

# Maine Ties



*Pam and Dick Matthews help organize the farmers' market in Phillips. The Matthews' work has been supported by ENCorps, a program of the University of Maine Center on Aging that trains "experienced" Mainers in environmental stewardship, grassroots leadership, and community development.*

Photo Adam Küykendall

## MAKING AN IMPACT

# An Encore in Phillips

Dick and Pam Matthews help revitalize a town.

In the fall of 2008, Dick and Pam Matthews sold their bed and breakfast in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. Semi-retired, the couple could live wherever they chose, so they followed their inclination to return to New England (they had lived in Massachusetts for a number of years) and moved to the small Western Maine town of Phillips.

Once settled, the Matthews recognized that Phillips had a lot to offer, but could use some help tapping its resources. They got to work developing ways to improve the quality of life in their community.

They are most proud of their work with the Phillips Downtown Revitalization Committee (DRC), a town-appointed group with a mandate to help create an economic

revival. Pam is chair of the group's steering committee and Dick chairs the branding committee. Under the Matthews' leadership, the DRC has launched a highly successful farmers' market, sponsored a model train rail fair, hosted a popular gathering of Civil War reenactors, and is currently working on establishing a local business association. More and more people have joined the group, reports Dick, "under the banner of optimism such events have stimulated."

The Matthews have approached their volunteer work with thoughtfulness—and with the understanding that change and new ideas sometimes meet with resistance or suspicion. "It comes down to knowing people, respecting others, and earning trust,"

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says Dick. "And don't ask more of people than you're willing to give yourself."

The Matthews' work in Phillips has been supported by the Encore Leadership Corps, also known as ENCorps, a program of the Maine Community Foundation and the University of Maine Center on Aging. ENCorps trains "experienced" Mainers in environmental stewardship, grassroots leadership, and community development. The program draws on principles of smart growth, an approach that emphasizes making decisions that protect and improve the quality of life for all community residents.

ENCorps gave the Matthews access to innovative ideas about strengthening

communities while providing important resources such as grantwriting workshops (Pam, especially, has made use of these).

The program has also connected the couple with like-minded older adults across the state who are doing similar work in their communities. Says Dick, "It's good to feel part of a larger volunteer community."



To read more impact stories, visit [www.mainecf.org](http://www.mainecf.org) or scan this QR code with your mobile device.

**ENCORPS**

**Looking for a Few Good Mature Mainers**

With support from Atlantic Philanthropies and its Community Experience Partnership, a program focused on engaging older Americans in community-building work, the Maine Community Foundation partnered with the University of Maine Center on Aging to develop the Encore Leadership Corps.

Since its first summit in April 2010, ENCorps has grown to 156 members, representing all 16 Maine counties and 96 towns. These members have:

- Supported more than 200 organizations and projects (social service and community health organizations, town committees and boards, downtown revitalization groups, land trusts, etc.)

In addition to its annual training summit, ENCorps has conducted 10 workshops on such topics as using social media to further volunteer projects and developing skills to more effectively address conflict. The ENCorps program was recognized as an outstanding innovative model by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and was awarded one of only two national grants.

- Provided more than 10,000 hours of service in Maine communities, including direct service ranging from monitoring lakes for invasive plants to engaging in strategic planning and fundraising

For more information about ENCorps, visit [www.encoreleaders.org](http://www.encoreleaders.org).

ENCorps members Jim Pierce (left) and Pam and Dick Matthews share ideas at the program's 2011 summit held in Orono. Photo Adam Küykendall





Maine Community Foundation President and CEO Meredith Jones makes a point during a panel discussion on innovations in public policy, higher education, philanthropy, and business at the sixth annual Maine Symposium on Higher Education held at Unum in Portland, October 13, 2011. Left to right: Jones; Rich Pattenaude, chancellor, University of Maine System; John Fitzsimmons, president, Maine Community College System; Jamie Merisotis, president and CEO, Lumina Foundation for Education.

# The Intersection of Philanthropy, Leadership, and Community

Meredith Jones, *President and CEO*

The world is changing and so is Maine—rapidly.

