

Moving Maine Forward

MAINE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2016-2017

TO MOVE MAINE FORWARD MEANS...



At Family Futures Downeast, children receive high-quality care while their parents take night classes.



Dennis French has worked full time and attended school for years to pursue his dream of teaching.



Rajaa Allaham and Nahlah Alsafar learn English and leadership skills at In Her Presence in Portland. Women from 12 countries participate in the program.



Shirley Leslie enjoys stretching during exercise at Friends in Action, a nonprofit in Ellsworth.



MaineCF funder Nancy Brain visits A Company of Girls, an after-school program she helps support in Portland.



Eli Cayer, owner of Urban Farm Fermentory, is a successful entrepreneur in Portland.

...Putting all our resources to work – human, financial, social, educational, reputational. It means tackling big issues while we support the critical work of organizations of all sizes.

...Focusing on issues and areas with our guiding goal in sight: improving the quality of life for all Maine people.

...Working with partners to build on the strengths of Maine's communities to address significant challenges.

We're proud to share some stories that illustrate those strengths and how Maine people are helping each other through education, innovation, and simple encouragement. The stories feature friends and families, a fermentory, and a steadfast student named French.

Forward.

On the cover:

Day campers at Maine Audubon's Summer Squash Preschool Camp at Gilsland Farm in Falmouth spend a week exploring their five senses. Here, the campers, aged 3-5, learn about touch.

OUR GOAL

All Maine children receive a healthy start and arrive at kindergarten developmentally prepared to succeed in school and life.

It's off to college for parents and kids

College life starts early for some children in Washington County. Twice a week, from afternoon to bedtime, 19 moms and 50 kids converge at two campuses for precious hours that could change their lives.

They've arrived for Family Futures Downeast (FFD), a collaboration of seven community partners that was years in the making. Its first, 12-month program has provided high-quality child care and an opportunity for many first-generation college students to attend the University of Maine at Machias or Washington County Community College in Calais.

Community partners "heard the voices of young parents in our county," says Marsha Sloan, director of FFD, a MaineCF grantee. "They were saying that to lift our families out of poverty we need education, but we need to know our children are safe and secure and being educated."

The twice-a-week program at each campus starts with study or play time and a family dinner. While the parents take six, cost-free classes and earn 15 credits, FFD staff care for their children in a literacy-focused setting and

measure their growth against Head Start indicators.

At 5:30, it's off to class for the adults – now a comfortable transition for parents and children at ease on campus. By 8:30, children are in their PJs, teeth brushed, and ready for what could be a sleepy, hour-long trip home.

"These students are working on education plans that are going to lead to some of the better, higher-paying jobs," says Sloan. Of the 21 parents who started the program in 2016, 17 will continue to certificate or degree programs later this year. They're committed to staying in Washington County to raise their families.

"They know this is going to open up that dream for their children," says Sloan. "It's not going to be an impossible reality."

Pictured: Ambrosia Ross finishes her homework with her sons at Family Futures Downeast. She hopes to pursue her bachelor's degree and become a financial counselor. FFD has received funding from the Belvedere Fund for Downeast.

OUR GOAL

All Maine people, including adult learners and other nontraditional students, are able to complete a degree or certificate program to maximize their potential.

A dream delayed, but not forgotten

Dennis French has always known what he wanted to do in life. His goal: become a teacher.

“I remember how much I relied on my teachers for certain things growing up,” he says, describing their kindness while his mother worked 70 hours a week to support the family.

But one large obstacle loomed. French was a high-school dropout. While he landed on his feet with a good-paying job, including 24 years at Rowe Auto Group in Auburn, his dream to teach endured.

Years later, his determination won out: “I’m 40 years old,” he told himself. “I’m going back to school. I’m going to go to college and I’m going to become a teacher, which is what this country needs right now.”

French’s story is familiar in Maine, where in 2015 nearly 90 percent of high school students graduated and only

62 percent went directly to college. MaineCF is working to change that, with its strategic goal to improve access to education for adult learners.

French returned to high school – no GED test for him – and took three-hour classes four nights a week after work with students nearly half his age. Now 44, he’ll complete his associate degree at Central Maine Community College with support from MaineCF scholarships and attend a four-year college to pursue his bachelor’s degree.

