



*Celebrating 60 years of providing  
help and creating hope in Maine*

# Catholic Charities Maine 2025 Annual Report



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### Our **RICHES**

Respect • Integrity

Compassion • Hospitality

Excellence • Stewardship

Dear Friends,

As Catholic Charities Maine celebrates its 60th anniversary, I am filled with gratitude for the extraordinary legacy we share. Six decades of service is not only a remarkable milestone — it is a testament to the thousands of lives changed, families strengthened, and communities uplifted through the work of our dedicated staff, volunteers, and supporters. What moves me most is knowing that every act of care we offer is rooted in the Gospel message of Matthew 25: “Whatever you did for the least of my people, you did for me.”

This past year has shown how far we have come — and how ready we are to meet the challenges ahead. In 2025 we stepped forward to address Maine’s growing housing needs, strengthened partnerships, and pursued new opportunities to expand services. One example was our ability to respond quickly when asked to provide life recovery services at Freedom Place, a supportive housing development for women committed to recovery. Through careful stewardship and the dedication of our staff, we were able to help launch this program and ensure women in crisis received the care they needed. These efforts reflect our commitment to expanding our strong foundation for the future.

As we celebrate this milestone year, I am especially grateful for the people who make this mission possible. Our staff and volunteers embody our *RICHES* values every day with humility and unwavering dedication. And to our donors — whether you have supported us for decades or for the first time — please know how deeply you are appreciated. Your generosity sustains our work and reflects the spirit that has guided Catholic Charities Maine throughout its history.

As you read this report, I hope you see not only the impact of the past year, but the enduring commitment that continues to move our mission forward.

Thank you for walking with us — yesterday, today, and in the years ahead — as we build on this legacy of service and look toward all that is possible.

God Bless,



Stephen P. Letourneau

CEO, Catholic Charities Maine



**Catholic Charities Maine is 344 employees and 380 volunteers strong. With the support of 1,186 donors, we served 22,928 of Maine's most vulnerable in 2025.**

### **595 ADULTS**

coping with a mental illness received the help and support they needed through our Behavioral Health Network



### **2,009 SENIORS**

received companionship and a helping hand through our Independent Support Services and SEARCH programs



### **173 CHILDREN**

received safe, nurturing, educational childcare at our St. Louis and St. Elizabeth's Child Development Centers



### **884 NEW MAINERS**

were welcomed and supported by our Refugee & Immigration Services



### **881 PEOPLE**

in need had their calls for help answered by our *Relief & Hope* Emergency Services



### **4,767 SMILES**

were brightened through our Jessie Albert Dental & Orthodontic Center



### **294 CHILDREN**

with a vision impairment were educated and empowered through our Education Services for Blind & Visually Impaired Children



### **398 ADULTS**

battling substance use, mental health, and/or co-occurring disorders received treatment and support through our Outpatient Counseling Services



### **370 ASYLUM SEEKERS**

received cultural orientation and case management services through the Asylum Seekers' Transitional Housing pilot program



### **254 MEN**

received residential treatment for substance use disorders at our St. Francis Recovery Center



### **12,100 RESIDENTS**

in Northern Maine received nutritious food monthly through our Hunger & Relief Services



### **203 CHILDREN**

and their families received Behavioral Health Home Services



# EDUCATION SERVICES FOR BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN

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## *Guiding Vision*

When Leeann Ward began exploring a new career path, she drew on her own experience as a visually impaired student who received services from Catholic Charities Maine's Education Services for Blind & Visually Impaired Children (ESBVIC) program. **That personal history made her discovery of the field of teaching children with visual impairments feel like a natural next step — and ultimately led her back to the very program that once supported her.**

In 2006, Program Director Jean Small agreed to take Leeann on as a student teacher for her master's program, offering guidance, encouragement, and a chance to learn in a supportive environment.

A year later, Jean hired Leeann as a full-time Teacher of Children with Visual Impairments (TVI). She and another new hire became the first visually impaired TVIs in Maine, helping broaden representation in a field where that was still uncommon. "Jean hired me with optimism and openness," Leeann says. "As a new professional still building my confidence, her support was vital to my success."

