



Chebeague Recreation Center

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April 16, 2020

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Rec Center,

Whether you are sheltering in place on the island or far from Chebeague, we send our warm wishes and compassionate thoughts to you. We are all dealing with the challenges this unprecedented time brings. Many of us are dreaming of when we can connect in person and enjoy the beauty and camaraderie of Chebeague. In the meantime, we wanted to reach out and let you know what is happening at the Rec Center and Kids' Place.

In order to flatten the curve, we shut down on March 15th and remain so. The decision to reopen will be based on state guidelines and the very careful consideration of the Board of Directors. Steve, Executive Director, and Corie, Kids' Place Director, have been hard at work on special projects, providing a small bit of a silver lining to the downtime. Steve has updated our bookkeeping to an on-line system, which will allow people to get invoices immediately and to pay for programming either with their smart phones or by computer. It will also free up staff time for more important projects and keep our bookkeeping clear and easy to monitor.

Corie has been completing on-line trainings and participating in weekly meetings with Maine Roads to Quality. She implemented an on-line reading program for her students that has been well-received. She is also researching grants. We are aware of how critical child care will be for parents when they are able to return to work, and we are hopeful that we will be able to pick up where we left off as soon as it is safe to do so.

Many people are asking what the summer will look like, when or if the pool will open and whether we will have camps. Steve has been lining up some programming, but we cannot yet predict what we will be able to run. We will provide you with updates on all summer programming as information develops regarding what will be deemed safe social contact. The Frolic, which was scheduled for August 1, is postponed, since we cannot in good conscience expend funds now for an event that might not be able to happen. We hope to be doing some other kind of fund-raising events and will keep you posted as that develops.

Our finance committee has kicked into high gear as we anticipate the impact that the lack of revenue will have on the organization. Steve has been swiftly proactive and completed the application for CARES funds through our bank. We will be vigilant and creative about finding other means to sustain the Rec.

Prior to the pandemic, the Rec Center Board was hard at work on a strategic plan. We are eager to share our goals for the future with you, starting with making sure we are doing a good job of communicating. Please expect more emails from us and know that we would like to hear from you as well. We are united in our hopes for the future and look forward to being able to share more together, soon.

Stay safe,

Steve Auffant, Executive Director
Janna Hobbs, President, Board of Directors
Elizabeth Murphy-Lewis, Vice President, Board of Directors

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide the Chebeague Island community with recreational and educational opportunities that strengthen overall health and social connection to enhance lives and secure futures.

A 501 (c) (3) Charitable Corporation

Executive Director
Steve Auffant

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