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Please join Hurley Travel Experts and Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage for an unforgettable evening in support of Maine's children and families!

Thursday, MARCH 27, 2003
5:30PM at HOLIDAY INN BY THE BAY

One of southern Maine's favorite traditions, **PASSPORT TO OUR FUTURE** combines cuisines from the area's finest restaurants; live music and entertainment; and thrilling auctions of local and exotic travel packages, handcrafted items, and local goods and services. And **DON'T FORGET TO ENTER THE GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE DRAWING!** You could win two round-trip, business class, transatlantic airfares from USAIRWAYS. *All proceeds from PASSPORT TO OUR FUTURE directly benefit YA's work with children and families.*

Keep up on the latest auction catalogues, participating restaurants and sponsors at www.youthalternatives.org/passport/. To purchase raffle tickets or reserve your place for the evening's festivities, please call 207 874 1175 x 170.

<http://www.youthalternatives.org/passport/>



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ya ink

a journal for friends of — YOUTH ALTERNATIVES, INC.

PROFILES IN GIVING: OAKHURST DAIRY

GOT MILK? Oakhurst Dairy's commitment to safer, HEALTHIER, happier families

photo: courtesy Oakhurst Dairy



OAKIE, THE OAKHURST DAIRY ACORN, RALLIES SUPPORT AT ONE OF THE MANY COMMUNITY EVENTS OAKHURST SUPPORTS.

its Woodfords Avenue location in Portland. Now helmed by brothers Stan Bennett II and William Bennett, and their sister Althea Bennett Allen, Oakhurst is one of Maine's best homegrown success stories. When Oakhurst signed on as a sponsor of Youth Alternatives' *Passport to Our Future* 2002, we saw firsthand how deep their commitment to giving back goes.

Oakhurst is quick to emphasize their commitment to children and families. President Stan Bennett explains that "The importance of giving back was instilled in our family by my grandfather, who always said that successful businesses have a responsibility to commit time and money to the community. My father was also especially involved with the government and nonprofits, and a tradition was born."

The numbers say it all: *A full 10% of pre-tax profits at Oakhurst are reinvested in Maine's communities.* Bill, Althea, Stan and almost all managers at the dairy serve on one or more nonprofit boards as well! As those who have been impacted by the company's generosity will tell you, Oakhurst really cares.

Oakhurst Dairy has worked to keep Maine healthy since 1921. Founded as a small dairy by the Bennett family, Oakhurst now processes and packages over 50,000 gallons of milk six days a week with 200 employees at

The Bennetts also encourage a similar commitment in all Maine's businesses, large or small. "A commitment to the local nonprofits is >> OAKHURST DAIRY profile is continued on p.3

YA HOLIDAYS MERRY, WARM AND BRIGHT

Thanks to a generous community

Members of the greater Portland community worked together this holiday season to provide the children and families in Youth Alternatives' care with a happy holiday. Both companies and individuals helped contribute to this year's Holiday Gift Drive, donating over 400 much-needed gifts. YA children and youth had holiday wishes granted, receiving video and board games, bikes, clothes, puzzles, books, and much more. This selfless, generous community effort meant so much to our staff and the families we serve.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage led the charge, conducting gift drives at their offices throughout the state that yielded over 300 wrapped, labeled gifts to our main office (see photo). Maine Medical Center raised staff money to buy a Play Station for YA ROADS Group Home, one of YA's five residences. The Lantos family asked guests at their annual Chanukah party to bring a gift; and together unanimously chose YA's children and >> GIFT DRIVE recap is continued on p.3



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ADVOCACY PRIORITIES 2003/4 ANNOUNCED

YA Advocacy & Prevention Services charts course for the agency's advocacy efforts

photo: courtesy of the state of Maine



The big changes and challenges in Maine's state government this year made choosing Youth Alternatives' Advocacy Priorities 2003/4 even more important to the agency. "We're excited to announce these priorities, and to hit the ground running with the new faces in state government," says Lucky Hollander, YA Vice President of Advocacy & Prevention Services.

YA Advocacy & Prevention Services work with YA staff, the Council and the Board of Trustees to focus our extensive advocacy efforts on a few key areas. YA targets resources so they will have the most impact in the public policy arena on children and families. The Priorities 2003/4 will guide YA's work with city, state and national coalitions; other organizations; grassroots activists and volunteers; and staff and friends. "We know these Priorities will resonate with the community," Hollander says. "We want to inspire and involve as many people as possible to speak out for children and families." The Advocacy Priorities 2003/4 are:

CHILD SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

- Child abuse prevention initiatives, services and programs that promote healthy families and children.
- Policies and legislation that address the link between family violence and animal cruelty.
- Bullying prevention.
- Supports for homeless and/or disenfranchised youth.
- Parenting education and support of all levels of need.

JUVENILE JUSTICE ISSUES

- Gender equity and programming in the juvenile justice system.
- Prevention initiatives, services and programs.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

- Services, policies and legislation that address the link between substance abuse, family violence and child abuse and neglect.
- Expansion of accessible services for families and youth that address substance abuse, mental health and co-occurring disorders.

Visit www.youthalternatives.org/priorities/ to learn more about these priorities, the legislative process, grassroots advocacy, coalitions and networks advancing the same aims, and ways to get involved and be heard. You can also join our listserv and keep posted on alerts, specific legislation and calls to action. To receive the 2003/4 edition of *YA Advocates*, please call 207 874 1175, or send an email to advocacy@youthalternatives.org.



