

Maine Ties

NEWS FROM THE MAINE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



MOBILIZING THE FUTURE PROSPERITY OF MAINE THROUGH GIVING

With 2019 well under way, this edition of *Maine Ties* offers a handful of stories that highlight our work in donor services, community and county grantmaking, and professional advisor outreach.

- In 1921, the Fidelity Trust Company of Portland established the Maine Charity Foundation to support Maine people considered most deserving of assistance. Transferred to MaineCF as a competitive grant fund in 1993, the Maine Charity Foundation Fund has since awarded more than 700 grants totaling over \$1.86 million, including \$78,000 in 2018 to support transportation for older Mainers (page 6).
- As we build on our strategic goals, including support for older Maine people, donors are joining our efforts. Case in point: Courtney Collins from Belfast transferred portions of her MaineCF donor-advised fund to three of our strategic goals: ensuring young children receive a healthy start, making certain adult learners are able to complete degree or certificate programs, and eliminating barriers to opportunities based on race or ethnicity. What inspired her to make these gifts? Turn to page 10 to find out.
- We can't achieve our principal goal – to improve the quality of life for all Maine people – without our more than 150 county advisors. These volunteer advisors are now reviewing applications to the Community Building Grant Program, our largest. A profile of one advisor, Sara Stockwell from Waterford in Oxford County, underscores the dedication of these volunteers to their communities and counties (page 12).
- Former MaineCF board member and longtime Investment Committee advisor Jean Deighan is committed to the betterment of Bangor and Penobscot County. She played a key role in establishing the Penobscot County Fund, which marks its 10th anniversary this year. Jean tells that story and shares her thoughts on the impact of new tax laws on charitable giving. See page 14.
- Farther north, Ray and Sandy Gauvin of Mapleton are working to educate students and “mobilize the future prosperity” of their county through the Aroostook Aspirations Initiative (page 8). Aspirations also play a part in a program that encourages high school students to explore the innovative possibilities and potential of pursuing livelihoods in the forests and on the sea (page 4).

We're in full planning mode for our third statewide strategic goal summit to be held at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor on November 13. The summit will focus on entrepreneurship and innovation in Maine and their potential to build the state's future. We want to engage a broad and diverse audience in identifying specific steps to support entrepreneurs, innovators, and dreamers in communities across Maine. I hope you'll join us. Stay tuned for particulars.



Steve Rowe is president and CEO of the Maine Community Foundation.



BUILDING A CONNECTED FUTURE

MaineCF is working to increase connectivity across the state, where too many residents still lack adequate high-speed internet service. Here's an update on what we're doing:

- **Community support:** In December 2018, we awarded 11 grants totaling \$130,000 to communities and nonprofits to explore expansion of high-speed internet service and access. The Community Broadband Grant Program will be in place until 2021.
- **Digital literacy:** We awarded a \$50,000 grant to Axiom Education & Training Center to help launch a three-year statewide digital literacy program.
- **Advocacy and public policy:** MaineCF supports the Maine Broadband Coalition, an informal federation focused on expanding broadband access.
- **Creative approaches:** MaineCF is providing support to a national pilot project with the Post Road Foundation that involves three Maine communities: Calais/Baileyville, Old Town/Orono, and Sanford. The pilot is studying the feasibility of expanding high-speed internet access in combination with other utilities and potential synergy with smart infrastructure and broadband.

For more information about MaineCF's efforts to increase connectivity for Maine people, communities, and businesses, please contact Senior Program Officer Maggie Drummond-Bahl, mbahl@mainecf.org.

Downtown Biddeford, once known for its textile mills, is growing with new businesses and an infusion of younger residents. A \$15,000 grant from MaineCF will help the city create a plan to make the internet accessible to more low- to moderate-income residents and identify areas that lack high-speed internet service. Photo Thalassa Raasch

On the cover: Grace Morey, a freshman at Deer Isle-Stonington High School, inspects a GoPro camera during Eastern Maine Skippers' 2018 Technology Cohort Day at Northeast Harbor. Footage from the ocean floor will help students determine pollution levels. See article, page 5. Photo Thalassa Raasch

BY LAND OR BY SEA

Two programs supported by MaineCF connect students to their communities and help pave paths toward ocean or forestry careers.

