



PHILANTHROPY REPORT | MAY-JUNE 2024

### Reflecting on our RICHES

Our Agency core values of **Respect, Integrity, Compassion, Hospitality, Excellence and Stewardship** inform everything we do. As a faith-based non-profit, our clients have high expectations, and rightfully so, as our services are truly our mission in action. Our dedication to that mission includes assessments of our programs and surveying of our clients by our Quality and Compliance Department to ensure that client needs are being met and that we continually improve our service offerings. As a donor, you trust us to do the most good through your generosity, and we hope you are heartened by these recent client survey results. Your support truly is making a positive impact on lives in Maine!

### Secure Your Team Today!

**22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Catholic Charities Golf Classic**

**MONDAY 9.9.24**

THE WOODLANDS CLUB  
FALMOUTH, ME

SHOTGUN START AT 11 AM

**Fore Early Access Register Now!**

**Experts recognize that early childhood education is critical to young learners' formative years** and can break down barriers that prevent all children—particularly children from disadvantaged families and children of color—from achieving their full potential. Our two childcare centers, St. Louis in Biddeford, and St. Elizabeth's in Portland, are nationally accredited and consistently earn Star 5 ratings — Maine's highest childcare center ranking. **Your support provides childcare scholarship funding and ensures consistent care to families in need.**

Helping children is as easy as 1, 2, 3!

**1**

Join us as an **Event Sponsor**

**2**

**Donate an item** for our Live Auction

**3**

**Play golf!**

Visit [www.ccmaine.org/golf](http://www.ccmaine.org/golf) or call (207) 523-1188

Help us go green and make your donation dollars go further by emailing [development@ccmaine.org](mailto:development@ccmaine.org) with "subscribe" in the subject line to receive future newsletters via email.

"The staff is very helpful. My homemaker works very hard to meet my needs and keeps my home clean and safe."  
- ISS Client

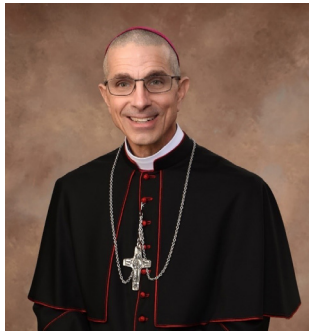
"My SEARCH volunteer doesn't treat me like an 'old' person. We chat about current events and relate very well."  
- SEARCH Client

"Jennie, our ESBVIC teacher, has worked with our son from the beginning and he could not be happier. He has grown immensely!" - ESBVIC Parent

- Our Education Services for Blind and Visually Impaired Children earned **100%** satisfaction from families served.
- Our St. Elizabeth's and St. Louis Child Development Centers scored a perfect **100%** satisfaction among the parents of children in our care.
- Our Independent Support Services earned **96%** client satisfaction from the seniors and adults with disabilities served.
- Our SEARCH (Seek Elderly Alone, Renew Courage & Hope) volunteer companion program earned **100%** satisfaction from the older adults this program serves.
- Our Hunger & Relief Services Program earned **100%** satisfaction from clients served.

We're so grateful and proud of our team members and the exceptional work they do in service to Maine people.

## Welcoming a New Bishop



On Tuesday, May 7, The Most Rev. Bishop James Thomas Ruggieri was Ordained and Installed as the 13th Bishop of Portland and is now the third Bishop that Catholic Charities Maine CEO Stephen Letourneau has worked with in his time leading the agency. Bishop Ruggieri will serve as president on the Board of Catholic Charities Maine.

“Because we are the social service arm of the Church, I am so grateful for the supportive relationship our Agency has had with the bishops over the years, and I am looking forward to working with Bishop Ruggieri. He has shown great enthusiasm for our programs and services. He is a humble man who is known for taking his commitment to serve directly to the people.”

Two examples of his services are the food truck he provided for the homeless and drove around the streets of Providence, R.I., and his work helping to found Saint Patrick Academy, a Catholic college-preparatory high school for lower income students in Providence.

“During his ordination mass, the bishop spoke of being a servant to God’s will. We are lucky he has joined us in service to Maine people,” Letourneau said.