The Maine Community Foundation has been a part of that change for nearly three decades, making grants and scholarships now nearing an impressive \$200 million total. Thousands of projects and programs have been funded and many students supported in their pursuit of education.

The points across Maine where grants and leadership have come together to build community are many, but how do we know the community foundation and its many partners are making a difference?

We know we're making a difference from the stories people tell us, in letters and conversations, describing the positive changes in their communities or the effects on their lives. We know from data that tell us what donors are interested in supporting and—increasingly—where those interests intersect with the foundation's priorities.

We know we're having an impact from feedback people give us about our work and services. Donor activity continues to

*“I foresee an equally bold future for the foundation where we will be involved in identifying and framing the most important issues facing Maine communities.”*

grow along with the number of new funds and bequests. And we know we're making progress because the foundation is recognized nationally for its excellence and innovation.

As the cover story of this newsletter demonstrates, the Maine Community Foundation is acting on the belief that it can increase its impact in Maine—even help shape its future—through visionary

programs like ENCorps. I foresee an equally bold future for the foundation where we will be involved in identifying and framing the most important issues facing Maine communities.

At the same time, we will continue to concentrate on those points across Maine where grants and leadership have touched down, affirming that we have the right vision for the future. We will celebrate what works for Maine by sharing what we know and learning from others.

Finally, hand in hand with our many partners, we will put Maine first. Together, we will mark new points of impact where philanthropy, leadership, and community intersect.



To read Meredith Jones's Real Time blog, visit [www.maineef.org](http://www.maineef.org) or scan this QR code with your mobile device.

# Looking Forward, Giving Back

*“Board activities get you very interested in the work being done; you see the good things happening, and the mistakes.”*

WICKHAM SKINNER

## Wickham Skinner: One Man, Many Missions

Wickham “Wick” Skinner grew up in Cincinnati, but he has ties to Maine that run deep. His best friend from childhood had a summer home on Mount Desert Island, and young Wick was often invited out for a few weeks to enjoy the special pleasures of sailing on Somes Sound, picking berries, and going for hikes and picnics.

Those memories of Maine stayed with Skinner as he served in the Army Engineering Corps and worked on the Manhattan Project, moved on to Honeywell, and finally became a professor at the Harvard Business School (where he also served as associate dean of the MBA program). When he retired in 1984, he and his wife Alice moved into the home they had built on a quiet cove on the St. George peninsula.

The cove might be quiet, but Skinner’s retirement has been anything but. “I’ve had two or three major things going at all times,” he says with a steady gleam in his eyes.

Skinner didn’t just join local and state organizations. If he was interested in their mission, he would become a trustee and, as likely as not, end up in a leadership position. He served as board president of the Farnsworth Museum in Rockland (and proudly holds the title of president emeritus of an art institution he feels is contributing greatly to the midcoast region). He also became chair of the Natural Resources Council of Maine board and vice chair of the board of the University of Maine System.

Skinner’s philanthropy comes from these connections. “Board activities get you very interested in the work being done; you see the good things happening, and the mistakes,” he explains.

For a time, Skinner and his wife Alice focused their giving on the Farnsworth, the NRCM, education, a few women’s groups, and organizations supporting the philosophy of Emanuel Swedenborg, founder of the church in which Alice was raised.

Then a good friend suggested Skinner look into establishing a donor-advised fund with the Maine Community Foundation. “I liked the idea of having a fund which inevitably has a prudent level of spending every year,” he says. Together, he and Alice created the Mainstream Fund.

Although Skinner continues to support his and his late wife’s diverse interests, today about half of his grants go to Many Flags/One Campus, an educational initiative centered in Rockland. The idea of this innovative program is to combine classrooms for middle, high, and technical schools with those of a community college and a university on a single campus, so that students can pursue an array of interests, but always on an appropriate level.

While intrigued by this new educational construct, Skinner wants to make sure the experimentation extends to the classroom. To that end, he is funding an effort that makes materials and time available to individual teachers so they can explore new teaching methods. “You can change a campus physically in many ways, but unless you change the classroom, it won’t do much good,” Skinner says.