Students and faculty at five Maine high schools have a big question on their minds: How can we use forests to positively impact local communities?

It's also a timely question as Maine moves past the sight of shuttered paper mills to shape a future for prized natural resources and to build a workforce that can sustain its economy.

The teens and teachers are partners in the Maine Forest Collaborative, a new initiative from a MaineCF Community Building grantee. Its goal: to help students connect the world where they learn to the world where they live.

“We really felt like this was a time to start engaging young people in the possibilities and potential of careers in their forest-placed communities in the future – to sort of turn the light around from dismal to bright,” said Korah Soll, founding director of the Rural Aspirations Project in Bar Harbor.

The new program was launched in classrooms this year at Greenville, Jackman, Piscataquis, Buckfield, and Telstar high schools. The Maine Forest Collaborative builds on the success of a similar effort that helps students explore their connections to the ocean. Now in its sixth year, the Eastern Maine Skippers Program has expanded to include nine high schools and more than 80 students from 52 communities. (See story, next page.)

“What we found from the Skippers program is that students are just wildly innovative,” says Soll. “They have these ideas about what their communities could potentially be in the future, and often those are ideas that adults haven't thought of or they're not considering.”

The Forest Collaborative curriculum connects students with entrepreneurs, industry, civic, and business leaders. It also teaches them to explore multiple pathways – from science and

research to policy, grassroots organizing, or maybe conflict resolution – while they work toward solutions.

This semester, as they seek to answer their question, students will define their local regions by creating interactive maps and investigating how their communities historically used surrounding forests. They'll interview local folks about what's happening now and supplement their findings with oral histories they will present in May.

Some of the students are fourth-generation loggers and others have grown up in forestry families with parents who worked in wood products industries or mills. Others have no direct connection to the forest industry.

“Some families were hesitant about having their sons and daughters go into that field, not knowing what the forecast was,” says Soll. “Teachers were saying, ‘We've been steering our kids in the wrong direction because we didn't know there were these opportunities for students.’”

Soll says the programs inspire students “to become the leaders that we need them to be. It's not only empowering for the students, but it's also empowering for the community and practitioners because they start to see that there is all this excitement in youth. And we don't often connect those dots.”

She has high hopes the program will guide students to develop a sense of place for themselves and “see there is a future for them here and make a great living, and they can have a great life here in rural Maine.”

And those students who do go away, Soll adds, will know and understand there's still a place for them.



EXPLORING THE FUTURE OF FISHING

Maine's coastline becomes a classroom each year for teens who have grown up with the sea in their hearts. Now in its sixth year, the Eastern Maine Skippers Program is teaching students from nine high schools how their generation can help shape the future of fishing communities.

Students focus on a critical question each year as they work with fishermen, scientists, industry professionals, and regulators. This year, classes and field trips center on technology and how it contributes to a safe, healthy, and sustainable fishing industry.

Continued on page 6

Joseph Horn of the Maine Outdoor School instructs Hannah Dyer of George Stevens Academy in the art of saltwater fly tying. A 2018 MaineCF grant supported a series of fly-tying workshops, including this one for Eastern Maine Skippers.

Photo Thalassa Raasch



Continued from page 5

When students gathered in late November for their technology cohort day, they dropped lobster traps with cameras into Northeast Harbor to research fish population and measure trash and pollution. They learned about fishing with gillnets, tried the handcraft of saltwater fly tying, and created original lobster dishes that they named and pitched to classmates.

The Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries (MCCF), a nonprofit based in Stonington, operates the program in collaboration with the Rural Aspirations Project. MaineCF awarded MCCF one of its inaugural Downeast Innovation Grants last year to develop curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurship and innovation in fishing communities. Other MaineCF funding for Eastern Maine Skippers has come from the Belvedere Traditional Handcrafts Fund and donor-advised funds, including the Robert N. Haskell & Gladys M. Stetson Fund and the Limulus Fund.

mainecf.org

KEEPING PACE WITH NEEDS

The Maine Charity Foundation Fund stays true to 1921 roots as it grows at MaineCF.

