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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **THE NORTHERN LIGHTHOUSE, INC. RECEIVES \$10,000 SIGNATURE GRANT FROM THE DOUG FLUTIE, JR. FOUNDATION FOR AUTISM**

PRESQUE ISLE – The Northern Lighthouse, Inc. (TNLH) is pleased to announce that it has received a \$10,000 grant from the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism. These funds have helped TNLH with the purchase of a van that staff at TNLH will use to transport clients in its Section 21 and 29 programs. These programs provide direct support to adults with autism or intellectual disabilities.

TNLH direct care staff focus on utilizing community and peer supports in these programs. This project will help clients learn social skills and daily living skills that will prepare them for healthy, independent living. Through this critical funding, The Northern Lighthouse, Inc. will provide a growth process for adults with autism or intellectual disabilities to live independently with access to critical social supports and opportunities.

TNLH has recently purchased a van as a way to provide transportation to adults in these programs and to provide services to clients in community locations. This project will assist with client transportation needs and will greatly benefit the clients TNLH supports in Aroostook County. “Transportation is a huge barrier for a lot of the consumers we serve here at The Northern Lighthouse, Inc. The generous contribution made by the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation has given us the ability to better support our consumers by purchasing this van which will be used to help support our consumers in accessing their communities and will better meet their needs” stated Blake Hatt, Chief of Operations.

“We are so grateful for this grant to be able to purchase a van to help with transportation needs. This will reduce barriers for some of our consumers in Aroostook County” stated Tiffany Faulkner, CEO at The Northern Lighthouse, Inc.

“The Flutie Foundation Signature Grants help our partner agencies address a variety of significant needs in the autism community, especially in light of coronavirus repercussions,” says Nick Savarese, Executive Director of The Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism. “Programs at The Northern Lighthouse, Inc. help people on the autism spectrum live life to the fullest and we are proud to support their efforts.”

The Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism, based in Framingham, MA, awards grants annually through a competitive application and review process. The signature grants that the Flutie Foundation distributed this year support traditionally under-served, under-funded, culturally diverse communities reflected in the Foundation’s areas of interest; providing a path for educational and vocational skills, supporting recreational and active lifestyles, and ensuring people with autism are safe, supported, and informed.



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The Northern Lighthouse, Inc. works with children, adults, and families across Maine and is excited about this opportunity. To learn more about services, feel free to contact them.

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*About The Northern Lighthouse, Inc.*

The Northern Lighthouse, Inc. provides services to support families, build self-confidence and self-esteem, personal responsibility, as well as skill development. Staff encourage families to make informed choices regarding their children, by providing education geared towards the specific challenges that they face. The Northern Lighthouse, Inc. team will be nondiscriminatory and respectful of culture, social, and religious differences.

*About the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism*

The Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism (DFJFA) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation helping families affected by autism live life to the fullest. Through programs and partnerships, DFJFA helps people with autism get access to care; lead more active lifestyles; and grow toward adult independence. NFL Quarterback Doug Flutie and his wife Laurie, whose personal experience raising a son on the autism spectrum inspired their passion to help other families, established the Foundation in 1998. DFJFA primarily serves families throughout New England, New York, New Jersey, and Central Florida. For more information on The Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism, visit [www.flutiefoundation.org](http://www.flutiefoundation.org).