

making every penny count

PHILANTHROPY REPORT | OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2023

Finding Light in the Darkness

Last month brought some dark days to our state when Lewiston faced the senseless loss of so many lives to gun violence. We also witnessed the entire state and the nation come together in grief, sympathy, help, and hope for the lives lost and the many affected by this mass shooting.

One example of the outpouring of support came from our friends at Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA), a national network of which we are blessed to be part. CCUSA committed to helping Maine during this unprecedented tragedy and awarded a grant that will bring aid where it's needed most. Some of the funding has helped prepare a Resiliency Center in the Peck Building in downtown Lewiston. This project is lead by Community Concepts, with contributions from many groups, including the city, the Red Cross, Central Maine Community College volunteers, and the Marden Family, which has donated furniture for the space.

The center provides space where people can gather, find peer support, seek professional counseling, and get help finding other services. Sew for a Cause, a volunteer group based in North Vasselboro, has provided hand-sewn lap quilts and plush toys to bring warmth and comfort to the space and its visitors. Our Relief & Hope Emergency Services program will continue to use CCUSA funding to support ongoing needs of the victims' families with CCUSA funding.

As Lewiston continues to heal, we find ourselves more thankful than ever for our community of supporters who give us faith that Maine people will continue to support one another and the people of Lewiston in the aftermath of such tragedy.



Some of the beautiful quilts donated to the Lewiston Resiliency Center by Sew for a Cause; Jake Marden, Jeff Tiner (CCM's Chief Clinical Officer), and Andrew Marden in the newly opened space; volunteers setting up a sectioned-off counseling area.

Showtime Hospitality Foundation Spreads Warmth This Winter



Just in time for winter, our generous Community Partners at Showtime Hospitality Group, through their new Showtime Hospitality Foundation, have provided warm winter clothing to CCM's Behavioral Health Network clients in need. This new foundation is providing winter socks, hats, mittens/gloves, long sleeve shirts and jackets to ensure children and adults who are struggling to make ends meet have brand-new clothing to get through even the harshest Maine winter.

"Showtime Hospitality Foundation shelves are stocked with new clothing items, and we are excited to start sending out packages to fellow Mainers needing help to keep warmer this winter!" says Penny Bourgoin, Program Coordinator for Showtime Hospitality Foundation (pictured left).

Longstanding Support of SEARCH



For 48 years, our SEARCH (Seek Elderly Alone Renew Courage & Hope) program has served and supported the elderly population here in Maine, and for more than 20 of those years, Helen & George Ladd Charitable Corporation has been making generous donations to support the work. With a recent grant of \$15,000, the Ladds will continue to help SEARCH provide companionship, errands and rides that add up to a cost-effective solution to help seniors remain at home for many years.

"Recent studies from the U.S. Surgeon General and others indicate that loneliness and social isolation in older adults are public health risks and intrinsically linked to serious health conditions," said Wendy Russell, program director of SEARCH. "Just a few hours a week from a volunteer can do a world of good for a client like Don, who has limited mobility and wasn't getting out much. His volunteer, Charles, takes him out for rides and errands in his community, and as importantly, they have companionship. Both are Navy men, so they have built a strong bond through shared experiences, stories, and conversation. We are so grateful to the Helen & George Ladd Foundation for supporting this important work."

Recent Fundraising Highlights

September may seem like a distant memory, but before we shift into winter, let's recap some early autumn fundraising successes.

On September 2, Goughan's Family Farm hosted the 8th Annual Family Fun Day in Caribou. This day of mini golf, grilled lunch, and farm fun raised \$9,350 to support Feed The County and the 28 local food pantries that Catholic Charities Food Bank serves.

Also in Caribou, the Fourth Annual Feed the County 150 race convened on September 23, bringing out the County's biggest - and most generous - race fans. This fundraiser drives our mission to feed county friends and neighbors in need and raised more than \$33,000.

We are grateful for the Goughan family, their dedicated staff, Aroostook County Savings & Loan, WAGM-TV, Spud Speedway staff, all the lap sponsors, and racers who support our Hunger & Relief efforts.

"These events are so important for bringing together our communities to have some fun in the name of a great cause. With the increased cost of living and current economic uncertainties, the need has never been greater to help ensure all our neighbors have enough to eat," said Dixie Shaw, Program Director, Hunger & Relief Services.

In Southern Maine, our 21st Annual Put Children First Golf Classic on September 18 brought together 116 golfers who powered through some significant rainfall to finish nine holes before joining the reception and live auction.

The bidding was exceptionally lively this year, with proceeds from the day generating \$88,000 for child care scholarships! This tremendous success provides child care security for families who rely on our child development services at St. Elizabeth's in Portland and St. Louis in Biddeford.



The "Dixie Chicks" were on hand at Goughan's Farm to make sure the fun and food were served! And the Feed the County 150 could not have happened without Troy Haney of Spud Speedway, Dixie Shaw and Jon Blanchard of CCM, Pamela Sherman of Aroostook Savings & Loan and Jake Archer of WAGM.



Board Chair Lauren Moody and CCM CEO Steve Letourneau were emcees at the Put Children First Reception; Auctioneer Jeff Peterson got the bids going with volunteer Rich Gustafson helping as a bid spotter.

Community Sponsor Spotlight

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. This month we're shining a spotlight on our **Crystal** level partners whose commitment makes our mission possible. We thank **Cross Benefit Solutions, Systems Engineering, and BGA Financial** for their dedicated support and belief that working together we can make lasting changes in our communities!



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