“My goal is to teach kindergarten – I want to teach young first, then maybe after 10 years or so I can do seventh or eighth grade,” French says. “I have endless possibilities in my life right now.”

Pictured: Dennis French, a MaineCF James and Marilyn Rockefeller Scholarship recipient, has volunteered for a decade at the Greater Androscoggin Humane Society.



OUR GOAL

All people of color in Maine have access to opportunities and life outcomes that are not limited in any way by race or ethnicity.

A community grows in the presence of women

Every Saturday morning Claudette Ndayinahaze sees the shadows lift and smiles begin as she's surrounded for two hours by women from 12 countries, ages 18 to 67.

Ndayinahaze and Abusana Micky Bondo are founders of In Her Presence, a Portland nonprofit that helps immigrant women in Maine find their voices and learn to navigate a new culture.

"I could see different levels, how people coming here even with higher educations could write and they could read – like myself – but they couldn't speak," says Ndayinahaze, who moved to the United States from Burundi. "They needed someone to really advocate for them."

Whether they're born here or are from away, people of color in Maine frequently encounter barriers to education, employment, and health services. MaineCF's strategic goal for racial equity aims to help build bridges and dismantle barriers by supporting nonprofits like In Her Presence.

The nonprofit began in 2015 with yoga and evolved into a conversation class for 15 women. Today its three groups reach beyond conversation and learning English. Women become champions for their health

and identify skills and strengths that will help them in the workplace.

Next fall, the program will expand with a new group for women with young children at Portland Public Library and sessions to help families navigate shifting dynamics when children know the language and their parents don't.

The motto of In Her Presence, "out of the shadows and onto the stage," is an inspiring message for its members.

Once the center of family and community, the women have left everything familiar in their home countries – from neighbors to foods – for a new and unknown place.

"It's a shadow," Ndayinahaze explains. "You don't really know what to do. So you have to build your life from the beginning again. And when they're empowered and can take leadership, they can inspire the whole community."

Pictured: Therese Kapinga, Berancilla Musonagile, and Beatrice Mukocyemayire compare their writing during an English language class at In Her Presence.

OUR GOAL

All older adults in Maine, especially those who are vulnerable, are valued and able to thrive and age in their communities with health, independence, and dignity.



“One of the most important things we offer is human contact.”

If you're looking for action in Ellsworth, the area's older residents will tell you where to find it.

At Friends in Action, they're never far from competition on the pickleball court, strength training in the fitness center, or stretching through yoga – not to mention Zumba and tai chi among the dozen or so classes offered in a former school turned senior center.

But the heart of this nonprofit is transportation for older and disabled people – more than 5,000 rides every year. Jo Cooper, the executive director who started the effort in 2003 as a community task force, sees Friends in Action as a tool to support independence.

Today over 175 volunteer drivers of all ages assist more than 400 county residents; 50 more volunteer at the center, help deliver meals, make small home repairs, or offer their time for a friendly visit. “One of the most important things we offer is human

contact,” says Cooper.

There's good reason for the nonprofit's focus: 22.1 percent of Hancock County's residents are 65 or older, according to 2015 U.S. Census estimates. Cooper says she never thought so many people would need help – 760 individuals participated in programs last year – and the requests keep coming.

“It's very simple,” Cooper says: “We're all just trying to be as active and engaged and involved, and continue to do all the things we enjoy or have always done.” Aging doesn't mean you suddenly become a different person, she adds. “You can just find yourself with a new challenge you hadn't thought of.” And that's where Friends in Action can help.

Pictured: Sharon Oliveri, Tony Oliveri, Donna Dabb, and Donna Shea celebrate their pickleball game at Friends in Action. FIA has received grants from MaineCF's Hancock County Fund and several donor-advised funds.

OUR GOAL

Entrepreneurial innovation is broadly promoted and practiced in Maine, particularly in natural resource-based activities.

Brewing a business from the ground up

Eli Cayer's career path from art school has been an unconventional route around Portland, from his bike-messenger company in the early 1990s to beekeeping.

And then came mead... and kombucha... and cider.

Today Cayer owns Urban Farm Fermentory, a seven-year-old success story that helped launch the city's East Bayside fermentation district of breweries and distilleries. One garage bay has expanded into several, which now house a tasting room, production facilities, and offices for a staff of 14.

