

# Morrison Center

Building a Brighter Future for People with Disabilities

Summer 2019

## MORRISON CENTER TO LAUNCH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

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[www.morrison-maine.org](http://www.morrison-maine.org)

Morrison Center has grown as an agency over the past eight years, adding both new programming and locations for children and adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Our plan for the future includes a Capital Campaign to fund the Opportunity Farm Children's Residential and Educational Campus in New Gloucester.

Morrison has retained the fundraising services of Suddes Group to help raise monies to build a campus for the most vulnerable children in Maine.

We want to share the picture below to introduce our vision for the beautiful 150 acres of land. For more information and ways you can help, please contact Amy Whitmore, Director of Development at 207-838-2177 or [awhitmore@morrison-maine.org](mailto:awhitmore@morrison-maine.org).



*Morrison Center provides services in Cumberland, York, Androscoggin, Waldo, Kennebec, Sagadahoc, Oxford, Lincoln, Penobscot, Somerset and Knox counties in Maine.*

## Meet Todd Kindler, Morrison's new Farm and Greenhouse Manager



*With the growth of residential programming for children and adults, we decided to use our greenhouse resources and vast farm lands to produce food for our homes. This new “farm to table” agricultural model will provide a cornucopia of vegetables and spices to be enjoyed across our homes and programs. Morrison Center has hired Todd Kindler, an experienced grower and farmer, who will help us meet our food production goals.*

### *Tell us something about your background:*

I am a Umaine Alumni with a bachelor's degree in sustainable agriculture, and I also attended SMCC's horticulture program. Prior to pursuing my degree, I worked in social services for 10 years as a direct support professional and a behavioral health professional. I have been a small business owner and am an entrepreneur at heart.

Throughout the years, I have dreamed about establishing a therapeutic farm for individuals with disabilities, and this was one of the driving factors for me in pursuing my education. In 2016, I had my first opportunity to begin putting this dream into action when I seized an opportunity to develop a therapeutic garden project for a psychiatric facility and paved the way for the program's horticultural therapy curriculum. I organized and participated in fundraising, designing, constructing, planting, and maintaining a 600 square foot labyrinth style garden. I led therapeutic groups and taught children of all ages about the many benefits of gardening, the value in consuming and preparing real food, and we were even able to send fresh produce home with underprivileged families within the area.

### *What excites you about this job at Morrison Center?*

Between the greenhouses and Opportunity Farm, the possibilities are endless in what we could produce and develop. My mind is constantly overflowing with new ideas in how to make the best of this opportunity for our patrons, staff, and the community. I am looking forward to connecting with other organizations and seizing educational and community integration opportunities. I am a food lover, and I can't wait to incorporate the farm to table model-- providing cooking classes with local chefs, and using food that we have grown from seed.

### *What would you want someone to know about farming, crop production, sustainability?*

People today are disconnected from their food. So many people have no idea where their food comes from or how it is grown. This is incredibly concerning to me and I want to bridge that gap with a tangible, sensory experience and in a sustainable manner. I want people to be less afraid to get their hands dirty and to get back in touch with nature.

Nearly 50% of all food produced in America is wasted (and I am not just talking about fruits and vegetables). I feel that if people are part of the process and feel more connected with their food and the people that grew it, they are more likely to try new things and less likely to be wasteful.

### *What are some activities that you enjoy when you are not at work?*

Geocaching, hiking, camping, cooking, homesteading, sailing, spending time with my kids, traveling, reading and learning, playing catan (always looking for new people to play).

## ARE YOU READY FOR SOME NIGHT LITE GOLF??



*Morrison Center is pleased to announce its **26th Annual Nite Lite Golf Tournament!***

*Friday, September 6th, 2019*

*Purpoodock Club, Cape Elizabeth*

*There are sponsorship packages and foursomes available. We are also looking for items for our Live Auction that evening.*

*For more information, please contact  
Amy Whitmore, Director of Development  
at 207-838-2177 or  
[awhitmore@morrison-maine.org](mailto:awhitmore@morrison-maine.org)*

## Morrison Center Brick Project Fundraiser

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. The custom bricks will be placed in an area next to the Water Wall. 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 Center!

To order, please visit <http://www.4everbricks.com/MC>  
or you may call Amy Whitmore at 207-838-2177





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## Meet Lynn Steeves and Vivian from Our Shared Living Program

Lynn Steeves has been a Shared Living Option provider for over 15 years. She lives in Buxton with her husband and active family, including Vivian who has lived with them for over 6 years. Shared Living is a program that places adult individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities with families who welcome them into their home and family life. The SLO providers are paid a generous daily stipend and are given support and training through the agency and case workers. The SLO provider works with the individual, helping to provide meals, administer medications, transportation to appointments, work on diet and exercise and family outings and recreation time. Vivian attends a day program Monday through Friday, and Lynn helps her get ready for the day and is home to greet her when she is dropped off after her program.

Lynn worked with adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities for six years and then decided she wanted to be available to help take care of her grandchildren. Becoming an SLO Provider was the best decision she has made. Lynn believes that this job is best for someone who likes to work out of their home and be a caretaker to another individual. She says she is always still learning, and Vivian and her family have a great time together. The picture here is one of their trips to Disneyworld, Vivian's favorite place.

Lynn enjoys working with Morrison Center; she can always call on any of the SLO Coordinators for help, advice, and support. "It feels good to help someone and provide them with a home," she told us. "Morrison Center cares about the individuals we are helping AND us providers. They understand how hard we work and that makes all the difference."

For more information on becoming an SLO Provider, please contact Meredith Inosencio, Director at [minosencio@morrison-maine.org](mailto:minosencio@morrison-maine.org) or call her at (207) 808-5030 x 1305.



We now have 4 pages on Facebook! Morrison Center, Morrison Center Children's Programs Morrison Center Adult Program and Opportunity Farm Alumni and Friends!