As 1921 drew to a close and the U.S. recovered from its post-war recession, a Portland trust company created a foundation that looked to the future.

Fidelity Trust Company, taking its cue from the Permanent Charity Fund of Boston, established the Maine Charity Foundation, “devoted to charitable and educational purposes within the State of Maine.” Each year a nonpartisan committee selected by trustees and judges distributed the fund’s income to those who most deserved assistance. “By this means the Foundation will keep pace with changing charitable needs,” a trust pamphlet explained.

Nearly a century later, the fund – now held by the Maine Community Foundation – continues to distribute grants seeded decades ago through philanthropic gifts. The \$600,000 transferred to MaineCF in 1993 has benefited organizations throughout the state with more than 700 grants that total over \$1.86 million.

In 2018, its 25th year of grantmaking at the community foundation, Maine Charity Foundation Fund’s advisory committee focused on a challenge that confronts nearly a third of older Mainers: lack of public transportation. Without a ride, they might miss medical appointments or face social isolation – both significant threats to good health and quality of life.

Maine Charity Foundation Fund grants last year provided a total of nearly \$78,000 to help 11 nonprofits from Aroostook County to Portland expand transportation services. With the support of volunteers, those grants can



go a long way. Neighbors Driving Neighbors in Mount Vernon in Kennebec County has proof: After three years, its 46 drivers provided 102 riders 2,395 rides and traveled 47,860 miles.

A couple hours away in Hancock County, a Maine Charity Foundation Fund grant supports Healthy Peninsula's Age-Friendly Coastal Communities initiative that benefits residents of the Blue Hill Peninsula, Stonington, and Deer Isle. Healthy Island Project, another community-based organization, also offers programs for older residents.

At 96, Mary Coombs Mixer is the senior of seniors at Salt Air Seniors, a twice-monthly gathering of lunches and programs for older folks from the area. "Oh, I look forward to it – everyone does," says Mixer, who still lives in her home.

In just two years, the Healthy Island Project's volunteer-driven effort has outgrown its original lunch venue and draws crowds of up to 50 at every gathering, not to mention its monthly game nights.

Lifelines like these are key in this coastal region: Healthy Peninsula and the Healthy Island Project surveyed 765 residents, with an average age of 67. They found 82 percent wanted to age in their own homes and nearly a third felt social isolation.

Edythe Courville, another Salt Air Senior from Stonington, stresses the value of preserving this connected community: "It's one of my lifelines... the sociability is so important. It keeps you young."

Learn more about the Maine Charity Foundation Fund at mainecf.org.

Mary Coombs Mixer, 96, is one of Stonington's independent older people who gather twice a month for Salt Air Seniors. Photo Thalassa Rasch



NURTURING ASPIRATIONS THROUGH MENTORING

Ray and Sandy Gauvin are committed to helping Aroostook students gain an education and stay – and prosper – in Maine.

Aroostook County has the second highest county out-migration rate and the second lowest degree attainment in Maine. But it also has the second highest number of first-generation college students in the state.

Ray and Sandy Gauvin of Mapleton share these statistics to explain why they established Aroostook Aspirations Initiative (AAI) in 2013: to help county students not only gain an education but also remain in Maine. And in the short time the scholarship program has been up and running, they've seen success: The first cohort of AAI students had a 91% college graduation rate and 85% plan to stay in Aroostook County.

mainecf.org

What accounts for this remarkable achievement? The Gauvins point to mentoring as the “most crucial component” of their program. Their scholars agree: Mariah Hebert of Madawaska praises the “mentoring, internships, and networking opportunities” she received along with financial support. “The Gauvins have been essential in giving kids like me the opportunity to live and work in the place that we call home,” the 2014 Gauvin Scholar says. Hebert received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in May 2018 from the University of Maine at Fort Kent and currently works as a labor and delivery nurse at Cary Medical Center in Caribou.