The state's economy has become increasingly reliant upon entrepreneurial businesses like Cayer's. The percentage of adults who own a business as their main job continues to increase and the state ranks fifth among "small states" for Main Street Entrepreneurship, according to the Kauffman Index of Entrepreneurship.

Cayer founded Urban Farm Fermentory with the idea of exploring fermentation and seasonally available ingredients. "There was always this drive to get back in touch with the earth and to do things that people enjoy and that we enjoy," says the fermentor.

The Maine Community Foundation supported Cayer's business through a loan from one of its impact investment partners, The Fair Food Fund. The foundation's support for entrepreneurs will continue to focus on access to capital and other components of a strong "ecosystem," including big thinkers with ideas to grow from the ground up.

While his business is firmly rooted in Maine and local involvement through a tasting room and community foraging, Cayer's products have a much wider reach. Close to 300 products are approved for production and several are sold in much of New England, New York, and Washington, D.C.

In his quest for more fermentation Cayer is now exploring other avenues that include products with known medicinal values. And he follows his advice for other entrepreneurs: "Research, research, and more research – and trust your gut."

Pictured: Ben Kidson bottles Wild Maine Blueberry Kombucha while Urban Farm Fermentory founder Eli Cayer looks on.



Moving Maine forward means improving the quality of life for everyone.

As a statewide community foundation, the Maine Community Foundation strives to represent all of Maine: urban and rural, coastal and interior, from Kittery to Madawaska, and everywhere and everyone in between. We have a lot of ground to cover, but with the help of our county committee advisors and hundreds of committed donors and volunteers across the state, our reach is wide and strong.

This annual report to the community provides a snapshot of our activities in 2016. Our numbers (gifts, grants, scholarships, assets) are impressive. However, numbers do not tell the entire MaineCF story. For that, we must look to the communities themselves. Everything MaineCF does is geared to advance the diverse communities of Maine – and the people who live in and contribute to them.

This report also offers an opportunity to consider where we're headed. We've drawn on input from nearly a thousand people who participated in 13 community conversations across the state. This input has sharpened our vision and our strategic goals. Our direction is forward, to the future.

Finally, the annual report allows us to thank all our partners, donors, and friends without whom we could not do the work we do. The stories and accomplishments in this report are your stories and accomplishments.

Thank you for believing in Maine and for partnering with us to make it an even better place to live and work.

Steven Rowe
President & CEO

Karen Stanley
Vice Chair, Board of Directors

Peter Lamb
Chair, Board of Directors

A lesson in giving from a hard-working father



The Frances Hollis Brain Foundation helps support A Company of Girls, an after-school program that has served the Greater Portland community since 1995. The program uses the arts – visual, performing, and culinary – as a basis for youth empowerment. Participants Minka, Rosie, and Kate show Nancy Brain how they design and sew cat toys to be sold at Portland’s First Friday Art Walk.

Nancy Brain came from a “basic, working, middle-class family.” That all changed in 1993 when her father, the first person in his family to finish college, sold his managed-dental care company for much more than her family ever anticipated.

David Brain wanted to give back – and he had an idea that would help shape his family and their communities for generations to come. He placed half the profits into the Frances Hollis Brain Foundation, named for his wife and her family. Nancy and her sister, Diane, would help him manage it.

“He wanted us to be philanthropic and find the value of giving back,” Nancy explains. “But he also wanted us to be engaged in the work so we could have family conversations about something that was important.”

“None of us had ever done anything in philanthropy beyond maybe volunteering for the United Way,” says Nancy. “We learned – and that’s the big part of this story.”

Their initial mission was simple: help people get a foothold on life and help themselves. The family

recently moved its giving to donor-advised family funds at MaineCF and two other community foundations; they award grants primarily in Southern Maine and Lewiston-Auburn, Greater Atlanta, and Kentucky.

In Maine, Nancy has worked with other funders to support and advocate around early childhood issues, education, oral health, and refugees and immigrants.

“Now I feel like what I’m doing can make a difference,” says Nancy. “There’s a lot of satisfaction about that – it has colored the way I look at the world and at my community – it has made me really love this community and care for it.”

