

# making every penny count

PHILANTHROPY REPORT | JUNE-JULY 2023

## Making Headlines!

If you live in the Greater Lewiston area, you may have seen Catholic Charities Maine (CCM) on the front page of the *Lewiston Sun Journal* on June 10th. Writer Vanessa Paoella shined a light on the great work of our **Education Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired Children (ESBVIC)** in her piece, "Seeing their needs, teachers use technology to help visually impaired students thrive in the classroom."

CCM is the sole provider of teachers of the visually impaired in the state, serving 300 children from York to Aroostook County, and the piece profiles Joyce Kyllonen, a CCM teacher of the visually impaired. A day in Kyllonen's life is filled with teaching young students to thrive in classroom settings, supporting families who have children living with visual impairment, and collaborating with classroom teachers to maximize learning. She also helps student develop life skills beyond the classroom, with meal preparation classes and field trips. The goal of ESBVIC is to meet students where they are, both in their learning and in their lives, and the teachers excel at what they do.

*"If you can't see, there's so many skills to learn and those skills need to be taught directly," Kyllonen said. "Sometimes we do those individually with a student, but it's so much more fun to get students together."*



An ESBVIC student uses technology to adapt classroom reading material to her needs.



Expansion and renovations are already underway to serve more people on their recovery journey at St. Francis in Auburn.

## St. Francis Recovery Center Expands as Part of Statewide SUD Treatment Efforts

On June 9, Governor Janet Mills announced an effort to create 140 new residential beds for substance use disorder (SUD) treatment across the state. This expansion comes as substance usage and overdoses continue to rise in Maine, and we are proud to report that CCM's **St. Francis Recovery Center** in Auburn has received grant funding from this initiative.

Renovations are already underway at St. Francis, where 12 new beds are being added, nearly doubling the facility's capacity to provide help and create hope for more Maine people, like Joe.

Joe's story, recently shared by the St. Francis staff, is a good example of how support, compassion and empathy can truly make a difference in someone's life. Joe came to CCM from one of many stays in jail, a place he had been in and out of since he was a teenager. His depression, anxiety, anger, and impulse problems caused him to self-medicate with alcohol from an early age. When Joe started services, his self-image was very poor, and he did not see himself as someone who mattered or could make a difference to anyone, leading him to suicidal thoughts, crisis calls, police wellbeing checks, and other setbacks.

At St. Francis, Joe got connected to therapy, a primary care provider, medication services, and a support system he has never had and sorely needed. Joe has changed his life. He is working for a utility company in the energy field, responding to storm emergency calls, and while he continues to have bumps in the road at times, he knows he has the support to push forward and make a life for himself.

*"As addiction continues to devastate people and families in Maine, we are grateful for the support and assistance the State and others have provided to make a St. Francis expansion a reality," Program Director Tom Farrington, said.*

## Put Children First Golf Classic Tees up for Childcare Scholarships



For more than two decades, CCM has gathered 30+ teams of golfers for our *Annual Put Children First Golf Classic* at The Woodlands Club in Falmouth. This year's event will be held on Monday, September 18th. Last year was a banner year, with the tournament and auction bringing in more than \$90,000 for childcare scholarships. If you golf, know people who golf, or want to support the day through our varied sponsorships, volunteer opportunities, or with a donation to our Live Auction, visit [www.ccmaine.org/golf](http://www.ccmaine.org/golf) or contact Denise Picard at (207) 523-1188.

## Feed the County 150 Celebration Raises Critical Funds to Fight Hunger

Summer is speeding up, and so are preparations for the **Fourth Annual Feed The County 150 Race, presented by Day and Ross and McCain**. This event supports local veterans, seniors and families struggling with food insecurity. Because the race coincides with the Independence Day holiday weekend (July 1-2) this year, it's been turbocharged with a two-day celebration full of family fun and community support.

Saturday, July 1 from 3:00-9:00 pm will be an action-packed day of monster trucks rides, a motorcycle ride and show, food trucks, kid-friendly activities, a concert with Star City Syndicate, fireworks, and so much more. On Sunday, July 2, race time begins at 3:00 pm with the Pro All-Star 150-Lap Pass, followed by the Super-late Models Race, 50-Lap Pass Modified Race, and 50-Lap Enduro Tour Race.

Plus, the food trucks will stick around all weekend. If you and your family are looking for a truly Maine way to spend the holiday, this weekend of fundraising in the County, all to benefit our Food Banks, will be unbeatable!

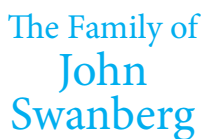
Thank you to all the generous sponsors for supporting the Feed the County 150!

## THANK YOU to Our Event Sponsors Who Help Us Feed the County!

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## Community Sponsor Spotlight

CATHOLIC CHARITIES MAINE  
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ONE DONATION...  
supports **20+** programs statewide  
serves more than **50,000** Mainers of all faiths  
provides **365** days of help & hope

Our Community Partners program is a way for local businesses to provide year-long support for our work empowering Maine's most vulnerable people and strengthening local communities.

We are thrilled to have the generous partnership of longtime supporters, Showtime Hospitality Group, owner of four great local restaurants: Tuscan Bistro in Freeport, Royal River Grill House in Yarmouth, Tuscan Table in South Portland, and Sicilian Table in Falmouth.

When you dine with our Showtime partners, you're also showing your support while you enjoy some delicious food!

