What do you think of when you hear the word home?

For most it means security, family, support and togetherness. For the individuals who receive services through the Maine Behavioral Healthcare (MBH) residential program, home means all of this and more. The 12 residential locations at MBH span as far south as York and as far north as Belfast with a total capacity of 76 beds. All it takes is a single visit to one of these homes to become inspired by the warmth of support experienced by the residents and unwavering dedication shown by clinical staff to create a supportive family environment.

New to her leadership role in the residential program is Lee-Andra D’Attilio, LCSW, who was promoted to Director of Care Management, Social Services and Residential at MBH in June. At a recent visit to the Woodbridge Group Home in York she met with staff and residents like Jamie who have lived at the home for two years. “I am so impressed by the incredible dedication our staff show to the residents,” said D’Attilio. “We’re able to support individuals with the safety and support needed to live as independently as possible. This provides an opportunity for our residents with major mental illness to increase their sense of well-being, improve quality of life and help them function within the community.”

Jamie enjoys doing art (see sample above her photo) and appreciates the freedom experienced at the home. “I feel relaxed here, it’s a nice area,” she said. “The staff are really good about being involved in the community.” During the summer, residents have enjoyed outings to the local farmers market and in the fall they look forward to apple picking.

Woodbridge is a PNMI (Private Non-Medical Institution) residential home that accommodates seven clients who have their own bedroom and share common areas. Services include psychiatry, case management, grocery shopping, meal planning and preparation, skill building activities, outpatient therapy, individualized treatment planning, medication administration and financial coaching. The majority of referrals come from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and others from Riverview, Dorothea Dix or Spring Harbor Hospital.

“Housing is a critical part of the recovery process,” said Mary Jane Krebs, President of Spring Harbor Hospital. “Some patients who leave the hospital are in need of transitional support through our residential program, so we value the ability to provide the services they need at the least intensive level of care.”