

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 16, 2022

Great Bay Services, Honored With 2022 Maine Governor's Award for Service and Volunteerism

SANFORD — Volunteers from Great Bay Services, have won the Outstanding Volunteer Team Award at the 2022 Maine Governor's Award for Service and Volunteerism. The award was presented by Governor Janet Mills in a virtual award ceremony hosted on April 25th. Great Bay Services of Sanford, Maine was awarded this honor due to their valiant volunteer effort in 2021. Highlighting on their assistance with the Toys for Tots program, bringing toys to over 1,400 children each year.

Great Bay Services, a 501(c)3 non-profit supporting adults with autism, mental and physical disabilities for the last 68 years in New Hampshire, expanded into Maine in 2015. Cory Long, Senior Direct Support Professional (DSP) jumped into the role of Volunteer Coordinator in August 2021 after joining the Sanford team in fall of 2020. Ms. Long spent the fall and winter months establishing volunteer opportunities, building a volunteer team and schedule, while assisting the volunteers (if needed) as part of her Senior Direct Support Professional role. During the awards live stream Ms. Long gave a speech preceding the award to a collection of volunteers, family, and friends, *"Every day you work together as a team, you learn new leadership skills. You have done great at your tasks and have made an impact on your community,"* says Long.

For the months of October to December Great Bay Services volunteers did 216 hours of volunteering. In less than a year, as a volunteering program, these individuals have worked over 600 hours. As part of the award ceremony a representative from the Acton Church, one of the six volunteer partnership's established shared "Great Bay Services does a great amount of service work for us. They come in three days a week, sweep the floors, set up the chairs for our programs like chair yoga, A.A., bible study." On top of established weekly volunteering and Toys for Tots, Great Bay Services has also curated multiple successful food drives and a coat drive to support local shelters.

A copy of the 2022 Maine Governor's Award for Service and Volunteerism live stream from April 25th is available for viewing on the Great Bay Services website along with photos and other information on their volunteer efforts.

"All the hard work you have done, in such a short time, is very impressive..." says Cory Long, "I hope you are as proud of yourselves as we are of you!"

For more information, press only:

Chrissy Swenson
603-842-5344 (Ex. 10)
cswenson@greatbayservices.org

For more information on 2022 Maine Governor's Award for Service and Volunteerism:

www.greatbayservices.org/governors_award-2022