

# OPPORTUNITY FARM



Empowering and supporting people with disabilities *to achieve their maximum potential.*



# WHY?



**1 in 6**  
kids have one  
or more intellectual  
or developmental  
disability



Since 1951, when our visionary namesake, Betty Morrison began her first Saturday afternoon special needs playgroup, the Morrison Center has been steadfast in its mission: ***To build a bright future for people with disabilities by empowering individuals to achieve maximum personal growth and independence.***

From that small playgroup 68 years ago to the Morrison Center of today -- where every year over 500 individuals of all ages and abilities are supported through residential homes, K-12 schooling, extensive therapeutic, habilitative and recreational offerings, adult enrichment and vocational training -- we have developed innovative programs that are recognized in our industry as the highest standard of care, delivered by the most highly skilled team of educators, therapists, and direct care professionals.

We are proud of our history of serving and supporting these individuals and families, but we have more to do because we know more individuals and families need our services. It is our imperative vision to provide support so that these growing needs of our communities are met in the great state of Maine and beyond.

It is this belief that has fueled the Morrison Center Opportunity Farm Vision and Campus. It will be a place that continues to give the special needs population a chance to succeed in a world that is often filled with obstacles and doubt. It will embody the spirit of innovation, opportunity, and individuality. It will be a place for children to thrive. ***Please join us.***



Maine has a  
**SHORTAGE OF PROVIDERS**  
and residential care facilities  
for children with IDD, leading  
to hundreds of children on  
wait-lists for desperately  
needed care



There are  
**LONG WAITLISTS**  
for basic support services  
which has led to children  
and young adults  
being inappropriately  
hospitalized,  
institutionalized, and sent  
out of the state

**300 passionate and highly qualified staff • Holistic, full lifespan support**  
**Innovative, evidence-based care • Special purpose K-12 educational center**  
**Residential homes for medically-fragile children**



# ***PROJECT SCOPE***

*A Nationally Recognized Community of Care*

**Family  
Center**

**Specially  
Designed  
Residences**

**Educational and Therapy Center**



# PROJECT STATISTICS

The Morrison Center Opportunity Farm's vision for a sustainable, integrated, and accessible campus will be positioned amid

## 150 ACRES

of farmland, mature trees, and beautiful vistas in New Gloucester, Maine.



## 30 ACRES



of sustainable farmland to feed, teach, and provide for all who enter Opportunity Farm.

## 37,000 SQ. FT.

of educational, therapeutic, recreational and living facilities to serve students, teachers, researchers, direct service professionals, volunteers and community members.

## 100 ACRES

for tree farming.