David Brain’s grandchildren, who at age 16 became part of the foundation, have learned about giving back as their mothers did – awarding grants, attending board meetings, and viewing the world from both the philanthropic and needs perspectives.

“They also see it as so important for our family, working on it together,” Nancy says.

“It’s like my father wanted: giving has taught us values.”



Minka, part of the “fledgling” group for third-through fifth-graders, proudly holds her design for an apron she will sew and dye in a batik pattern.

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

A sampling of activities and benchmarks from the past year



Belvedere Turns 10

When Deborah Pulliam of Castine died in 2008, she left a major bequest to the Maine Community Foundation. Funds established in her name support a number of her passions, including animal welfare, traditional handcrafts, and historic preservation. Since 2008, advisors to the Belvedere Historic Preservation Fund have awarded more than \$1.2 million to museums, libraries, churches, and other historic structures across Maine. In 2016, over \$200,000 went to 20 different projects, including window restoration at the L.C. Bates Museum in Hinckley.

30 Years of Grantmaking

The foundation celebrated the 30th anniversary of its first three county funds: Aroostook, Piscataquis, and Washington. County committees hosted events and made special grants marking the occasion. Here, Lori Weston, chair of the Aroostook County Committee, presents Steve Farnham, executive director of the Aroostook Agency on Aging, with a special \$3,000 grant from the Aroostook County Fund.

Photo Sha-Lam Photography



Community Conversations

Over a span of 16 months, MaineCF and its county committees hosted 13 community conversations across Maine. These breakfast meetings engaged residents in lively and thoughtful discussions about the assets, challenges, and future of their communities. At the Oxford County Community Conversation in Bethel, William Stockwell jotted down his thoughts.

\$2.2 MILLION

Record number of scholarships awarded by MaineCF in 2016. More than 1,300 students received support to attend college and other educational programs.

Our First Summit

Around 600 people gathered in Portland to hear Dr. Allan Johnson talk about the ways in which privilege based on race or ethnicity shapes our lives and to join an engaging conversation around what we as individuals and citizens of the state of Maine can do to address inequity. Among the attendees were (clockwise from left) Alyne Cistone, Stefan Jackson, and Dora Anne Mills.

