Dear Newsletter Readers,

December’s forum highlighted the community work of Heywood Healthcare in the North Quabbin. Rebecca Bialecki gave a great overview of services available with a special focus on the impending opening of The Quabbin Retreat. Jennifer Desjardins gave a review and update of Chart Services through the Athol Royalston Middle and Elementary Schools, and Maureen Donovan has joined the team to launch the Telepsych Project beginning this month. Welcome Maureen! Stay tuned for upcoming news on these and other projects from Heywood Healthcare.

We hope to see you all next month when our forum will feature Allies in Recovery, who will give an overview of the amazing tools and support available for all those whose loved ones struggle with addiction and moving toward treatment and recovery.

Wishing you a safe, healthy and happy New Year!

Heather Bialecki-Canning, Executive Director

Next Coalition Forum:
January 20, 2017
9:00—10:30 am
Topic: Allies in Recovery
Athol-Orange Elks Club
92 New Athol Road
Orange, MA
(Driving directions at www.nqcc.org)

The next newsletter submission deadline is January 24, 2017.
Email details to admin@nqcc.org

Visit our comprehensive North Quabbin Community Calendar at nqcc.org/events.html

Like us on Facebook for regular updates!

NQCC
251 Exchange Street
Athol, MA 01331
978-249-3703
www.nqcc.org
info@nqcc.org
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Donations can be made via PayPal with the link on the cover of this publication, at www.nqcc.org, or by check to the address at left.
Have You Renewed Your NQCC Donor Status or Joined Us?

As the North Quabbin Community Coalition enters its 33rd year, we are in need of your support to continue this important work! Be a part of our mission.

The Coalition continues to focus on the priority needs of the region by hosting several task force efforts made up of local and regional stakeholders. Currently, we are working on issues of community development for economic strength in our area, children’s health and wellness, behavioral health for all families, transitions from jail to community, as well as substance abuse. The Coalition hosts monthly forums to address community-wide topics and coordinates a newsletter reaching over 1,000 people monthly. Through our online presence, the Coalition hosts a comprehensive resource directory, a North Quabbin area calendar that is updated daily, as well as Facebook updates and a “Weekend Happenings” weekly post highlighting our wonderful region.

You can customize your support dollars by choosing to donate to our general fund (which contributes to task force work, staff time, spotlights on positive work and people in the North Quabbin and Coalition events,) our capital fund (which contributes to the purchase of our building in downtown Athol,) or our Shirley Hebert Strength Through Adversity Scholarship Fund (which provides two scholarships a year to Mahar and Athol High School seniors furthering their education.) Every little bit helps! Thank you for your generous donation to keep the work of the Coalition going strong! Click here to donate through Paypal or use the form below.

Platinum Sponsor ...... $500.00
Gold Sponsor .......... $250.00
Silver Sponsor ........ $150.00
Bronze Sponsor ....... $100.00
Supporting Sponsor .... $50.00
Individual Sponsor ..... $25.00

Please remit payment with the registration below to North Quabbin Community Coalition, 251 Exchange Street, Athol, MA 01331.

Name: ____________________________________________

Organization: __________________________________________

Address: (If new address only) __________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Amount Enclosed: $___________    for General _____   Scholarship _____ Capital Campaign _____

Thank You for Your Generosity!
The 2017 Heywood Healthcare Change Agent Fellowship

Building the next generation of leaders from within!

OVERVIEW
A 12-month Leadership Development program designed to build and sustain interdisciplinary leadership from within the organization using participatory academic experience and experiential learning. Program designed for 12 participants, including two from the community. Held on the fourth Wednesday of each month (January through November).

SPECIFICS
Eight-month academic program meeting once per month for a two-hour session. Reading may be assigned in between classes and workshops. An additional four months will be dedicated to working on a change initiative within their department/agency. Must be approved by supervisor and incorporate metrics to evaluate progress/success. Target graduation: December 17, 2017. Following program completion, select graduates will be asked to mentor the next round of participants as peer coaches.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND
Clinical, non-clinical frontline and middle management staff. Staff participation should be supported by the employer to allow for time to attend the trainings. All training materials will be provided by Heywood Healthcare.

FACULTY
Rebecca with Senior Leadership Team Members, External Organizations with specific expertise.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED
1. Theory of Change/Leadership/Innovation
2. Fostering Effective Relationships
3. Leading a Learning Community
4. Conflict Resolution
5. A Culture of Quality Improvement/LEAN Methodology
6. Building a Network of Mentors and Support
7. Effective Communication
8. Identifying capstone projects

The final phase of the course will continue monthly session to check in on projects/progress and to share information and lessons learned. Reading assignments may continue as offered. Application being developed and will require supervisory sign off. Trustees and others invited to attend, a significant press opportunity.
Take the Pledge!
The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health and its partners want to transform National Rural Health Day (NRHD) into a year-long commitment to bring collective focus to specific healthcare issues facing rural communities across the United States. We’re asking you to begin new conversations about the power of pioneering rural partnerships. Lead change in your community that can make a difference for 62 million people. Learn more and PLEDGE HERE.