APRIL is CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH!

Wear a blue ribbon to show your commitment to keeping children safe!
To learn more about YA's prevention work, and special events during this month,
visit www.youthalternatives.org/priorities/prevention or call 207 874 1175!

clearly the RIGHT thing to do," Stan explains. "But it's also a sound business decision that yields tangible results. If all the principals in the community made a commitment to just *one* nonprofit as volunteers and/or donors, imagine the boom the local nonprofit sector would experience!" He adds, "Oakhurst chooses to support Youth Alternatives because YA provides wonderful services not provided by other agencies in the area, and it serves a great purpose."

>> to learn more about Oakhurst Dairy, please visit www.oakhurstdairy.com; for more information on ways to support Youth Alternatives, visit www.youthalternatives.org/giving/

photo: ERIN O'CONNOR JONES



SO MANY GIFTS! YA'S SARAH JOHNSON, GLORIA MELNICK AND MICHAEL J. TARPINIAN, COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE'S KELLEY CRAIG AND DEB ABBONDANZA AND YA'S LYNLEY WALKER ADMIRE THE NEW BICYCLES DONATED TO YA'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH

families as the lucky recipients. A *girl scout troop* from Hollis focused on YA Reardon's Place, another residential program, gathering not only fun holiday gifts, but practical household items like socks and towels that are always welcome and needed.

During the holiday season, donated gifts overflowed into staff working areas and infused offices with the holiday spirit. Staff marveled at the success of the gift drive, and everyone agreed it was the perfect finish to the year. Thanks to everyone who participated for helping make the holidays brighter and warmer for Maine's children and families!

THANKS TO: Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Cathedral Parish, The Cathedral School, Maine Medical Center, Foreside Company, the B & M Company, Mainebiz, Turner Barker Insurance, Atlantic Sportswear, Redland & Johnson, Pat Hutchinson (Girl Scout Troop from Hollis, Maine), Linda Burnett, the Carr family, Patty Carton, Matt Fiore, Joan Jenkins, the Lantos family, Ina Lawson, Nancy Levinski, Liz Libby, Kane Loukas, Kimberly McLaughlin, Keith Orsini, Mary Ellen Rollins, Catherine Stine, Mary Jane Wallace.

NEWSWORTHY AT YA

TRAINING & SYMPOSIUM SERIES 2002/3 >>

YA kicked off our first ever TRAINING & SYMPOSIUM SERIES on November 22, 2002 with "Adolescent Substance Use and Dual Diagnosis: Assessment and Treatment", led by David Mee-Lee, M.D., at the South Portland Marriott. Nationally recognized for his work with dually diagnosed adolescents, Dr. Mee-Lee's lively, informative presentation was well-received by participants from across the state.

Continuing the 2002/3 Series' focus on SUBSTANCE ABUSE & MENTAL HEALTH, Friday morning trainings in March, May and June are still open to interested individuals and groups. YA brings you the tools and resources you need on important topics such as opiate use, eating disorders, and a full-day training on "Street Youth and Substance Abuse".

Visit www.youthalternatives.org/training/series for the full schedule and registration information, or contact YA Training Coordinator Patricia Constant at 207 874 1175 x 120.

FOCUSING ON MAINE'S FAMILIES >>

YA's biannual All Agency get-together in November gave our staff an opportunity to catch up with each other and reflect on the agency's strong commitment to families. Over 200 employees and ten of our foster parents participated in

a jam-packed agenda that included thought-provoking exercises, brainstorming sessions and a training by Child Welfare League of America consultant Ginny Waldron. Staff left re-energized and filled with ideas and enthusiasm for the agency's family-focused practice.

JOHN BALDACCIS VISITS YA YOUTH >>

Governor John Baldacci made a campaign stop at YA's offices to hear from a very special constituency—residents of YA Heritage House, our girls-only group home in South Portland. These young women had the opportunity to raise concerns and ask questions of then-candidate Baldacci, one on one. Issues that resonated most with the young women were drug abuse, the juvenile justice system, their educational opportunities, and support for programs such as Heritage House. They offered Maine's new Governor excellent advice: "Please remember how difficult it is for us sometimes. Please listen to young people. And please support programs that make a difference in our lives, like YA Heritage House."

NOMINATIONS FOR PREVENTION AWARDS >>

The Cumberland County Child Abuse & Neglect Council recognizes three people or organizations each year for reaching out to children and families in creative ways, contributing to community prevention efforts. Perhaps you know a teacher building trust and community in his/her classroom;



MAINE'S NEW GOVERNOR JOHN BALDACCIS SAT DOWN WITH YA HERITAGE HOUSE RESIDENTS AND YA STAFF DURING HIS 2002 CAMPAIGN, FOR AN OPEN DISCUSSION ABOUT YOUTH ISSUES

or a community member mentoring a child; or a volunteer dedicating time to causes that benefit children. The Council urges everyone to spend a few moments reflecting on people in your life making a difference for children, that promote safer, healthier, happier childhoods, and to nominate them for this special recognition. Nominations for the **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AWARD** should be submitted to YA Advocacy & Prevention Services by calling 207 874 1175, or emailing council@youthalternatives.org.

Youth Alternatives notecards still available!

Featuring artwork from children and youth in our care, YA notecards are available in both winter and summer designs! All proceeds benefit YA's work. Available in packs of 10 for \$10, or \$1.50 for individual cards. Call 207 874 1175 x 170 to purchase yours today.