Photos Jill Brady



2016 FINANCIALS

By the Numbers

\$41,789,387

TOTAL GIFTS

\$33,784,035

TOTAL GRANTS
AND SCHOLARSHIPS

\$2,274,216

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

\$459,435,885

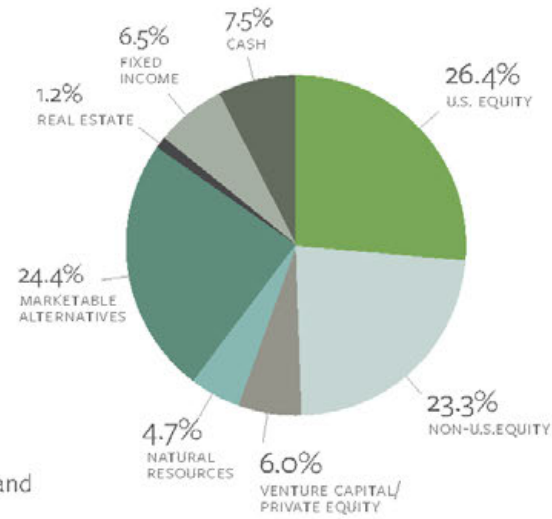
TOTAL ASSETS

+7.4%

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

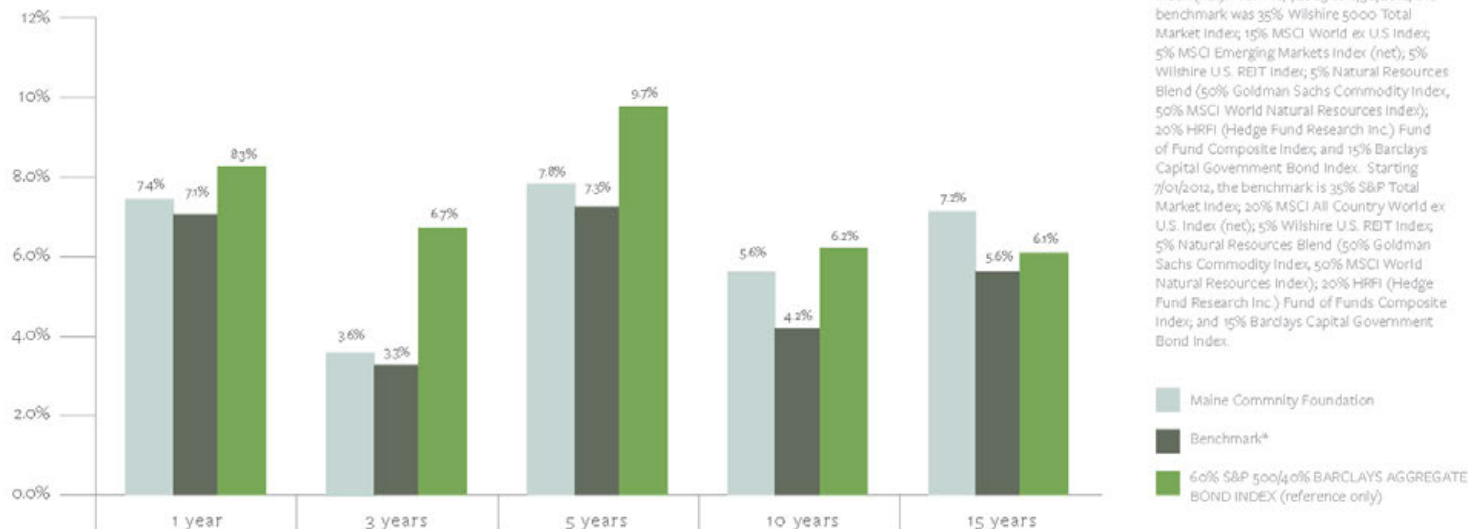
Investment Performance

The key to building permanent charitable funds that can help strengthen Maine communities is effective stewardship of philanthropic assets. The Maine Community Foundation has maintained a sound record of risk-adjusted returns that has, on an annual basis, placed our investment performance in the top quartile of more than 450 endowments and foundations monitored by Cambridge Associates.



A Diversified Portfolio

The goal of the Maine Community Foundation's investment program is to preserve and enhance the real value of assets over time. To accomplish this goal, the community foundation pursues diversified asset allocations and utilizes more than 30 investment managers who employ a broad array of strategies and span the globe. Additional financial and investment information is available at www.mainecef.org.



Financial Summary

The Maine Community Foundation's finances successfully navigated the ups and downs of the markets in 2016, including a steep drop to start off the year. Through our diversified investment strategies we have been consistently successful in achieving our principal goal: to balance risk and preserve and grow capital for charitable purposes. The following chart provides financial figures as of December 31, 2016, with comparative information for the preceding year.

Financial Highlights for the Fiscal Years Ended December 31, 2016, and 2015

Assets	2016 (Unaudited)	2015
Donor-advised funds	182,189,133	173,913,968
Endowment funds held for nonprofit organizations	80,759,918	67,748,914
Funds designated to specific organizations	70,318,589	66,021,094
Field-of-interest funds	65,080,106	62,026,630
Scholarship funds	40,223,909	36,354,318
Charitable gift annuities and other planned gifts	5,291,233	5,884,612
Special programs	2,050,040	2,121,387
Supporting organizations	8,527,146	8,323,241
Operations	4,995,811	4,814,560
Total Assets	459,435,885	427,208,724

Gifts Received and Additions to Endowment Funds

Donor-advised funds	23,325,219	34,349,654
Endowment funds held for nonprofit organizations	10,702,305	8,367,257
Funds designated to specific organizations	2,070,516	1,740,067
Field-of-interest funds	2,003,410	1,757,496
Scholarship funds	2,809,935	2,342,069
Charitable gift annuities and other planned gifts	1,413	0
Special programs	870,429	843,751
Supporting organizations	0	0
Operations	6,160	948
Total Gifts and Additions to Endowments	41,789,387	49,401,242

Grants Paid and Distributions from Endowment Funds

Donor-advised funds	21,595,329	23,898,995
Endowment funds held for nonprofit organizations	2,941,196	3,414,952
Funds designated to specific organizations	2,723,929	2,771,916
Field-of-interest funds	2,973,714	3,061,218
Scholarship funds	2,274,216	2,158,996
Supporting organizations	310,420	248,613
Other grants	965,231	0
Total Grants and Distributions from Endowments	33,784,035	35,554,690

The annual audit of the 2016 statements was not complete at the time this report was printed. If you would like an audited financial statement, please contact Vice President and Chief Financial Officer James Geary by email, at jgeary@mainecf.org, or by phone, at 877-700-6800. You can also visit www.mainecef.org to view audited financial statements, tax returns, and to learn more about the community foundation's investment program.