PLEDGE TO PARTNER.

We want to transform National Rural Health Day (NRHD) into a year-long commitment to bring collective focus to specific healthcare issues facing rural communities across the United States.

We’re asking you to begin new conversations about the power of pioneering rural partnerships.

We’re asking all rural health stakeholders to inspire communities across the country to address and resolve their most challenging population health issues. Make a promise to stay informed and involved with NOSORH and SORHs in 2017, helping to support their combined missions.

Lead change in your community that can make a difference for 62 million people. Learn more about the Pledge to Partner at the conclusion of each NRHD WebSight or ask a representative from NOSORH or your SORH for more information.
Help Make the Millers River Blue Trail Accessible

Millers River Watershed Council (MRWC) has joined with the Town of Athol and the Friends of the Alan E. Rich Environmental Park in purchasing and installing an accessible canoe/kayak dock on the Millers River in Athol. This dock will compliment the similar dock in Orange, improving access to the six-mile Millers River Blue Trail.

The Town of Athol has received a $26,379 DCR trails grant for the project, but a closer look at accessories to make the dock truly accessible and safe has resulted in a $5,800 shortfall to complete the project. MRWC has stepped up and pledged $725 and will also serve as fiscal sponsor to accept tax-deductible donations for the project. Please help with a donation!

Checks can be mailed to MRWC at 100 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331 or you can donate online at millerswatershed.org. In either case, please note "accessible dock" in the comment /memo area.

Diabetes Self-Management Workshop

A social, supportive, fun, and informative workshop series from the Healthy Living program at LifePath will take place on Wednesdays from January 11 to February 15, 1:00 to 3:30 pm at the Community Health Center of Franklin County, 450 West River Street, Orange. Trained leaders help workshop participants learn to better manage their type II diabetes and many of the problems it causes in their lives. Come make weekly action plans, share experiences, and help each other solve problems encountered when creating and carrying out a self-management program. Family members and caregivers are welcome to attend. This program is free! For more information or to register, please contact Marcus Chiaretto, Healthy Living Program Coordinator at LifePath, at 413-773-5555x2304, 978-544-2259x2304 or mchiaretto@lifepathma.org.
Downtown Athol Customer Survey
The Town of Athol’s Downtown Vitality Committee is undertaking a market analysis to assist in determining market conditions and what types of businesses can be supported in Downtown Athol. Please take a few minutes of your time to complete a hard copy of the Downtown Athol Customer Survey (click here to obtain a PDF document.) Or, you may complete an electronic format of the survey from Survey Monkey at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XJZDM8K. Your anonymous answers will greatly assist with this market analysis and is part of an effort to help and expand existing businesses as well as attract new businesses to Downtown Athol.

Your assistance and time in completing this survey is greatly appreciated. Please return the completed survey to the Town Hall Drop box outside Town Hall or Room 28. You can also mail it to Athol Town Hall, 584 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331 by January 31, 2017. For more information, please contact Eric R. Smith, AICP, Director of Planning and Community Development, at 978-575-0301 or planning@townofathol.org.

Free Tax Assistance Program
for households with low-to-moderate income

Make Tax Time Pay YOU!

**Get as much money back as possible**
**Take full advantage of every credit— Earned Income Tax Credit and more!**
**Quick and friendly service**


After January 1, look for the on-line form at www.communityaction.us/taxes
or call 413-376-1176

One of our friendly staff will contact you to schedule your appointment and tell you what documents you will need to bring. Appointments are available in Greenfield and Northampton.
GET YOUR HANDS IN THE DIRT THIS YEAR!
with the G.A.R.D.E.N. Project 2017
Growing Agricultural Resources and Developing Economic Networks

A FREE PROGRAM FOR WOMEN
Learn how to:
- Grow your own organic food in small spaces
- Can, freeze or preserve food to keep or sell
- Create a food focused cooperative
- Install and maintain a permaculture garden

Classes held in Orange, Massachusetts
LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE!
For more information or to apply to the program, contact Christine at the Women’s Center at MCSM (413) 863-4804 x1003 or email christine@mcsmcommunity.org or Donna at NELCWIT (413) 772-0871 x108 or email donna@nelcwit.org

The GARDEN Project is a collaboration of Montague Catholic Social Ministries (MCSM), NELCWIT, Seeds of Solidarity & Greenfield Community College (GCC).
Funded by The Women’s Fund of Western Massachusetts

SIGN UP FOR ALL 4 CLASSES – EARN COLLEGE CREDITS - GROW YOUR OWN FOOD - All Free!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organic Gardening</td>
<td>Tuesdays, 10-1:00</td>
<td>4/18 through 5/16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Preservation &amp; Storage</td>
<td>Fridays, 10-1:00</td>
<td>4/21 through 5/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating Farm &amp; Food Cooperatives</td>
<td>Tuesdays, 10-1:00</td>
<td>5/23 through 6/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permaculture Landscape Installation &amp; Mgmt</td>
<td>Fridays, 10-1:00</td>
<td>5/26 through 6/23</td>
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Some assistance available for childcare, transportation and English-Spanish translation

