

making every penny count

PHILANTHROPY REPORT | APRIL-MAY 2023

Celebrating Invaluable Volunteers

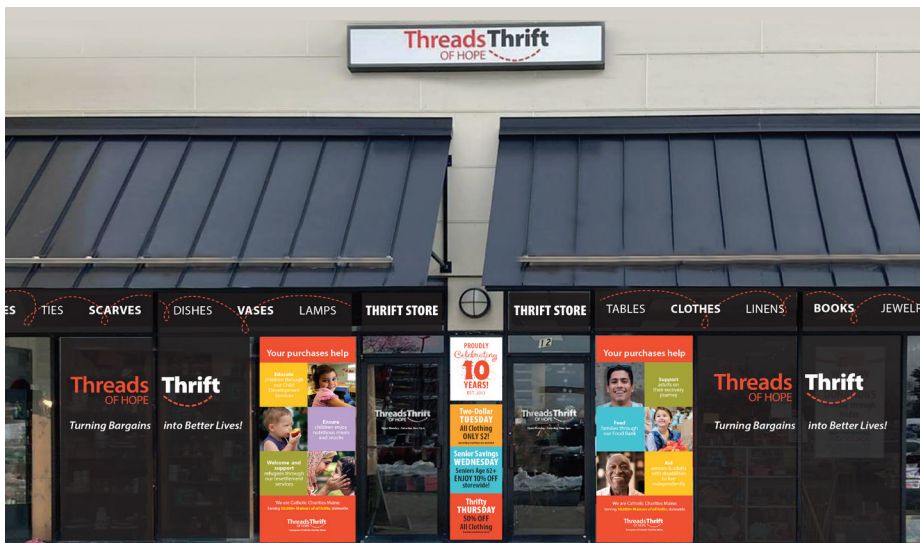
This Spring, we give thanks for greener landscapes, warmer days, and the hundreds of volunteers who help make our mission possible each year. April 16-22 was National Volunteer Week, and we have plenty of volunteers to celebrate. Last year, 477 volunteers contributed 27,677 service hours to our mission. Their generosity equated to more than \$700,000 of service and invaluable expertise.

One example of our excellent volunteers is Dan Ross, who works with the Legal Immigration Services (LIS) offered through our Refugee and Immigration Services (RIS) Program. Recently, his team nominated Dan for the 2023 CCUSA National Volunteer of the Year, and his work earned him a Top 5 finalist position. He stood out among hundreds of nominees nationwide.

When Dan retired to Maine in 2018, immigration dominated the headlines. Previously the CEO of a New York City marketing agency, Dan chose to fight for immigrants through direct service. He gained accreditation from the U.S. Department of Justice and has been instrumental in establishing and growing our LIS. He has filed more than 250 applications for naturalization, green cards, and family unity.

He leads workshops for refugees, serves as mentor to other legal volunteers and staff members, and draws on a lifetime of business, writing, and client service experience to serve New Mainers. We are incredibly fortunate to have him.

"I try to treat every client with the same dignity and professionalism I did for business clients," he says. His proudest moments have been reuniting refugees and asylees with the spouses and young children they were forced to leave behind. "I believe immigration is a core value of American life," Dan says. "My clients represent the future of our country, just as my own grandparents did when they came here a hundred years ago."



Sale-a-brating 10 years in Sanford

May 1-6 marked the 10-year Anniversary of our Sanford *Threads of Hope* thrift store. Manager Shana King saw this milestone as a time to celebrate her community of customers with special daily deals, raffles, giveaways, and more.

"This year, we've wanted to focus on giving our shoppers a better idea of CCM's mission and how their purchases help provide food, affordable childcare and dental care, senior outreach, and so many other services to Maine people in need," said King. "We are excited to have a new, mission-focused look to our storefront, we are offering new promotions, like a popular frequent buyer card, and we wanted to share all this with our customers and the community. We turn bargains into better lives, and we can't do that without our customers!"

Operation Hunger Proves Even Small Gifts Can Make a Big Impact!



On April 6, Catholic Charities Maine, WAGM-TV, Aroostook Savings & Loan, and the United Way of Aroostook held the Fifth Annual *Operation Hunger* Telethon, raising money to help feed people throughout Aroostook County. Despite some tough economic times all around, the community was able to raise more than \$50,000 in a single day. Dixie Shaw, director of Hunger & Relief Services at Catholic Charities Maine, explained how:

"The donors to our telethon make many, smaller donations – \$5.00, \$20.00 – whatever they can do, it adds up to a huge help, and it also tells me that people know there's a need, and they know that every dollar will be used to help folks right here," Dixie said.

The Hunger and Relief Services team did a fantastic job – as usual – representing CCM! For a glimpse of the excitement, link through to a 40-second view: www.ccmaine.org/operation-hunger.

A Blessing in Brewer



Bishop Deeley blessed a new CCM space in Brewer.

On Monday, April 24, CCM celebrated the new location of the St. Michael's Center at 436 South Main Street in Brewer with an Open House and Blessing by Most Reverend Bishop Robert P. Deeley. CCM's Greater Bangor Refugee and Immigration Services, Northern Behavioral Health Network, Office of Maine Refugee Services, Independent Support Services, Parish Social Ministry, SEARCH (Seek Elderly Alone, Renew Courage & Hope) and Education Services for Blind and Visually Impaired Children have offices at this new space.

Better Together

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 welcome 2023's Community Partners; together these 15 businesses are providing a \$50,000+ investment in the people of Maine, and we thank them for their vital support.



Catholic Charities + Community Partners =
LASTING IMPACT

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