Skinner brings commitment to his passions—and he thinks big. Education, the environment, the arts: he gives where it counts.



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For more donor stories, visit the “For Donors” section of [www.maineef.org](http://www.maineef.org) or scan this QR code with your mobile device.



In January 2005, a group of community leaders, business executives, and educators in the midcoast met to consider ways in which they could create an institution that would serve the educational needs of the region. Over time an innovative idea arose: to create a single campus that would feature a regional high school, a career and technical school, a higher education center, and industry training centers. The diverse institutions would share resources and integrate programs provided to students and the midcoast community.

In 2009 the Many Flags/One Campus Foundation was established to advance the mission and vision of this new educational entity. "Many Flags/One Campus is a new model for a seamless secondary and post-secondary education system in Maine," says Alan Hinsey, executive director of the foundation.

In 2010 the Maine State Board of Education selected Many Flags/One Campus as a model for the state. Grants received from the Maine Community Foundation and the Davis Family Foundation are being used to develop and test new curriculum models and innovative teaching methods. This funding is also supporting a broad-based steering committee that will make recommendations for the governance and operation of this unique model for Maine and the nation.

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For more information, visit [www.manyflags.org](http://www.manyflags.org).



*Wickham Skinner's watercolor Museumtown, 2006, is a bird's-eye view of Rockland. He took up painting after he retired. Courtesy the Farnsworth Art Museum*

*On the dock: Wickham Skinner at his home in St. George. Photo Jim Dugan*

# Charitable Awareness (and Search and Rescue)

The most satisfying gifts begin with “true charitable intent.”

*For estate planner Christian Barner, responsibility plays a significant role in charitable giving. As he notes in a recent conversation with Jennifer Southard, Maine Community Foundation director of philanthropic services, Barner also believes it takes teamwork to create a legacy.*



Christian Barner

## The Charitable Gift Annuity—Why Now?

Are you looking for a way to create a guaranteed income for you or someone else and, at the same time, accomplish your charitable objectives? With low interest rates and a volatile investment market, now is a great time to consider a charitable gift annuity. The current annuity rate\* is 5.5% if you're 65 years old. The rate increases to 5.8% if you're 70 and to 6.4% if you're 75. The minimum gift amount is \$25,000.

*For more information, please contact Karen Hartt or Jennifer Southard at (877) 700-6800.*

*\*based on September 2011 rates*

**MaineCF:** How do your clients respond to the idea of charitable giving?

**Christian Barner:** Their response is a function of what I like to call “charitable awareness.” I grew up thinking that charitable giving meant tipping 25% at a restaurant – I lacked charitable awareness. In contrast, there are families in which charitable giving is an expectation passed on from one generation to the next.

**MaineCF:** How do you recognize charitable awareness?

**Barner:** Sometimes the cues are obvious: a client has a bequest in an existing will or mentions serving on a nonprofit board or land trust, for example. Between college and law school, I ran a homeless shelter in the Portsmouth area, an experience I often use as a way to talk about charitable giving.

Wealth, whether earned or inherited, carries with it the responsibility to manage it, grow it, and give it away. Individuals with this perspective are far more likely to establish a charitable remainder trust or work with a foundation to make lasting gifts. These are the situations that I, as an estate planner, enjoy the most because there's a feeling that everyone is working toward the same goal.

**MaineCF:** Would you share a story of a client who worked with the community foundation?

**Barner:** A recent example involved the administration of the estates of a couple. Husband and wife died almost simultaneously with poorly drafted wills and no children, but with a clear desire to benefit Maine search-and-rescue organizations. I was appointed by the court as Personal Representative for the husband's estate; another attorney served for the wife's. Together, we secured the court's approval to establish a donor-advised fund at the Maine Community Foundation.

We had difficulty identifying Maine organizations that met the criteria and

then bringing them together. The Maine Community Foundation was vital in guiding us. We appreciate its role as facilitator in these types of cases.

**MaineCF:** Has the conversation around charitable giving shifted at all with some of the changes in federal and state tax laws?