Likewise Rachel Driscoll from Washburn, a 2017 Gauvin Scholar, credits AAI with giving her the tools to be successful, “not only in college, but in the workforce and beyond.” The program also has inspired her to set higher goals: She’s studying accounting and business administration at Northern Maine Community College and plans to attend Husson University in Presque Isle to complete a bachelor’s degree in accounting and from there pursue a master’s of accountancy.

Ray Gauvin traces the idea to support Aroostook students to his early life. When his father passed away, he was just starting high school and worked to help support his family. Thankfully, he had mentors who encouraged him to complete high school and then college.

Ray and Sandy Gauvin join Gauvin Scholars at the fifth annual Night with the Stars at the University of Presque Isle’s Campus Center. The event celebrates the success of the students in the Aroostook Aspirations Initiative while honoring individuals and businesses for their support of the scholarship program. Photo Terry Sandusky, courtesy Aroostook Aspirations Initiative

He also received a prestigious scholarship to attend the University of Southern Maine, where he earned a degree in accounting. He met the people who awarded the scholarship and they urged him to one day give his own scholarships “when” – not “if” – he was successful.

An entrepreneur by nature, Gauvin became a franchisee for Advanced Payroll Services and grew it into the largest payroll processing company in Maine. When he sold the company in 2010, he and Sandy set out to give back to their community and county. They both believed that education was “the great equalizer.”

A graduate of the University of Maine, with a master’s in education from the University of New England, Sandy, who is the president of AAI, was the perfect partner for the new enterprise: she devoted 25 years to teaching in SAD #20 and SAD #1 and worked with first-generation college and economically disadvantaged students throughout her career. She also served on the boards and committees of several nonprofits, including MaineCF’s Aroostook County Committee.

The Gauvins knew they couldn’t achieve their goals alone. The four county colleges, 16 school districts, regional hospitals, and individual donors, sponsors, and volunteers have been crucial partners. The program benefits from the support of Northern Maine Community College, University of Maine at Fort Kent, and Husson University. The University of Maine at Presque Isle provides office space and will administer AAI’s Scholar Success, community service and internship programs.

The Gauvins have enjoyed a 20-year working relationship with MaineCF, first through a scholarship fund and more recently through the Aroostook Aspirations Initiative. “MaineCF helped us create a sustainable scholarship program,” Sandy says, and, equally important, “mobilize the future prosperity of the county.”

INSPIRED PHILANTHROPY

Courtney Collins draws on her life experiences in supporting a range of causes, from conservation to racial equity.



When Courtney Collins' friend Keith, later her husband, bought land on Mixer Pond in Morrill in Waldo County in 1989, he couldn't wait to bring her there. It was February and she remembers walking across the frozen pond, in a blizzard. "Well, I really loved the place, and the man who brought me there," she says, "and I kept coming back."

After Keith died in 2004, Collins began spending more time at the cabin they built on the pond. She had retired from her nurse practitioner position in New York City, but continued to volunteer at a summer camp for children of migrant farmworkers in the Hudson River Valley. In 2012 she bought a house in Belfast and moved to Maine for good.

Collins feels a link to every living creature at the pond: birds, plants, and animals. "I feel essentially a part of that forest ecosystem," she says. "Since I have placed conservation easements on the two parcels I own out there, I feel like I am effectively one of the guardians of that place and those animals."

Coastal Mountains Land Trust had contacted Collins in 2009 about placing easements on the land: "From the outset, donating them felt like a very meaningful way to honor my husband's memory." She named the land Kingfisher, a bird she and Keith enjoyed watching together. And when she set up a donor-advised fund at the Maine Community Foundation, she chose the same name as a way to share the joy that nature continues to provide for her season after season at the pond.

Through her donor-advised fund Collins is able to direct grants to causes of interest to her. Last year, she transferred portions of the fund to three of MaineCF's five strategic goal funds. Her support, she says, reflects her "sense of gratitude" for what she has been given in her life – an education, a livelihood, a home in Maine – as well as her "recognition of the needs in the community" where she lives.

