Morrison Center is proud to announce its purchase of Opportunity Farm in New Gloucester!

In August of 2018, Morrison Center purchased the property in New Gloucester and has plans to develop it into a children’s residential facility. Read the excerpts below from MaineBiz, 11/19/18

Mark Ryder, Executive Director of Morrison Center said the following:

“All together, the total of 151 acres comes with three residential facilities — an old brick house, a Cape and a ranch — that were set up as such by previous owners, said Ryder. Another building, which might have once served as a dormitory, is now occupied by the Morrison Center’s administration offices. And there’s a large, old chicken barn.

“So we have short-term and long-term plans, since the properties came with three residential facilities already there.”

For the short-term, four of the residential rooms are now occupied by high school students who attend the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf in Falmouth. The Morrison Center is working on getting two of the other houses revamped and licensed to provide residential services for developmentally disabled children.

The nonprofit will launch a large capital campaign to revamp the entire facility. The campaign’s monetary goal is still to be determined. Time-wise, the goal is to officially launch the campaign in early 2019. It’s expected the campaign will run for two years.

Money from the campaign will go mostly to building new structures, like cottages specifically designed to address client needs, like traumatic brain injury and autism, as well as housing for visiting parents, Ryder said.

He added, “We see as the heart of the facility a variety of specialized cottages that would care for the type of students that Morrison has been taking care of since the 1950s.”

Ryder said industry data shows there’s a significant need for residential care for Morrison’s target population. Currently, he said, many of those students are placed out of state or in an adult nursing facility. The short-term build-out of three buildings will offer eight bedrooms each, for a total of 24 clients, he said.

For the full article, please go to http://www.mainebiz.biz/article/20181119/NEWS01/181119950/land-acquisitions-set-stage-for-expansion-of-disabilities-services-nonprofit
Meet our new Morrison Staff Members!

**Amanda Cantara** is our Nurse at the Scarborough Campus where she loves seeing all of the kiddos every day. Amanda has been a nurse for 7 years, most recently at Maine Medical Center in various departments. She lives in York County with her husband, 3 year old son and 8 month old puppy. While not working or studying online for her degree, Amanda enjoys gardening, baking, hiking and spending time with her family.

**Brittany Herrick** is our Nurse at the Opportunity Farm New Gloucester campus and Adult Residential programs. Born and raised in Southern Maine, she has been in the healthcare field for 10 years, graduating from USM a year ago. She is a doting mom to a tortoise named Radcliffe and in her free time enjoys painting, poetry, reading, art, music and traveling. Brittany has an optimistic view on life and enjoys spending time with her close friends.

**David Jenkins** is the Children’s Residential Coordinator at Morrison Center’s Opportunity Farm campus. After graduating from Towson University in Maryland, David moved to Maine to start a career as an English teacher. After over ten years teaching and coaching he worked with the YMCA, the Inn by the Sea and Sweetser before joining Morrison Center this past summer. With over 25 years of experience working with youth, David is excited to help Morrison Center launch and grow children’s residential programming. He enjoys hiking, sports, cooking, reading, jazz music and all 4 Maine seasons.

**Jason Rubenstein** is a Physical Therapist on our Preschool and K-12 Programs in Scarborough. Originally from New Jersey, Jason graduated from Ithaca College’s Doctorate of Physical Therapy Program and made the move to Maine for its great opportunities (and less traffic). He has traveled the country and abroad working with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Jason is about to go on his third **Autism on the Seas** cruise as a volunteer supporting families with children with disabilities.

