

# making every penny count

PHILANTHROPY REPORT | OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2022

## Ice Hockey, Warm Welcome

Catholic Charities Maine (CCM) has had a busy Fall filled with fundraising events and the kick off of our Fall Appeal. Before we highlight recent fundraising efforts, we want to share one of the smaller achievements that often go on quietly “behind the scenes” at CCM, but is no less important to the communities we serve.

In late summer, the Refugee and Immigration Services (RIS) team was contacted by a Ukrainian woman who was fleeing the war and joining family members already living in Maine. Before making this life-changing trip, she wanted to be sure her 13-year-old son could resume playing with a local hockey team.



Hockey pro Graeme Townshend (right) was a young Jamaican living in Toronto, Canada when he was helped to start a hockey career. He's now paying it forward with a young Ukrainian (left).

“He is a passionate goalie and was coached by a former NHL player in Ukraine,” said Tracy Moore, Program Director at Refugee and Immigration Services (RIS). “His mother knew hockey would be a way for her son to help manage stress, adjust to life in the United States, and begin healing.”

Tracy and others collected small donations to buy him second-hand gear, and Scott Rousseau at *Play It Again Sports* donated \$250 in matching funds, which was enough to get him on the ice.

His mother and aunt sent a video of his hockey skills to show their appreciation, and we shared it with local hockey organizations to see if there might be a place for the boy to play. The video reached Graeme Townshend, another former NFL player, coach, and trainer who runs summer hockey camps from the Gorham campus of USM. He and his wife sponsored his place at a camp. The boy's camp experience led to a year-round mentorship and training opportunity with Townshend Hockey, which has trained 132 NHL players.

This young Ukrainian came to our state because he had family connections, but he also found a new community where so many people share his passion for hockey. Stories like this may not add up in our fundraising totals, but they are priceless.

## Celebrating a Century!

SEARCH client Loraine Busque recently had a special request for her 100th Birthday – lunch at Wendy's. Her longtime SEARCH volunteer and friend Samee Quong was happy to oblige! Happy Birthday, Loraine! If you would like to provide companionship to an isolated senior in your community, visit [www.ccmaine.org/SEARCH-seniors](http://www.ccmaine.org/SEARCH-seniors) to learn more.



## Speeding Up Hunger Relief



“It just seems like the ends don't meet anymore. When the ends don't meet, something has to give. If we can help alleviate some of the need for food, we can help get those ends together a little better.” – Dixie Shaw, Director of Hunger & Relief Services

On September 11, the Third Annual *Feed the County 150* car race was held to raise money for CCM's Food Bank, which supplies food to nearly 30 food pantries in Northern Maine. Thanks to the great sponsors, fans, and racers, the event raised \$20,000.

CCM's Director of Hunger & Relief Services Dixie Shaw noted that this event comes at a crucial time when supporting Maine's most vulnerable is needed now more than ever, with inflation spiking the cost of heating oil and other basic needs.

As part of the *Feed the County* fundraising weekend, the 7th Annual *Family Fun Day* at Goughan's Berry Farm took place on Saturday. Check out Shaw's interview with WABI reporter Jonathon Eigenmann about this beloved community event at [www.ccmaine.org/ftc2022](http://www.ccmaine.org/ftc2022).

## Celebrating 20 Years of Putting Children First

On Monday, September 19, the clouds gathered, yet so did faithful golfers and dozens of volunteers at our 20th Annual *Put Children First* Golf Classic. Despite some rain, the tournament was a great success and a time to reflect on what this fundraiser has accomplished. Golfers and sponsors have helped us raise more than a million dollars over the years, and our 20th was a record-breaking year that brought in more than \$94,000 in child care scholarship funding for families who rely on our child care services at St. Elizabeth's in Portland and St. Louis in Biddeford.

Today's child care rates can eat up more than 50 percent of a full-time minimum wage income. With money raised at the *Put Children First* Golf Classic, our childcare centers can help fill gaps when parents are at risk of falling behind on payments because of illness, job loss, or other disruptions, ensuring no child in our care needs to be pulled out of school or experience the stress that can arise when family finances are disrupted.

We recently heard from a mom of three who has had two children in our St. Elizabeth's Center; one is a current student. She reports that during the pandemic, she had to adjust to the challenges of working from home and studying remotely, but she **never had to worry about childcare**. That peace of mind is part of why we hold our golf classic year after year.

*"My childcare did not change at all, and every day, my son looked forward to going to St. Elizabeth's."* – Eliane



Patty Allen and Ginny Fletcher, both of whom helped launch the *Put Children First* Golf Classic tournament twenty years ago, enjoyed the day with their husbands, John Fletcher and Darrell Allen.



CCM CEO Stephen Letourneau presents an award to one of the *Put Children First* Golf Classic's 20-year legacy teams.



For several years, WGME's Jeff Peterson has donated his time to be the auctioneer at Catholic Charities Maine's *Put Children First* Live Auction.

## Better Together

Powerful partnerships are at the heart of what we do, and our hearts were warmed when the work of Refugee and Immigration Services (RIS) Program Director Tracy Moore was recognized at a recent Charting the Future event and awards luncheon hosted by Southern Maine's Agency on Aging (SMAA). Tracy was awarded **Partner of the Year** for her work with the Services to Older Refugee (SOR) program.

*"SMAA is a great community partner," said Tracy. "This year, we made headway to improving access for older immigrants to mainstream aging services."*



Anna Guest, SMAA Community Education Director, Emma Ndabitzentyo, SOR client and RIS receptionist/administrative support, RIS Program Director Tracy Moore, and Renilde Karerwa, SOR client and RIS community outreach assistant.

## Community Partner SPOTLIGHT

We are grateful for the year-long sponsorship our Community Partners have made to support our mission, day in and day out. In this edition, we feature our Platinum Sponsors: Royal River Grill House in Yarmouth, Tuscan Bistro in Freeport, Tuscan Table in South Portland, and the newly opened Sicilian Table in Falmouth. If you are looking for great food – both for eating in or for taking out – remember to support local businesses that so generously give back to our communities.



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