Collins explains the inspiration for each gift. For the early childhood goal, she was struck by a statement she heard at a seminar that one caring person in a child's early life can have a big impact, even counterbalancing the negative effects of, say, a difficult family situation. "I want to contribute to creating an environment where a child in need can find nurturing relationships," she says.

Her reasons for supporting the access to education goal are personal. "My own college and nursing school education were, so to speak, handed to me by my very generous father," Collins recalls. "I want to offer a helping hand to those who are beginning or returning to their own college careers while also working, raising children – coping with all the complications of life as an adult."

Collins points to her experience in minority and underserved communities as part of her motivation to further MaineCF's racial equity strategic goal work. At various times, she worked in East Harlem in a family neighborhood health center, in public schools, and in a health services program for homebound older people. She was also exposed to other cultures early in life: Her father was in the Foreign Service so she attended elementary and middle school in Paris, Madrid, and Turkey. She supports Doctors Without Borders – "because of my admiration for the people who place themselves at risk to help others" – and humanitarian work in Palestine.

Finally, Collins gives through her donor-advised fund to the Waldo County Fund because, "it's where I live." She admires local organizations like Restorative Justice and Waterfall Arts. She also appreciates hearing about other opportunities from MaineCF staff and has learned a lot at its annual summits. "[The foundation] has broadened my perspective on white privilege and on education," she says, "and allowed me to exchange ideas with others whose backgrounds and outlooks differ from mine."

Courtney Collins on the Belfast Rail Trail, at the mouth of the Passagassawakeag River. The trail starts close to downtown Belfast and leads out to the old railroad depot at Head of the Tide Road. Coastal Mountains Land Trust was instrumental in the fundraising campaign for this community project, which provides about two miles of riverside trail accessible to all.
Photo Thalassa Raasch

EXPLORING THE CHALLENGE

Meet Sara Stockwell, Oxford County Committee advisor and a dedicated volunteer

In 2004, Sara Stockwell was managing production and inventory as a co-owner of Lovell Designs, a jewelry business in Portland, when she decided she was ready for a change. She set her sights on volunteering at Sunday River for Maine Handicapped Skiing, now Maine Adaptive Sports & Recreation (MASR). She started in its summer program as a kayak and canoe instructor and eventually earned certification to teach blind and developmentally disabled individuals how to kayak and ski.

Fifteen years later, Stockwell finds the work ceaselessly fulfilling. “Every day that I am involved is an adventure for the kids and for me,” she writes. “It can be a challenge to figure out what will work for each individual to help them ski or paddle, and I love exploring that challenge.”

Stockwell considers it an honor to be a team captain for MASR’s annual Ski-A-Thon, which helps raise money to keep the program free for all participants. “They have enough daily challenges,” she says. “I have learned over the years that we can make a difference and change lives.”

Stockwell was born in Old Town. Early on she gravitated to the outdoors with summer jobs as a camp counselor and at Old Town Canoe Company where her father was president. She attended Abbot Academy (now Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts) and Colby Junior College, the latter so she could train as a kayaker with the U.S. whitewater team at Dartmouth College, which wasn’t coed yet. Upon graduation she faced a difficult decision:



train full time for the 1972 Munich Olympics or complete her education. She chose to enroll at Wheaton College in Massachusetts, graduating with a BA in English. She married William Stockwell in 1973 and landed a job teaching fourth grade at Fay School in Southborough, Massachusetts. The couple’s sons, Quentin and Carl, were born while they were at Fay. They moved to Eaglebrook School in nearby Deerfield where she taught English, served as a dorm parent and assistant librarian, and coached alpine skiing.

The family relocated to their current home in Waterford in 1984. Stockwell volunteered at the local school, led a Cub Scout den, and competed in carriage driving with her horses. She also worked part time for The Nature Conservancy as caretaker of Douglas Mountain



Sara Stockwell (in front, center) trains a group of volunteers for Maine Adaptive Sports & Recreation's adaptive ski program at Sunday River. Left to right: Larry Collins, Jo-Anne Bushey, Sara Stockwell, and Ray Glew. Photo Brandon Merry, courtesy MASR

in Sebago, doing trail work and leading groups on nature walks. “I have grown to love Oxford County,” she says, “discovering new places, trails, ponds, mines and mountains.” The natural beauty, she says, “feeds my soul.”