Nearly two decades later, their relationship has come full circle. After retiring, Jean returned to ESBVIC as Leeann's driver and sighted assistant — a partnership built on trust and shared experience. "I like to joke that she used to be my boss, but now I'm hers," Leeann says. "It's comforting to work with someone who understands the stresses and joys of this job as deeply as I do."

Today, Leeann supports students across Maine by teaching braille, assistive technology, and orientation skills, while helping teachers create accessible, inclusive classrooms. Remote services now allow TVIs like Leeann to reach more students, especially in rural areas, ensuring no child goes without support when in-person visits aren't possible. Leeann's journey reflects the heart of ESBVIC: when educators believe in their students, and students believe in themselves, the possibilities are limitless.



# JESSIE ALBERT DENTAL & ORTHODONTIC CENTER

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## *Closing the Gap: Dental Care for Maine's Most Vulnerable*

Access to dental care in Maine is in crisis — and the numbers tell a sobering story. According to the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, 15 of the state's 16 counties face a shortage of dental professionals, and the average Mainer must travel 40 minutes just to reach a dentist. For lower-income individuals, families with children, the elderly, and those without transportation, that distance can mean going without care entirely.

Against this backdrop, Catholic Charities Maine's Jessie Albert Dental & Orthodontic Center in Bath has never been more essential.

2025 brought real challenges: a nationwide shortage of dental hygienists continues to strain providers. Recruiting and retaining qualified professionals in this environment requires creativity and persistence, and it remains an ongoing priority.

Yet the year also brought meaningful progress: **we deepened our nearly decade-long partnership with the University of New England, welcoming 4th year dental hygiene students whose hands-on involvement expands our capacity while preparing the next generation of providers.** We transitioned to cloud-based dental software, improving efficiency and record-keeping. And we replaced aging equipment, ensuring our patients receive care in a modern, safe clinical environment.

As we mark 60 years of mission-driven service, our dental program stands as proof that Catholic Charities Maine meets people where they are. The need may be great, but so is our resolve to answer it.

"From October 2019 to September 2024, Maine saw a 20% decrease in dental provider organizations serving MaineCare members, while MaineCare enrollment has increased 68%. Knowing that we served 8,943 MaineCare patients in the last 18 months is extremely rewarding." —Karen Bazemore, RDH, IPDH, BSDH, Program Director



# SEARCH

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## *Celebrating 50 Years of Connection*

As Catholic Charities Maine celebrates six decades of serving our communities, we also honor a program that has been part of our mission for most of our history: SEARCH — Seek Elderly Alone, Renew Courage & Hope. For 50 years, SEARCH has offered companionship, dignity, and support to older adults who might otherwise face the challenges of aging alone.

What began as a small effort to support older adults in Lewiston/Auburn has grown into a lifeline across nine counties. **“SEARCH matters now more than ever because Maine’s aging population is continuing to grow, leaving many isolated seniors without transportation and socialization, especially in our rural areas,”** says Program Director Wendy Russell. “Our volunteers bring both companionship and dependable help — whether it’s a friendly visit, a chance to socialize, or a ride to the grocery store.”

At the heart of SEARCH is a simple but powerful idea: neighbors helping neighbors. Volunteers offer home visits, reassurance calls, rides, and a caring presence that restores connection and confidence. And often, the volunteers feel the impact just as deeply. “I always hear from our volunteers about how they feel that they are getting so much more than they are giving,” Russell shares. “Our volunteers are the heart of our SEARCH program and help make a positive impact in the lives of the older adults we serve.”

SEARCH has shown how small acts of kindness can ripple outward — strengthening communities, easing loneliness, and reminding older adults that they are not forgotten. As we celebrate this milestone, we honor the volunteers, donors, and partners who have carried this mission forward. Their dedication ensures that SEARCH will continue offering courage, connections, and hope to older adults across Maine for many years to come.