Women who successfully complete the four one-credit courses will be eligible for a Free ServSafe Food Protection Manager and Allergen Certificates Training provided by Greenfield Community College. The training will be offered to participants in English and Spanish.
Orange Teen Housing Drop-In Space and Services

DIAL/SELF operates a drop-in center in the Orange Teen Housing building, located at 15-17 East Main Street in Orange. Drop-in services are available to youth ages 15 to 21, and include: a food pantry, hygiene products, limited clothing, resource and referral information, case management support, as well as a connection to other DIAL/SELF services and programs. DIAL/SELF drop-in hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 1:00 to 5:00 pm. All services are free. Tapestry Health services are also available on a drop-in basis every other Thursday in the same space. The drop-in center space is a wonderful way for youth, families, service providers, and community members who have questions about their services to connect with both of these agencies. Please feel free to stop by!

DIAL/SELF is actively looking to develop additional community partnerships and opportunities to engage the North Quabbin community in this space. Current open time slots for collaboration are: Wednesday/Thursday mornings prior to 12:00 pm, Monday/Tuesday/Friday evenings after 5:00 pm, and weekends anytime. If you are interested in exploring a collaboration, please contact them!

Nine out of the 10 units in the Orange Teen Housing Program are full at this time, and we do have a few young people in the process of applying to the program. However, we are actively looking to reach more youth in need of housing in the North Quabbin community to help them get on the waitlist for this program, should they be interested and eligible. DIAL/SELF has additional housing programs that can help support young people for both short and long periods of time, and they can explore all options with young people, should they wish.

For more information, please contact Kelsey Wessels at 413-774-7054 x 102, or at kwessels@dialself.org. www.dialself.org.
Job Opportunities Available

Youth Programs Hiring a Program Specialist in Orange

Community Action is seeking an experienced youth worker to provide 1:1 case management to high school age youth to support their achievement of educational/work goals, to provide job readiness training, and to provide ongoing coaching to overcome barriers. Applicant must be highly reliable, professional, positive and self-motivated. Experience in engaging and supporting at-risk youth is required. Depending on qualifications, the pay rate is $14.50-$15.00 per hour with up to $15.25 per hour for bilingual candidates. This is a 37.5 hrs/wk., full year position with excellent benefits—health, dental, retirement, and paid time off (3 weeks vacation, sick, personal, and holidays!) Community Action offers a strong team, positive work environment, and excellent training!

Application instructions: Please submit resume, cover letter, and a list of three professional references as a Word or PDF file to caad343@communityaction.us. Include your name and the position title in the subject line. No calls, videos, or visits please. Applications accepted until positions are filled. Click here for a complete job description.

Healthy Families Home Visitor

Community Action is seeking a positive, compassionate, hard-working person to join its team as a full-time Home Visitor with the Franklin County North Quabbin Healthy Families program from their office location in Orange. This nationally recognized, long-term home-visiting program serves pregnant and parenting teens and their babies. Experience providing supportive services to families with infants and toddlers as well as working with culturally diverse populations is required. This position requires daily travel to homes across the Franklin County and North Quabbin service area as well as thorough documentation and record-keeping. Candidates must have a minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent and be able to comfortably navigate the computer database. Candidates must demonstrate ability to effectively organize job tasks, be flexible, and have reliable transportation. Previous experience with home-visiting and/or parenting a plus! Starting pay rate is $15 per hour.

To apply, send a Letter of Interest and Resume (Word or PDF format only) to caad310@communityaction.us. Click here for complete job description. Screenings begin immediately and continue until position is filled. Excellent training, supervision and employee benefits. Community Action is committed to a diverse workforce. AA/EOE/ADA
Free Classes Offered at MWCC Advanced Manufacturing

Thanks to funding from the U.S. Department of Labor, Mount Wachusett Community College is offering the following FREE credit classes in their manufacturing programs this upcoming semester:

PLT 104: Intro to Programmable Logic Controls
PLT 105: Blueprint Reading
PLT 220: Statistical Process Control
PLT 224: Principles of Supervision

In order to register for these courses, students will need to complete a free college application at mwcc.edu and meet all pre-requisite requirements. More information on these courses can be found by clicking here. Please contact Coy Maienza, Career Development Coach, at 978-630-9430 or cmaienza@mwcc.mass.edu with any questions.
North Quabbin Community Coalition
251 Exchange Street, Athol MA 01331
www.nqcc.org

Mission Statement: The North Quabbin Community Coalition is a community-wide alliance committed to improving the quality of life for all those living and working in the North Quabbin since 1984.

How You Can Help the Coalition!

- Become a Donor! Visit www.nqcc.org.
- Add our website address to your website. Our site is full of beneficial resources and it would help people find us and them.
- Send your events and job listings to us at admin@nqcc.org to be added to our comprehensive North Quabbin Community Calendar or Employment Opportunity pages.
- Contribute stories, announcements and events to our newsletter. Our readership grows each week and you will reach many.
- Like us on Facebook.
- Open an account at TD Bank and ask to join their Affinity Membership Program. It costs you nothing and TD Bank will make an annual contribution to the NQCC based on members’ balances.