## Program Highlights

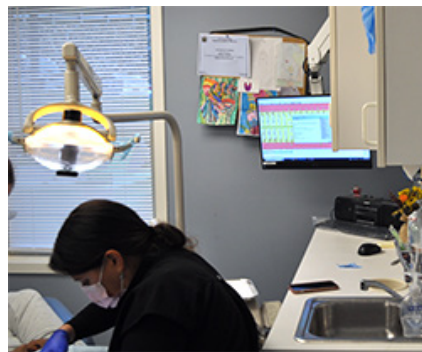
### Working Through a Dental Health Crisis

A May 2 article in the *Portland Press Herald* shined a light on a crisis our Jessie Albert Dental and Orthodontic Clinic knows all too well. Our state has a dwindling number of dental care providers, which makes dental care out-of-reach for many people, especially those of lower income. The Jessie Albert Dental & Orthodontic Clinic serves more than 5,000 patients annually. Located in Bath, it provides everything from routine cleanings to the latest in orthodonture and accepts most insurance, including Maine Care. In fact, Jessie Albert is one of very few orthodontic care providers accepting Maine Care. The low-income population makes up roughly 80 percent of Jessie Albert’s dental clients and even more for orthodontic clients.

**Recruitment is a persistent challenge. When Jessie Albert’s long-time orthodontist retired, the nation-wide search for a new orthodontist took at least seven months. Karen A. Bazemore, RDH, IPDH, BSDH, director of Oral Health Services, said. “Dental care providers are resistant to relocate to Maine because it’s known for lower pay and fewer dentists, which means bigger and more difficult workloads. With help from a recruiter, we were lucky to find Dr. Adriana Parra. She is a highly accomplished and deeply caring orthodontist, and we are fortunate to have her,” Bazemore noted.**

Along with her stellar professional credentials, Dr. Parra works as a volunteer with adaptive sports programs, and was drawn to Maine for its access to outdoor activities. As Dr. Parra approaches her one-year anniversary here, she said, “I’ve witnessed the great need for orthodontic services in this community already, and I’m extremely happy to be here and help relieve this demand.”

**“The word crisis gets overused, but we are in a dental health crisis in Maine. Dental health is all health, and lack of care or delayed care can lead to many health problems, so we need a state-wide response,” Bazemore said.**



## Special Events

### Hundreds of Reasons to Celebrate Volunteerism

April 21 - 27, 2024 was National Volunteer Week, and we have hundreds of reasons to celebrate volunteers every day at Catholic Charities Maine! Last year, 564 volunteers dedicated their time contributing to our mission. On May 5, the Governor's Awards for Service and Volunteerism recognized annual Roll of Honor awardees for Maine people who contribute 500 hours or more to serving their communities.

We are fortunate to have several Roll of Honorees among our dedicated volunteers, including Julie Abbott. Julie has been the friendly, soothing voice on our *Relief & Hope* phone line, logging thousands of hours since 2011. The hotline was established to provide one-time financial assistance and access to a network of community resources through our Parish Social Ministry program, but Julie provides so much more. Her kindness is matched by her tenaciousness in finding help for Maine people in need. Thank you, Julie, and all the volunteers who give help and create hope in Maine.



Julie Abbott and Deacon Frank Daggett, PSM director, celebrated the Governor’s Awards for Service and Volunteerism with Governor Janet Mills at a gathering in Waterville on May 5th; Refugee and Immigration Services volunteers gathered to celebrate National Volunteer Week in April.

**In 2023, 564 volunteers provided 32,821 hours of service, representing nearly \$1 million in time donated!**

## Community Partners Program

Our Corporate Community Partners play a vital, year-long role in supporting our work to empower Maine’s most vulnerable people and strengthen local communities. This month, we’re shining a spotlight on our Crystal Level Partners.

We are so grateful to Pierce Atwood, Systems Engineering, and Gorham Savings Bank for the work they do in Maine’s legal and business communities and for their dedicated support. Together, we can make positive change in our communities!

**Community Partner SPOTLIGHT**

**PIERCE ATWOOD**

**SYSTEMS engineering**  
Employee-Owned

**Gorham Savings Bank**

We provide comfort; we feed the hungry; we stand for the vulnerable; we seek wholeness; we bring recovery; we teach the children; we offer support to seniors; we strengthen families; we welcome strangers; we change lives.

**WE ARE CATHOLIC CHARITIES MAINE!**