# THREADS OF HOPE

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## *Sanford Serves Up Beautiful Karma*

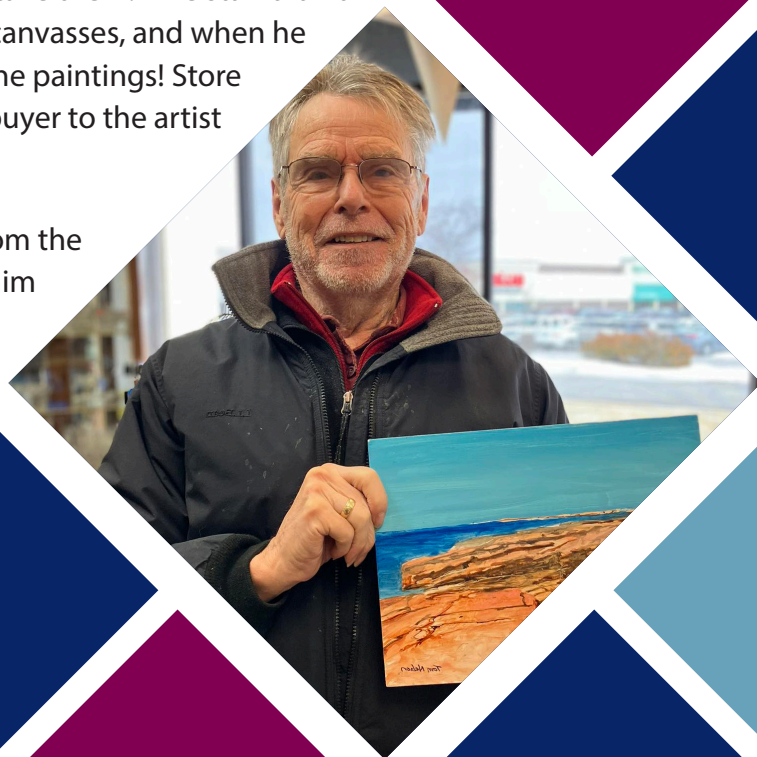
Why did local artist Tom Nelson donate several paintings to Catholic Charities Maine's Threads of Hope thrift store? To give back to the agency that helped him when he needed it most — and because he believes everyone deserves to enjoy fine art, no matter their budget.

Tom, a retired postal worker and lifelong artist, had found himself with a problem: his tiny studio was overflowing with paintings, he needed to find them homes.

Then he discovered Threads of Hope accepted art donations — and realized it was run by Catholic Charities Maine. The same Catholic Charities that helped him 46 years ago when he was newly married, new to Maine, and facing a personal crisis. "The first thing I did when I had to do something about my drinking was go for counseling at Catholic Charities," Tom says. **"When I saw Threads of Hope and Catholic Charities, I said wow — this is synchronicity. This is what I'm meant to do."**

So, on New Year's Eve day, Tom and his wife loaded nine large paintings into their car and drove to the store in Sanford. "I didn't even know if they would take them!" The staff didn't just take them — they were thrilled. Tom went home for more canvasses, and when he returned hours later, someone was already buying five of his nine paintings! Store manager Tracy Moore seized the moment and introduced the buyer to the artist right there in the shop.

Even greater than finally finding an audience for his work, for Tom the moment was proof of divine forces at work. As his wife said to him on the drive home, "It was meant to happen." And now he has room to breathe — and keep creating. "I can paint again. I just turned 79. If I have my life as an artist, it's a gift."



# REFUGEE & IMMIGRATION SERVICES

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## *Fulfilling Our Mission*

Recent federal policy changes brought a pause in refugee resettlement nationwide, and then when the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) withdrew from the Reception and Placement cooperative agreement, Catholic Charities Maine lost its status as an official resettlement agency. This was a significant change — one that required us to adapt quickly and thoughtfully.

Rather than stepping back, we actively reached out to eligible refugees in Maine to support their employment and family self-sufficiency. **Through our Immigration Legal Services, we are walking alongside clients on their journey toward permanence and citizenship — providing legal consultations, assistance with applications, and advocacy every step of the way.** This work is more important than ever, and we are deeply committed to providing it.

To strengthen and sustain this work, we also made the difficult decision in 2025 to consolidate our offices, closing our Bangor and Lewiston locations. Our Portland office remains open and fully operational, continuing to provide case management, employment services, and services for older refugees as we focus on the thousands of refugees and immigrants already living and building lives in Maine.

