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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Community Partners of Biddeford Receives Grant
From TD Banknorth Charitable Foundation
Toward Employment Initiatives for Adults With Developmental Disabilities**

Community Partners, headquartered in Biddeford, Maine, is pleased to announce it has received a \$3,000 grant from TD Banknorth Charitable Foundation. The funds will be dedicated to initiatives supporting people with developmental disabilities to secure and maintain meaningful employment in their community.

This grant will help Community Partners meet several employment support objectives including education and outreach to potential employers; staff development and certification training as Employment Specialists and agency collaboration to share resources.

Currently, nearly 50 individuals supported by Community Partners are employed in diverse locations in Southern Maine including area restaurants, manufacturing companies, small businesses, colleges and universities, non-profits and retail settings.

According to Vocational Administrator, Doug Watson, "We have more work to do in educating employers about hiring people with developmental disabilities. We find many individuals we support have the skills and work ethic sought by employers. Part of our job is to offer employers the resources and tools to assist people with developmental disabilities to make a smooth transition into the work setting. Once that is accomplished, we find most employers are very satisfied, and the individuals employed take great pride in their work. We strive to make the right match at the right time, based on the interests, skills and experience of the individuals we support. This funding from TD Banknorth will help us to strengthen a key community based program that's a "win win" for all involved."

Community Partners provides supports to some 200 adults and children with developmental disabilities across a range of services including 40 unique multi-level care residential programs, Senior Center in Portland, nursing home in Lewiston and community inclusion and independent living program in Biddeford/Saco. Services are offered in communities in York, Cumberland, Kennebec and Androscoggin Counties. For further information contact Community Partners at PO Box 363, (443 Main Street), Biddeford, ME 04005 (207) 282-7113 or visit our website at www.cpime.org.

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