Recreation Center with a highly specialized

## THERAPEUTIC POOL





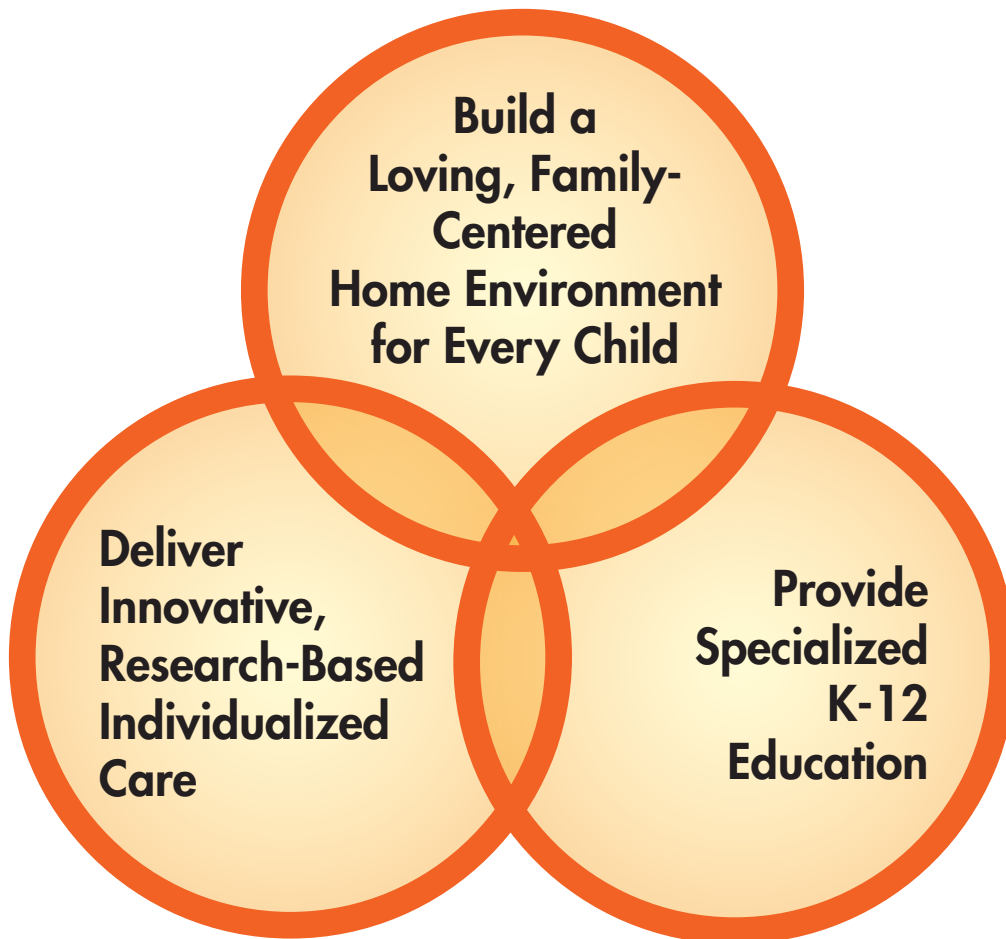
# WHAT SETS MORRISON CENTER OPPORTUNITY FARM APART?

## *Access, Integration and Sustainability*

- Revenue-generating enterprise that has sustainability built into the business model
- Recruitment of and access to a highly trained workforce
- Access to education, family support and much needed daily services for the IDD community
- Integrated community activities in a family-like setting
- 24/7 residential care for our most vulnerable, medically-fragile children



## ***Our Priorities:***



## ***There's no other agency like us in Maine***

- Specializing in serious and complex developmental disabilities: Cerebral palsy; neurological disorders; seizure disorders; head injuries; rare genetic disorders; hearing and vision disorders; autism and other developmental disabilities
- Proven service leader, defining evidence-based practices
- Unique ability to understand and care for medically compromised/fragile individuals
- Highly specialized team of experts: therapists, educators and healthcare providers

# OPPORTUNITY FARM SPECIAL-PURPOSE K-12 EDUCATION CENTER



## THE PURPOSE

To build a Special Purpose K-12 School to educate children with significant and complex developmental, intellectual, and medical needs to help them achieve their maximum potential and live the full lives they deserve.

## THE DEMAND

Serving a broad and growing community need in Maine. Currently the capacity to educate children with complex disabilities is lacking in the state of Maine. Many children are sent out of state, far from their families, or to inappropriate settings such as adult nursing facilities where they don't receive any education at all. We will bring these children back home to Maine to an appropriate and loving family-based campus community.

## THE IMPACT OF THE NEW SCHOOL

- The Morrison Center is approved by the Maine Department of Education to serve as an alternative placement for students with significant developmental disabilities.
- Using individualized approaches and best educational and therapeutic practices, Morrison's K-12 educational services provide optimized learning opportunities in all developmental areas.
- The unique program promotes goal achievement through research-based methodologies which support each student's Individual Education Program.
- Faculty are experienced and well-trained with regard to best practices for children with disabilities, behavior management, applied behavioral analysis, and assistive technology.
- On-site skilled therapies such as speech, OT, PT and nursing are integrated into the classroom setting when needed.
- Functional communication and social skills development are a part of the holistic educational programming. This includes community integration activities such as trips to the grocery store or post office.
- Once it's built, it's funded well into the future.