## ASYLUM SEEKER TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

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### *Mission Accomplished*

One of the most meaningful accomplishments of 2025 was the successful culmination of our Asylum Seeker Transitional Housing Program. A pilot program launched in 2022 at the request of the State of Maine and City of Portland in response to an urgent and growing need, this initiative provided safe, stable transitional housing and wraparound support services to asylum seekers as they worked toward self-sufficiency. The program's final outcomes have demonstrated real impact, with families stabilized and their futures secured. This pilot is a testament to our ability to recognize emerging needs and respond with creativity and compassion. While the formal pilot has concluded, the lessons learned continue to shape how we serve this community.



# HUNGER & RELIEF SERVICES

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## *A Legacy Rooted in Innovation and Community*

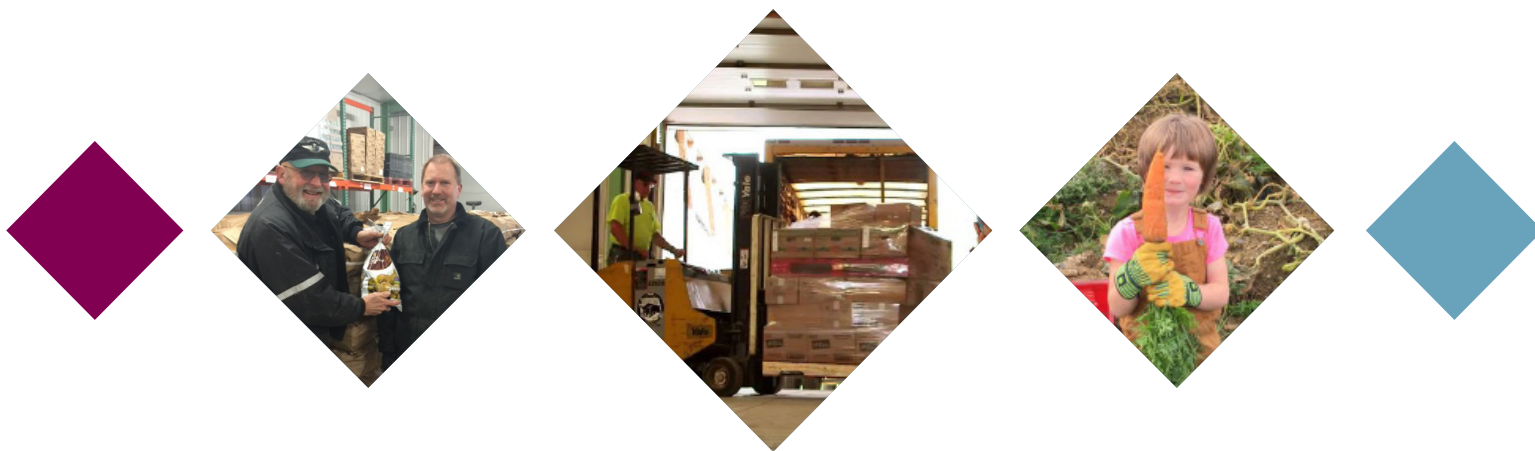
For nearly four decades, Catholic Charities' Food Bank in Aroostook County has grown from a modest operation serving 18 pantries out of a small garage into one of the most expansive and self-sustaining hunger relief operations in rural Maine — a testament to visionary leadership, creative resourcefulness, and deep community partnerships.

Under the long tenure of Dixie Shaw, the program developed a unique model built on diversified, self-generated revenue streams. What began with a chance donation of leftover yard sale items evolved into a network of thrift stores — now including a significantly expanded Threads of Hope location at the Aroostook Centre Mall in Presque Isle, which more than tripled its retail space in late 2024. Revenue from the stores, combined with large-scale textile recycling, metal recycling, and cardboard recovery, support the Food Bank's operations, reducing reliance on government funding. **The program currently serves 28 food pantries and 15 partner agencies, including schools, healthcare facilities, and shelters — with two additional pantries anticipated by summer 2026.**

Program director Jon Blanchard, who joined two years ago and trained under Dixie's mentorship, carries the work forward with the same unshakeable conviction that has always guided the work: Every effort exists to serve one mission — feeding the hungry.