NEW FUNDS

Special thanks to the donors and nonprofit partners who established 60 new funds at the Maine Community Foundation in 2016, bringing the total under management to more than 1,700. We hope this small sampling conveys a sense of their commitment to people and places in Maine.

Maine Farmland Trust Stewardship Fund

To support stewardship of Maine Farmland Trust's agricultural easements

Martin and Amy Grohman Charitable Fund

Donor-advised fund to benefit nonprofit organizations in Maine and elsewhere

Mark Woolman Horner Scholarship Fund

To provide scholarship assistance to a student or graduating senior at Mount Desert Island High School with a demonstrated interest in pursuing music

Charles L. and Ruth M.S. Johnson Fund

Donor-advised fund to benefit nonprofit organizations in Maine and elsewhere

Major Mary J. Olssen Scholarship Fund

To provide scholarship assistance to graduating seniors from South Portland High School who are pursuing a degree or certificate in a health-related field

Pioneer Educational Foundation Fund

To support graduating seniors from the towns of St. Agatha, Frenchville, and Sinclair

To find out how you can start a fund at the foundation, visit the "Donors & Fundholders" section at www.mainecef.org.

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A Legacy in Tune with His Community

When Jeremy Strater, a bluegrass and folk musician from Gouldsboro, died on February 2, 2015, the region mourned the loss of an individual committed to creating vibrant communities in downeast Maine.

Strater left a legacy that reflected his passion for community, the arts, education, and the environment. Among the beneficiaries of bequests were the Town of Gouldsboro, the Peninsula School, American Folk Festival, Maine Seacoast Mission's EdGE program, and Friends in Action. His gifts also supported the Schoodic Community Fund at the Maine Community Foundation and a MaineCF scholarship fund to help downeast students.

Strater served on the founding board of Schoodic Arts for All in Winter Harbor and volunteered every month for 17 years organizing its Last Friday Coffeehouse. Through a gift to Schoodic Arts for All, he helped establish an endowment fund for the nonprofit, which MaineCF now manages. Thanks to his generosity, the stage of Hammond Hall will continue to resound with music.

Right: Jeremy Strater on the stage at Hammond Hall. Photo Mary Laury



WAYS TO INVEST IN MAINE...

When you give through the Maine Community Foundation, you are joining thousands of charitably minded individuals who are committed to strengthening Maine. Our in-depth knowledge of the state and our expertise in philanthropy will help you transform your passion for giving into powerful, meaningful change.

Here are a few ways you can partner with us:

GIVE NOW

Lead with Us: Donate to a Fund

Help us strengthen Maine communities by giving to the community foundation's county and regional funds or partner with us by supporting statewide flexible funds such as one of the five strategic goal funds or the unrestricted Invest in Maine Fund.

-OR-

Name Your Passion: Create a Fund

Thinking about starting a family or corporate foundation? A donor-advised fund, named or anonymous, may be a tax-advantaged and convenient alternative. A scholarship, a fund to support a favorite organization or a particular cause—there are many ways we can help you fulfill your passions through philanthropy.

GIVE LATER...

Give to the Future: Make a Planned Gift

Your legacy can be shaped to support the causes you care about now while providing financial and estate savings.

TO LEARN MORE:

Visit www.mainecef.org or call Laura Young, vice president for philanthropy, at 877-700-6800, ext. 844, or email her at lyoung@mainecf.org for a confidential consultation.





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Save the Date

Maine's Youngest: Building a Foundation for the Future

*Why a strong start for all children is the key to building
Maine's workforce, communities, and economy*

Maine Community Foundation Annual Summit
Tuesday, November 14, noon–2:30 p.m.
Cross Insurance Center, Bangor, Maine

