



### Supporting Homeless Outreach in Lewiston

Prince of Peace Parish has been honored with the Matthew 25 Award from Catholic Charities' Parish Social Ministry (PSM) program for their "Cross the Street" Ministry. This award, rooted in the Bible verse Matthew 25, recognizes exceptional efforts in addressing the needs of vulnerable community members and provides funding to further the parish's outreach. Each year, a parish demonstrating outstanding dedication to addressing community needs or expanding social ministries is chosen, highlighting acts of kindness and compassion.

"Cross the Street," initiated in December 2023, has a profound mission: to cross the street and connect with the homeless community. Parishioners provide nonperishable care bags filled with snacks, water, and personal care items to those in need around Kennedy Park in Lewiston.

"But they do much more than hand out supplies—they foster meaningful relationships with those they serve," says Frank Daggett, Director of PSM. "Volunteers introduce themselves, listen to stories, and truly understand the specific needs of each individual. These genuine interactions build trust and create lasting bonds that go beyond surface-level encounters," Daggett adds.

The Matthew 25 grant award will enhance "Cross the Street's" capabilities, equipping their van with an electric food bay container and portable refrigerator/freezer. This upgrade allows the ministry to provide perishable items, offering hot meals in winter and cold refreshments in summer, while addressing the critical need for evening meals in the community.



Community members eagerly await care bags from the "Cross the Street" Ministry.

In the past year, "Cross the Street" served an average of 225 people each week and recently doubled their outreach days from 3 to 6 per week. With over 55 volunteers, and the support of the entire parish through donations and prayers, the "Cross the Street" Ministry exemplifies the power of how community and faith can transform lives. For more information about the "Cross the Street" program, visit [princeofpeace.me/cross-the-street](http://princeofpeace.me/cross-the-street).

**Will you be a *Hope Keeper?***  
*Join our monthly-giving family to ensure our mission is carried out 365 days a year!*

**Learn more at [ccmaine.org/HopeKeepers](http://ccmaine.org/HopeKeepers)**

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.



## Special Events

### Warming Hearts and Hands on Giving Tuesday

In a heartwarming tribute to the spirit of giving, Catholic Charities Maine held the 6th annual *Wall of Warmth* event on December 3, 2024. This remarkable initiative, part of the Giving Tuesday celebrations, united volunteers and knitters from across the state to provide more than 1,000 handmade winter items to those in need. Our knitters pour their time and talent into each piece, and our *Wall of Warmth* event is a true testament to their generosity.

Catholic Charities central administrative office in Portland was transformed into a hub of generosity, where handmade blankets, hats, mittens, and scarves were distributed by volunteers to ensure many individuals and families could face the cold with comfort. This event was made possible by the generosity of knitters and crocheters from various corners of Maine, from Houlton to Kennebunk. Their creativity and compassion brought not just warmth, but also a sense of community and togetherness.



Hats hang from branches at CCM's Central Office in Portland



CCM Volunteer Chantel helps spread the warmth.

"The *Wall of Warmth* embodies our mission of providing help and creating hope. From heartfelt donations to the tireless work of volunteers, this event brought joy and comfort to many families this winter," said Kelly Day, Director of Volunteer Services. Seeing the smiles of people picking out items in their favorite colors and prints was a heart-warming experience. **Thank you to all our supporters and volunteers for making this year's *Wall of Warmth* a resounding success!**

### The Joy of Jolly Gifts

The 7th annual Jolly Gifts program brought the spirit of giving to life once again this Christmas. Parishioners generously donated new, unwrapped toys and games, while our Parish Social Ministry staff ensured these gifts reached families and children in need of some holiday cheer. The program's magic makes giving easy, especially for those with limited means, allowing those helped to experience the joy of giving.

The families and children who benefit from this initiative come from local schools, are clients of Catholic Charities Maine, or have connections to the Prison Ministry. Parishioners' generosity provided nearly a thousand gifts and over a thousand dollars in donations this year. The funds collected are used to purchase gift cards for teens, a group often overlooked during Christmas.

Gifts are set up in various locations where family case managers, school counselors, and others "shop" for the children. The heartfelt notes received from families express deep gratitude and highlight the profound impact of the Jolly Gifts program. For many, this program means the difference between an empty tree and a Christmas filled with joy.

With special thanks to Sacred Heart (Auburn), St. Philip (Auburn), St. Joseph (Bridgton), St. Joseph (Gardiner), Sacred Heart (Hallowell), Notre Dame (Waterville), and St. John (Winslow) for their donations!



Gifts pile up before finding a happy home!

## Partners in Giving

### Showtime Hospitality Foundation: A Beacon of Community Partnership and Impact

We are excited to spotlight one of our wonderful community partners, Showtime Hospitality Foundation, for their invaluable contributions to Catholic Charities Maine.

This winter, they provided quality winter clothing for more than 70 clients in our northern Behavioral Health Network (BHN) region. The donations delivered to our office in Fairfield truly embodied the spirit of giving. As one staff member playfully remarked, it looked like "Santa's sleigh arrived!"

Showtime Hospitality Foundation's impact extends across all three of our BHN locations in Brewer, Fairfield, and Portland, and supports St. Elizabeth's Child Development Center through their "Coats for Children" initiative. This incredible partnership ensures that children in our community stay warm and cozy during the cold winter months.

Their dedication goes beyond winter clothing. Showtime Hospitality Foundation's ongoing support exemplifies the true spirit of community partnership, and significantly enhances our ability to serve those in need.



Jeff Tiner, CCM Chief Clinical Program Officer, with Abby Sawyer, Showtime Hospitality Program Coordinator with a car full of clothing donations; Children at St. Elizabeth's Child Development Center playing in the snow in their cozy coats.



## Save the Date!



For more information, contact our Development Office at [dpicard@ccmaine.org](mailto:dpicard@ccmaine.org) or (207) 523-1188.

**Save the date! Our 23rd Annual Golf Classic will be on September 15. Secure your team today!**

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!

[ccmaine.org/Golf](http://ccmaine.org/Golf)

## Community Partners Program



### Join Us – Become a Community Partner!

We are grateful to our Corporate Community Partners who have already signed on to bring help and hope to Maine's most vulnerable populations through our 20+ programs over the new year:

- |                                   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| BGA Retirement Advisors           | Great Diamond Partners |
| cPort Credit Union                | Pierce Atwood          |
| Cross Benefit Solutions           | Town Fair Tire         |
| F.L. Putnam Investment Management | VIP Tire & Service     |

Catholic Charities + Community Partners = Lasting Impact

Make a difference with 1 annual contribution, supporting 20+ programs!

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

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!**