Major infrastructure investments this past year have positioned the program for continued growth and sustainability, including structural renovations completed at the Monticello warehouse facility which will ensure its viability for decades to come.

Dixie still continues to help Jon wherever her enthusiasm and energy are needed. "I built the bones," Dixie reflects. "I have passed him my baby. Jon has exactly what's needed to move it forward for years to come."



# PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

## *Crossing the Street*

In 2025, one of the projects Parish Social Ministry supported was Prince of Peace Parish's food truck program, aptly named Cross The Street Ministry.

"Our mission is to serve the most vulnerable and to engage with the homeless. Our name reflects our call to follow the example of Christ. What do most people do when they see the poor? They cross to the other side of the street to get away from them. We're doing exactly the opposite. We cross the street to meet them," says Denise Begin, one of the organizers.

Volunteers serve sandwiches, snack packs, coffee, water bottles, and cold weather essentials. Thanks to the Matthew 25 grant through Catholic Charities Maine, the van is now able to serve hot food on cold winter days.

**"The ministry here, they are so nice, and without the socks, gloves, and hats, we would be cold. They're all so nice and helpful, and they just want you to know that God is there and to show you that," says Sofia, homeless for several months.**

Creating a stronger relationship with Catholic Charities can open up a world of possibilities and resources for parishes and communities they serve, including:

- Launching parish-based healing ministries to help meet basic needs;
- Training materials to help those requesting assistance;
- Ongoing consulting to explore, develop and/or evaluate social ministries.

For more information, call (207) 523-1161  
or email [psm@ccmaine.org](mailto:psm@ccmaine.org)



# FREEDOM PLACE

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## *A New Partnership Launches a Rising Star*

In stepping into her role as a Residential Mentor at Freedom Place, Fahima has come full circle, returning to Maine on her personal journey to recovery and finding her purpose as a role model and guide.

After starting recovery in Nebraska, Fahima returned to Maine, where she'd lived years before. It was her sponsor from Nebraska who suggested she consider supporting others by working in the field of recovery. She found a role at Freedom Place, where Catholic Charities Maine assumed the role of service provider in Fall 2025 in partnership with Developers Collaborative who owns and operates the residence. Providing housing and services for up to 38 women committed to recovery from trauma, substance use, homelessness, previous incarceration, and other challenges, the opportunity to empower women at Freedom Place represents an exciting evolution for both Catholic Charities and Fahima. Quickly transitioning from her previous Peer Support Staff role into her new role as a Residential Mentor, Fahima provides the crucial encouragement and understanding to help residents heal.

Fahima's gift for caring and connection made her a natural for the Residential Mentor role, which in turn has opened up a new world of opportunity. "I've learned so much! I really love how I'm able to have supervisor meetings and staff meetings regularly, that connects me and helps me get into the field. I'm learning more about the program itself and how we can grow the program, not just as a treatment place but as a home. **Consistent support, whether that's emotional, financial, community based, or leadership support, it creates a foundation. Consistency is key, because the biggest thing is people feeling safe, staff feeling valued, and the residents feeling seen.**"

Fahima has already earned her Provisional Certified Intentional Peer Support and Mental Health and Rehabilitation Technician certifications while working at Catholic Charities Maine, and her future plans include studying to become a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor. She credits the team at Catholic Charities Maine with giving her the tools to achieve her dream. "I've never worked at a place like this ever in my life, so it's really rewarding that I've found a job that cares for not only what I'm doing but for me as well."



