viewpoint, which will be shown along with our segment. The story will air during peak (7–11:45 am) and prime (6–11:45 p.m.) times on national news networks including **CNN, CNN Headline News, MSNBC, CNBC, Fox News, Fox Business Network, TLC, Travel, and Discovery** from January 6th–31st.

Additionally, our seven-minute feature story will be distributed nationally to all Public Television affiliates beginning the week of January 13th and airing throughout 2025!



In this issue

- DEHI goes national **P.1**
- Exploring ocean life **P.2**
- Celebrating gratitude **P.3**
- ‘Tis the Season **P.4**

Visit our website:
www.dehi.org

Email us at:
dehinfo@dehi.org

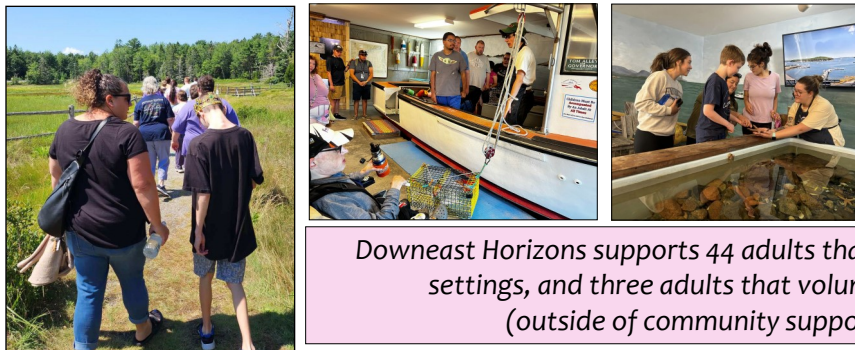


NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
ELLSWORTH, ME 04605

★ Exploring ocean life

We are always trying to bring opportunities for new experiences to the people that we serve, and this year was no exception. For the first time, Downeast Horizons visited the MDI Oceanarium and Education Center. All of the programs enjoyed August visits to the facility, and the tours were not only fun, but very educational!

The Oceanarium provides educational exhibits and programs for all ages on local ecology, marine biology and research, citizen science, dark skies, fisheries and aquaculture, and STEM education in partnership with Maine schools and others. The mission of the Oceanarium is to bring a small piece of this exotic world to the surface so visitors can gain a window into the everyday lives of the incredible creatures that live in the ocean and the people who depend on them.



Downeast Horizons supports 44 adults that are employed in community integrated employment settings, and three adults that volunteer in community integrated settings regularly (outside of community support programs). *Data as of November 2024

Downeast Horizons employment opportunities

Now hiring Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) to work with individuals with intellectual disabilities on various aspects of their daily living.

If you are looking for a fun and rewarding job, this is the one for you!

Full- and part-time positions include daytime, afternoon, and evening shifts. All training provided!

Full-time DSPs are offered a great benefits package, including company-paid health, dental, and life insurance, paid time off, holiday pay, and 401K retirement.

Full-time DSP positions are in Hancock County, with starting wages up to \$20 per hour.

\$2,000 RESIDENTIAL SIGN-ON BONUS

Some homes have a medical add-on, adding up to \$2.46 more per hour.

IMMEDIATE NEED FOR AWAKE OVERNIGHT SHIFTS earning a shift differential of \$5 more per hour

Immediate need for part-time Behavioral Health Professionals (BHPs) in our children's programs.

BHPs manage fun activities such as playing board games, going to the playground, meal planning, shopping, cooking, hiking, and swimming. These activities help the children we serve learn social and community safety skills, maintain friendships, process emotions, and so much more—ALL WHILE HAVING FUN!

Part-time BHP positions are in Hancock, Penobscot, and Piscataquis counties, with starting wages up to \$23 per hour. All training provided!

\$1,000 BHP SIGN-ON BONUS

Offering flexible scheduling, paid time off, and the opportunity to participate in our 401K retirement program.

Immediate need in Bucksport, MDI, Brewer, and Ellsworth areas!

Residential Site Manager position available in the Ellsworth area.

We are now looking for Maintenance Staff to join our team. Please call 667-7464 for more information.

Visit our website at dehi.org/employment to apply, or 667-7464 for more information.

All applicants must have a high school diploma/GED, mandated vaccinations, and valid driver's license.

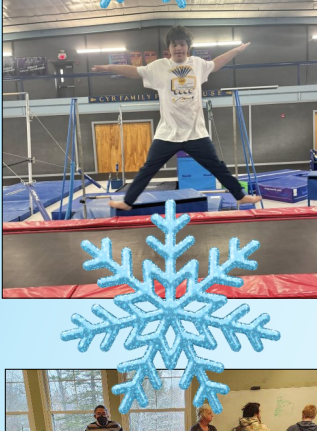
A merry and bright evening

Downeast Horizons was invited to the 13th annual Festival of Trees, held by the Anah Shriners at their headquarters in Bangor. They opened their doors for the agency on November 21st, 2024, three hours before the general public. Without large crowds to navigate, program participants were able to enjoy the beautiful trees in a calm, fun, accessible manner. Admission was free for our participants, complimentary coffee and donuts were provided, and everyone got to see Santa!

The decorated trees are sponsored by clubs and local businesses, with many goodies and presents on and under them.



WINTER FUN



Celebrating gratitude

The Brewer Adult Programs hosted a Friendsgiving meal in November 2024, inviting participants from the MDI Day Program. Approximately 100 participants and staff enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving feast of turkey, stuffing, salad, and mashed potatoes, prepared collaboratively. While some participants contributed to cooking, others decorated the gym to create a festive atmosphere. For many Brewer participants, who live independently and may have limited family nearby, such a nutritious, shared meal is a welcome occasion.

Both Children's Programs celebrated Friendsgiving where the kids prepared the meal to share together. Brewer Children's donated turkeys to a local radio station that was holding a turkey drive, and Ellsworth Children's worked on Thanksgiving crafts!



DEHI Holiday Traditions

Ellsworth children, teens, and staff enjoyed a wonderful Christmas dinner and party at the Ellsworth Center and received a surprise visit from the Grinch!

The MDI and Brewer Centers successfully hosted separate Christmas parties this year. This approach aimed to reduce overcrowding and associated transportation costs compared to a single larger gathering. Both programs decorated their respective centers festively, and Senior Managers provided a delicious meal of spaghetti, meatballs, and salad for all attendees. Santa Claus made a special appearance at both parties, ensuring each participant received a photo and a gift.