Morrison Center is pleased to announce its **Brick Project Fundraiser** for 2019. We have partnered with Larkspur Landscaping to help us create a beautiful Sensory Garden area at the back of our Scarborough Campus, with the bricks will to be placed in a picnic/BBQ area. Each brick is engraved with high quality laser equipment, creating a “black glass” mark which lasts for years to come. We have set up a website where you may order your bricks at $50 for a 4” x 8” brick or $100 for an 8” x 8” brick to honor or memorialize your loved ones, thank someone special or put a name or phrase to become a timeless part of Morrison! To order, please visit [http://www.4everbricks.com/MC](http://www.4everbricks.com/MC) or you may call Amy Whitmore at 207-883-6680 x 1149.
Morrison Center is pleased to be working with Dr. Bruce Chemelski, PhD. Dr. Chemelski is an ambassador for Morrison Center, working to help promote our agency with professionals throughout Maine and New England while also providing behavioral and psychological consultation to Morrison’s students and programs. Dr. Chemelski has two Doctorate degrees from the University of Maine, one in Experiential Psychology: Developmental Psychology and one in Clinical Psychology. Dr. Chemelski worked at Eastern Maine Medical Center in the Behavioral and Developmental Disabilities Clinic early in his career and then went into private practice. He co-founded and was senior partner in a group practice called Eastern Maine Counseling and Testing Services (EMCTS). He specialized in children and adolescents with diagnoses on the Autism Spectrum. He has consulted with schools and agencies across Maine with respect to evaluations and program development. He is also interested in transitions over a lifespan and he has been involved in different types of transitions with many individuals and families. He most recently worked at Spring Harbor Hospital in Westbrook as the Senior Psychologist for the Developmental Disorders Program and Clinical Director of Spring Harbor Academy. Morrison Center is fortunate to have “Dr. Bruce” helping in our children’s programs.

Morrison Center is moving to an emailed newsletter so we may send out quarterly information about our programs and events! Please send your email address to awhitmore@morrison-maine.org. Thank you!

25th Anniversary of the Shot in the Dark Golf Tournament a HUGE Success!

It was a beautiful late summer evening at the Purpodock Club in Cape Elizabeth on September 7th as Morrison Center celebrated its 25th Annual Shot in the Dark Nite Lite Golf Tournament. Morrison Center and the Maine State Golf Association were pleased to award Tim Thompson and Dan Honan with a Lifetime Philanthropy Achievement Award for their dedication to raising over $500,000 for Morrison over the 25 years. Thank you Tim and Dan!

Pictured on the left is Mark Ryder, Executive Director of Morrison Center, Tim Thompson, Morrison Center Board Treasurer, Dan Honan, Morrison Center Board Member and Tony Deckor, Head Golf Pro at Purpodock Club.

Pictured on the right is Dan Honan, Nancy Storey, Executive Director of the Maine State Golf Association and Tim Thompson.
Morrison Center receives a $50,000 grant from the Davis Family Foundation

The Davis Family Foundation honored the Morrison Center in January by giving the agency a $50,000 grant to help with renovating one of the residence buildings at Opportunity Farm in New Gloucester. Thanks to this generous donation, Morrison will be able to provide a home and educational services to six children who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Davis Family Foundation is located in Yarmouth, Maine and has been a supporter of Morrison Center for many years. A big thanks for helping ensure all children in our state have a loving, supportive home and school where they can thrive.

Meet Roger and Tim

As you walk into Roger and Tim’s home, you are greeted with a smile and a hearty Maine “hello there!” These two brothers have lived together in a modest cape in Southern Maine for years and are some of the most active adults you could meet. They enjoy spending time with Morrison Center direct support professionals who help them live independently in their home.

Raised in Centerville, Maine on a farm with their brothers and sisters, Roger and Tim have fond memories of their parents. Dad used to say “it’s time to put the feed bag on, and Mom would milk the cows,” the brothers laugh. They have family close by and eagerly show pictures of nieces and nephews. “They all love me,” says Tim. “And we love them,” says Roger.

Tim is 72 and loves to sing karaoke (Reba, of course), bowl and walk. He proudly shows off his multitude of ribbons and trophies from his participation in the Maine Special Olympics every year. Tim attends adult community support programs and is ready to try any new activity or explore a new place. Roger is 67 and has worked at Hannaford for 19 years, bundling groceries and helping customers with their carts. He proudly displayed a letter of commendation from Hannaford, detailing his great work and pay increase last year. Roger is a huge Alan Jackson fan and can sing along with any of his songs.

The brothers each have their own bedrooms and completely respect each other’s individuality and privacy. Tim is a definitive music fan and has a large turntable and many vinyl 45’s. His wall boasts several Beatles posters and there are two guitars next to his bed. Roger’s room states his love of Alan Jackson (who he has seen in concert) and race cars. Roger can also be found in the garage where he plays pool on a full-size billiard table, like the one he played on with his Dad. The brothers enjoy older television shows like Matlock and Bonanza combined with newer ones like Big Bang Theory and Last Man Standing.

Roger and Tim have had many adventures together, both with Morrison Center and their family and friends. Camping, hunting, fishing and a vacation to Hawaii with their sister and brother-in-law highlight some of the latest and greatest. Whatever they are doing, there is laughter, smiles, and a sense of family.