# The generosity of our donors provides help and hope to those in need.

## GIVING CIRCLES

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Elisabeth Maria Crowley

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*in memory of Janet Beckwith*

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### 1966 Society (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

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### Circle of Hope (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

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*in honor of Rev. Richard J. Downs*

Nancy Ruff

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*in memory of Theode &*

*Germaine Legare*

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Michael & Mary Anne Lawler

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*in memory of Matthew Ward*

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Sullivan  
Paul Tully & Marla Keefe  
Dr. Robert & Mrs. Ann Turcotte  
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*in memory of David P. Twomey  
III & David P. Twomey Sr.*  
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Bruce & Doreen White  
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*in honor of Dave Barceleau*  
Lisa Basley  
John Bastey  
Roland Beaudoin  
Jane & Shawn Beaupre  
*in memory of Carolyn Bouchard*  
Fred Bechard  
James Begin  
Patty Blackstone  
Carol Blasi & Kevin Curtin  
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Edward & Francine Cogan  
Blair Colby  
Michael & Janet Collins  
David Collins  
*in honor of John Jasicob*  
Garnet Colpitts  
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Claire & Michael Connell  
William & Nannette Conners  
Ernest & Helenmarie Copley  
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Ann Cramer  
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Brian Cullen  
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*in memory of Alan  
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for his outstanding work at  
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### **DONORS OF GIFTS-IN-KIND**

Throughout the year, Catholic  
Charities Maine receives many  
in-kind gifts to help support our  
programs. From auction items to  
furniture for a family resettling  
in Maine, all these gifts help  
give hope to those in need.  
Thank you to those thoughtful  
businesses and individuals.

The 2025 Annual Report is  
published by the Development  
Office and lists gifts received  
between January 1, 2025 and  
December 31, 2025. Every effort  
has been made to ensure that  
these lists are accurate and  
complete.

If your name was omitted  
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incorrectly, please accept our  
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*\*Community Partners*

# THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

## *Giving the Gift of Time*

Catholic Charities Maine could not possibly accomplish all that it does without the countless hours contributed by loyal volunteers. In 2025, **380** volunteers provided **28,078** hours of support for our 20+ program statewide. This represents nearly a **\$1 million value** in time donated, though their incredible support is truly priceless!

We are deeply grateful for our dedicated volunteers' gift of service in support of our mission.



## CORPORATE COMMUNITY PARTNERS

*Thank you to our 2025 Corporate Community Partners, who have joined us in strengthening our communities 365 days a year, making Maine a better place for all.*

### **Platinum \$20,000**

Royal River Grill House  
Sicilian Table  
Tuscan Bistro  
Tuscan Table

### **Crystal \$7,500**

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### **Catalyst \$1,000**

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Franklin Savings Bank

# 2025 STATEMENT

Fiscal Year October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

## UNRESTRICTED REVENUES AND GAINS

Government Sources	13,746,826 = 44.17%
Medicaid	9,774,906 = 31.41%
Program Service Fees	2,106,571 = 6.77%
Catholic Appeal (Roman Catholic Bishop of Portland)	710,024 = 2.28%
United Way contributions	190,284 = 0.61%
Grants, contributions and bequests	1,235,295 = 3.97%
Threads of Hope Thrift Store retail sales	882,897 = 2.84%
Rent and other, net	121,678 = 0.39%
Investment income	940,168 = 3.02%
Bad debt recovery	734,884 = 2.36%
Net assets released from restriction	676,717 = 2.18%

**Total unrestricted revenue and gains 31,120,250**

## OTHER INCOME ACTIVITY

### Net assets with donor restrictions

Contributions	526,585
Investment Income	184,278
Change in beneficial interest	70,503
Net assets released from restriction for operating purposes	(676,717)
Increase(decrease) in temporarily restricted net assets	104,649

<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>1,882,149</b>
<b>Net assets at beginning of year</b>	<b>15,867,058</b>
<b>Net assets at end of year</b>	<b>17,749,207</b>

## EXPENSES

Program Services	
Specialized Community Services	12,533,616 = 44.41%
Behavioral Health Services	8,176,204 = 28.97%
Children and Youth Services	2,303,423 = 8.16%
Elder Care	3,645,734 = 12.92%
Retail Operations	964,772 = 3.42%
Food Bank, Farm, and Recycling	597,418 = 2.12%

**Subtotal 28,221,167**

Development and PR	543,190
Unallocated support services	578,393
Total unrestricted expenses	29,342,750
Income (loss) from operations	1,777,500

## OUR MISSION

Inspired by scripture and the Church's social teaching, Catholic Charities empowers and strengthens individuals and families of all faiths by providing innovative, community-based social services throughout Maine.





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