

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES MAINE 2025 FALL APPEAL

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will warm  
hearts this  
winter



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## CATHOLIC CHARITIES MAINE making every penny count



PHILANTHROPY REPORT | FALL 2025

### Freedom Place: A New Home and a New Beginning for Women in Need

This Fall, Catholic Charities Maine (CCM) is honored to begin a new chapter at **Freedom Place**, as the behavioral health provider of life recovery services in partnership with property owner, Developers Collaborative. Located at 66 State Street in Portland, Freedom Place provides **safe, supportive housing and services for up to 38 women** committed to recovery.

*"We want every woman here  
to feel safe, supported, and  
empowered to move forward."*

Freedom Place is more than a roof overhead — it is a place of healing, dignity, and hope. Here, women can find stability and encouragement as they work toward recovery from trauma, substance use, homelessness, previous incarceration, and other challenges that have impacted their health and well-being. Through compassionate care and connection to essential services, residents will receive the guidance and community they need to continue on their path to wellness.

**"Freedom Place gives women the support they need to heal and rebuild their lives," said Kelly Butler, Regional Director** - Southern Region Behavioral Health Network. "We want every woman here to feel safe, supported, and empowered to move forward."

Freedom Place reflects Catholic Charities Maine's ongoing commitment to walk beside our neighbors on their recovery journey — offering not only practical support, but also the belief that every person is worthy of love, hope, and a second chance.





Program Highlights

Powerful Partnership Brings Smiles to Behavioral Health Clients



Emma Hill and Kala Myers-French



CCM’s Behavioral Health Network in Fairfield is excited to launch a new partnership that will bring brighter smiles and healthier futures to the community. Beginning this month, a mobile dental clinic will provide on-site care for clients one to two times a month.

This collaboration came to life thanks to the initiative of Emma Hill, Clinical Supervisor, who reached out to Maine Oral Health & Wellness to explore ways to provide easier access to dental care for persons in need. It’s a powerful reminder of what can happen when community organizations connect!

The clinic is run by Kala Myers-French, an independent hygienist and owner of the fully equipped RV dental office. Together with another hygienist who also has a mental health background, they can see up to ten patients a day, ensuring each visit is personalized and comfortable. Thoughtful touches — like hour-long appointments and warm rice packs — will help patients feel cared for and relaxed.

Services include screenings, cleanings, X-rays, sealants, periodontal care, temporary fillings, and decay-arresting treatments. The clinic accepts MaineCare and Delta Dental insurance and even has limited grant funding available for those without insurance, ensuring access for all clients who need care.

“This partnership is so inspiring. Kala’s compassion and dedication are exactly what our clients need,” says Hill.

We’re so grateful for this collaboration, which perfectly reflects our mission: to meet people in need, where they are, with compassion.

Catholic Charities Maine Selected for Light the World Giving Machine Initiative

Catholic Charities Maine is honored to be one of just five organizations in Maine selected to participate in this year’s *Light the World* Giving Machine Initiative, a global effort by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to make giving easy, meaningful, and fun.

**From November 20 to December 10, two Giving Machines will be located at the Maine Mall in South Portland.** A Giving Machine is a unique, charity-focused vending machine that allows individuals to donate essential items and services to those in need. Unlike traditional vending machines, these provide donation cards representing items such as socks, groceries, bicycles, medical care, or educational resources. Donors select an item through a touchscreen interface and complete the transaction via credit or debit card, with 100% of donations going directly to the charity.

Through our Giving Machine cards, donors can choose to support CCM programs by providing:

- Warm Socks for Winter
- Personal Safety Kits
- Walker with Seat
- Grocery Box
- New Bike to get to work



If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Director of Volunteer Services, Kelly Day, at [kday@ccmaine.org](mailto:kday@ccmaine.org)

CCM Staff Receive State and National Recognition

Director of Migration Charles Mugabe Named to MaineBiz “40 Under 40”

Catholic Charities Maine (CCM) is proud to celebrate **Charles Mugabe, Director of Migration Services**, who has been **recognized by MaineBiz as one of its “40 Under 40”** leaders for 2025.

Charles first joined CCM as a volunteer in 2016, after realizing he could do more to give back to his community and support others on the same journey he once took. His commitment, compassion, and leadership quickly made an impact, leading him to his current role as Director of Migration Services.

Today, Charles’ work reflects the very heart of CCM’s mission — helping newcomers build safe, stable, and hopeful lives in their new home. Under his guidance, the team supports immigrants and refugees across Maine as they work toward independence, employment, and community integration.

Among his many accomplishments, Charles is most proud of his collaboration with the Associated General Contractors of Maine and the Maine Department of Labor to launch the Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Academy at the Asylum Seekers Transitional Housing Program. Through this innovative partnership, 35 individuals completed training and joined Maine’s construction workforce, building both their skills and their futures.

Charles’ passion for advancing integration and opportunity continues to strengthen Maine’s communities. His recognition by MaineBiz is a testament to his dedication, leadership, and belief in the power of giving back.



Bill Hager Receives National Honor for Service to Children

We are delighted to share that **Bill Hager, Director of our Child Development Centers**, has been named **the recipient of the 2025 Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan Award by Catholic Charities USA** — a prestigious honor recognizing outstanding dedication to serving youth and families.

For the past five years, Bill has led our **St. Elizabeth’s** and **St. Louis** child development centers, both rated 5-star facilities, the State’s highest ranking, under his stewardship. Earlier in his career, he spent ten years as site manager at St. Louis, gaining deep experience in supporting low-income families and children with behavioral or developmental challenges.

What sets Bill apart is how deeply he lives out servant leadership — from balancing budgets and onboarding new families to packing snacks and leading toddlers in instructional dances.

Under his leadership, the centers have embraced an inclusive mission: caring for children from all backgrounds, including those with special needs, and ensuring they receive early education, stability, and nurturing care. Bill has also led policy coalitions on childcare reform, raising awareness across Maine for children’s issues and advocating for better support for early childhood educators.



Special Events

Putting Children First to Raise Critical Childcare Scholarship Funds

The sun was shining and spirits were high at The Woodlands Club for the 23rd Annual Catholic Charities Golf Classic, where 120 golfers came together for a day of fun, friendship, and purpose.

**Thanks to 37 dedicated volunteers, 31 generous sponsors, and 30 teams, the event netted \$80,114 to provide childcare scholarships at our two Child Development Centers** — St. Elizabeth’s and St. Louis. These centers play a vital role in supporting working families by offering quality, affordable childcare in a safe, nurturing environment.

“We had a great day out on the course today. Supporting childcare is the best and gives us a lot of purpose being out there,” says Matt McGrath, CEO of Systems Engineering.

The day’s success was made possible by the remarkable generosity of our sponsors and the enthusiasm of every golfer who teed off for a cause close to their hearts.

We are deeply grateful to all who joined us in making this year’s Golf Classic a spectacular success!



CEO Steve Letourneau with Bishop James Ruggieri