**Barner:** Not a lot. I think most estate planners would tell you that clients are either receptive to a discussion about charitable giving or they are not. Some clients will consider charities to avoid incurring state or federal estate taxes, but the most satisfying and successful gifts begin with true charitable intent. That doesn't seem to change with fluctuations in the amount of available exemptions.

What the roller coaster ride in estate planning law does seem to do is inspire clients to come in and discuss their plans. When they do, it is an opportunity for us to again raise the charitable giving issue.

*Christian Barner has been practicing law in Southern Maine for more than 20 years. He is a founding partner of Bergen & Parkinson, LLC, with offices in Kennebunk and Saco. A graduate of Colby College, Barner earned his law degree from the University of Maine School of Law. Concentrating in the areas of estate planning, probate, and trust administration, he served on the Maine Uniform Trust Code Committee and was recently appointed by the Maine Supreme Court to the Probate Rules Committee. He is a member of the Maine Estate Planning Council, York County Bar Association, Maine State Bar Association, and the American Bar Association.*



*For more professional advisor resources, including the Planned Giving Design Center, visit [www.maineef.org](http://www.maineef.org) or scan this QR code with your mobile device.*

# On Board

## Epstein, Hilpman, and Lamb add leadership and expertise.

Eileen Epstein of Falmouth has been elected Chair of the Board of Directors of the Maine Community Foundation. A partner at Epstein & O'Donovan, LLP, since 1993, Epstein is a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel and has been president and a director of the Maine Estate Planning Council. She is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College and the University of Maine School of Law.

"Eileen brings a special expertise to the board that will help us to move forward," said Meredith Jones, community foundation president and CEO. "She believes in this foundation and the future of Maine."

Community foundation board chairs and vice-chairs serve two-year terms. Epstein succeeds Anne Jackson, who will remain on the board. George Shaw of Newcastle is the new board vice-chair.

The Maine Community Foundation board also recently welcomed two new members: Elizabeth Hilpman of Woolwich and Peter Lamb of Kittery Point.

A partner at Barlow Partners, an investment advisory firm in New York City, Hilpman previously was an investment manager at Global Asset Management; director of alternative manager research at Dubin & Swieca; an investment officer at Dartmouth College; and a vice president at Commonfund. She holds a B.A. from the University of New Hampshire and serves on the boards of the UNH Foundation and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival.

Lamb is proprietor of *kneetoknee* Philanthropic Advising and a senior fellow at The Philanthropic Initiative in Boston. He is former vice president for philanthropy at the New Hampshire Charitable

Foundation and, before that, vice president of the UNH Foundation. He serves on the Piscataqua Region Estuary Partnership and is a delegate to the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. Lamb holds a B.S. from UNH.

"The Board of Directors plays a crucial role in guiding our work," said President and CEO Jones. "These distinguished individuals are a great addition to our all-volunteer team."



For the latest news from the community foundation, visit the "About Us" section at [www.mainecef.org](http://www.mainecef.org) or scan this QR code with your mobile device.

*The Board of Directors held its fall meeting at the Penobscot East Resource Center in Stonington. Photo Carl Little*





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# For the Vets

## A special legacy supports services for rural Maine veterans.

**Tibor and Anna Doby** escaped the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. Through the trials they endured before being granted political asylum in the U.S., they came to know firsthand the devastating effects of war. Over time the couple, who lived in Cape Elizabeth, developed an interest in helping American soldiers who served in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Through the Tibor and Anna Doby Veteran Support Fund, the Maine Community Foundation recently awarded \$118,907 in grants to seven Maine agencies to help them deliver services to veterans and their families living in rural regions of the state. The compassion of two grateful refugees lives on.



For more about the Doby Fund and other community foundation grant programs, visit [www.mainecef.org](http://www.mainecef.org) or scan this QR code with your mobile device.

*Still from the documentary The Way We Get By (2009). The award-winning film about troop greeters at Bangor International Airport received support from the King and Jean Cummings Fund at the Maine Community Foundation.*