**K-12 Education Center  
Funding Goal:  
\$3,650,000**



# OPPORTUNITY FARM THERAPY CENTER



## THE PURPOSE

To build a world class therapeutic center in which clients are provided with high quality, innovative and evidence-based holistic therapy services that maximize each individual's potential. The new center will be outfitted with high-tech therapeutic equipment and staffed with talented, compassionate and enthusiastic therapists with an unwavering commitment to each individual's treatment needs.

## THE IMPACT

- Providing the best possible care for these children to maximize their potential and empower them to live the fullest lives possible
- Easing the burden on families knowing that their children are receiving best in class care and therapies
- Providing jobs and bringing a highly educated skilled workforce to the area
- Training the next generation of care providers through our internship program for med students, nurses and therapists

## THERAPY SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Board Certified Behavioral Analysts
- Oral-Motor
- Speech/Language Pathology
- LiteGait Therapy
- Therapeutic Evaluations
- Consultations to individuals, families and agencies
- Outpatient Services
- Aquatic Therapy
- Family Therapy

## PROVIDING TREATMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH:

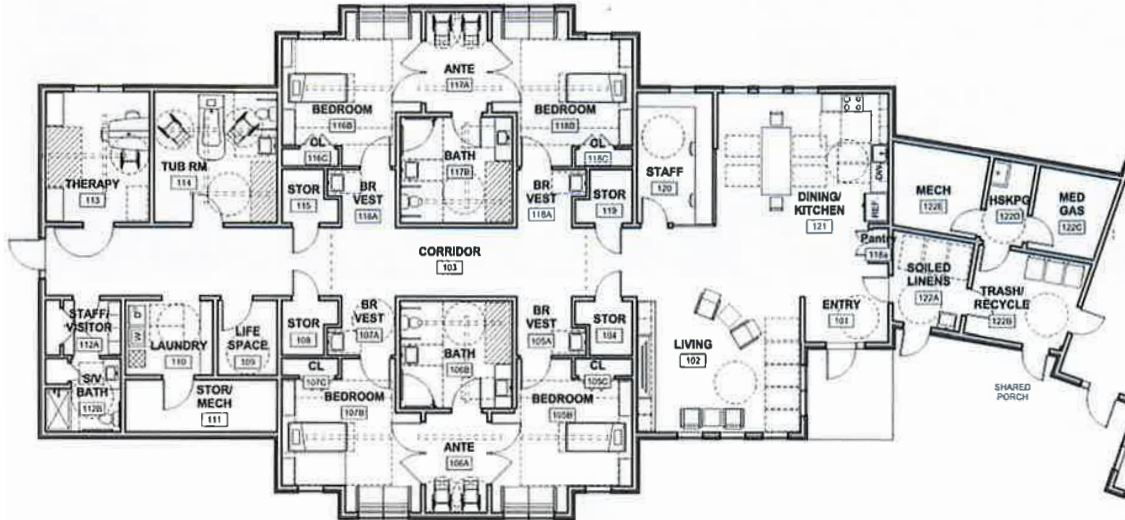
- Intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Cerebral Palsy
- Autism
- TBI
- Complex, multi-dimensional, medically fragile cases
- Rare diseases

**Therapy Center  
Funding Goal: \$4,500,000**



# OPPORTUNITY FARM HIGHLY SPECIALIZED RESIDENCES FOR MEDICALLY FRAGILE CHILDREN

## TYPICAL RESIDENCE LAYOUT



4 Semi-private Bedrooms • 2 Shared Baths • 1 Tub Room  
Living/Dining/Kitchen • 1 Therapy Room • 1 Life Space  
Staff Office • Staff/Visitor Bathroom • Laundry • Soiled Linen  
Trash/Recycle • Med Gas Room • Housekeeping • Mechanical Spaces

## THE PURPOSE

Morrison Center's residences at The Opportunity Farm will be specifically designed to address the needs of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities including complex medical and/or behavioral challenges. The homes are designed to provide our residents with the maximum level of independence while ensuring that they are living safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives. The residences will be an integral component of the family centered, park-like campus that is designed to help our children achieve their maximum potential.

## THE DEMAND

Currently, there is an unmet need in Maine for residential services for children with complex intellectual and developmental needs. This need is highlighted by the fact that many of these children are either sent out of state, far away from their families, or are placed in inappropriate adult nursing care facilities, where they don't even receive an education.

## THE IMPACT

Our new campus will not only bring these kids back home to Maine where they belong, but will also put them in the center of a beautiful campus in which they will be provided the 24/7 care, education and holistic wrap-around therapeutic and family services that they deserve.

**Four Specialized  
Residences Funding Goal: \$5,850,000**

# FUNDING

The Morrison Center is pursuing strategic philanthropic investments through individuals, foundations, and corporations to complete the capital campaign. We will also engage partners for in-kind support all along the way. The uniqueness of this Campaign is that once philanthropic funding is secured for the \$14M in capital needs, the Opportunity Farm Campus operations will be fully self-sustained through service reimbursements, social enterprise, and state and federal government funding, i.e. the Opportunity Farm will not need annual philanthropic funding for operations.

## The 2022 Philanthropic Funding Plan

### GOAL:

Total Campus Cost: **\$15.5M**  
✓ **\$1.5M** Morrison Center Investment  

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**\$14M**  
Funding Need:

1	@	\$3M
2	@	\$2.5M
3	@	\$1M
3	@	\$500K
4	@	\$250K
5	@	\$100K

Several naming opportunities have been identified. These naming opportunities enable donors to use their gift to establish a lasting memorial to their family, a deceased relative, an admired individual, a business or an organization.

*Listed below are several specific spaces that can be named through a major contribution:*

- The Opportunity Farm Campus
- Therapy and Recreational Center
- Opportunity Commons
- Education Center
- Highly Specialized Homes (4)
- Family Lodge and Play Area

# A Letter From a Parent

The Morrison Center has been serving children and adults with multiple disabilities in the greater Portland area for over 60 years. They have expanded and added a second school in Wells within the last five years and now have an extensive adult residential program. The school in Scarborough is home to a daycare, preschool, school-aged, adult seedlings program and a greenhouse. The student services include physical, occupational and speech therapy along with case management for families. It is the only school of its kind that also has a full-time nurse onsite. It is a nonprofit organization that does outreach within the surrounding communities, is lead by a visionary board and hosts various fundraisers to promote awareness and raise funds for the extensive expansions, programs, equipment and offerings. Over the last three years I have dedicated time to organizing fundraisers so we, as parents, can give back to a school that we love. Adaptive equipment is quite costly as is the creation of various spaces to best serve the needs of these students. We have been able to support both of these aspects of our wonderful school.

My family has personally been impacted because the school has given us hope, love and support over the last 8-plus years. We started with outpatient OT services for my daughter when she was 2 1/2 years old knowing that Child Development Services would support preschool placement at a school in which she was already familiar. We could not have been more fortunate. Diagnosed with multiple disabilities including Cerebral Palsy and Cortical Visual Impairment, the twenty minute drive from our home is more than worth it.

The board, administration, teachers, therapists and staff all have the biggest hearts and extensive knowledge and patience when it comes to working with this very special group of clients. Throughout the trials and tribulations, everyone has been supportive and has brought new techniques, ideas, and methods to our team when working with my daughter. Recently we have been dealing with various challenges with my daughter and the daily communication and support from her teachers has made this time bearable. That is what Morrison is all about, family. They go above and beyond to reach the needs of each client on an individual basis while lending support to the families.

The Morrison Center is a place that gives the special needs population a chance to succeed in a world filled with obstacles and doubt. They are forward thinkers who whole-heartedly give every opportunity for our children to thrive and to be recognized for their individuality.

Sincerely,

**Caryn L. Ford**

Proud Morrison Center Parent and Volunteer