Stockwell joined MaineCF's Oxford County Committee in 2012 as a way to give back to her part of Maine and has chaired the committee for several years. “The advisors are a diverse group,” she notes, “who bring a wide range of experience to the table in our decision-making process.”

She sees the Oxford County Fund as a great resource for small nonprofits in the region as it helps some get off the ground and others bridge gaps in funding. “Every group is scrambling

to raise money these days,” she says, “and we provide a service by taking some of the pressure off.”

Oxford County is not a wealthy area, Stockwell explains: “Children here do not have a lot of opportunity to break out of the cycle of poverty.” The Oxford County Fund has supported healthy food programs, outdoor education, and leadership training. Asked if she has a favorite grant, Stockwell replies, “Any project that involves children and/or the outdoors is dear to me.”

Learn more about MaineCF's County and Regional Program at mainecf.org/initiatives-impact/.

PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR



NOTHING IS CONSTANT EXCEPT CHANGE

Bangor's Jean Deighan recalls the Penobscot County Fund's beginnings and the benefits of giving.

MaineCF: How would you describe giving in your community and how has it affected you?

Jean Deighan: Bangor is a very generous community. There has been a long and deep tradition here of giving. As my mother said to me, if you don't have money, you can always give your time. That's how I and many others started, and as we became successful, we gave both.

MaineCF: Could you tell me about how you became involved with MaineCF's Penobscot County Fund?

Deighan: MaineCF started the Penobscot County Fund in the late 2000s. When I joined the MaineCF Board, the community foundation already had many great successful county funds serving Maine communities. At my very first MaineCF board meeting, Bob Woodbury, then chair of the board, showed us a large slide of the state with county funds colored in, with a huge blank hole in the center. I looked at it with dismay; it was Penobscot County, with no county fund.

So we very quickly started to remedy that – and how we did it is quite a story. It starts with the Junior League of Bangor (JLB), a community support organization comprised of women who not only trained volunteers, but identified community needs and launched projects to address them. The women who came through JLB training served on boards all over Penobscot County and were incredibly effective leaders. No one in JLB wore white gloves.

However, JLB represented a huge time commitment, and in the 2000s it was difficult for women to have careers, families, and still give the amount of time their mothers did in the 1950s. It was the end of an era, but nothing is constant except change, so we embraced the change and began to look for a home for our small but growing endowment.

From our modest beginning, the Junior League's investment committee grew the endowment even while spending the interest and dividends on its projects. When JLB closed its doors, members were delighted to find MaineCF shared the same basic mission of investing in and building strong communities. Our members happily stepped up as leaders one last time and gave their \$100,000 endowment to seed the Penobscot County Fund. Even better, JLB offered up great leadership: Susan Carlisle served as an early Penobscot County Fund chair and remains involved. It certainly is very exciting that this is the Penobscot County Fund's 10th anniversary year!

MaineCF: A big change in federal tax law increases the standard deduction and limits allowable itemized deductions, so fewer taxpayers are itemizing deductions. Have you noticed any change in your clients' thoughts on charitable giving based on this?

Deighan: In my experience, and this is supported by research, people give because they follow their hearts. People also generally expect to get a tax benefit. I am not sure donors are yet focused on the changes in the tax benefit and how it will reflect, or not, on their tax return. Regardless, I expect charitable giving will continue, and I think it is the role of an investment advisor to help people give in the best possible way.

We recommend two ways to address the new tax law changes. People who are financially able can combine several years of charitable giving into one year and create a donor-advised fund (DAF). This will allow them to realize a tax benefit because that one year of itemized deductions will exceed the standard deduction. Then they can make grants from the DAF over ensuing years to their favorite charitable organizations.

Also, IRA owners over age 70½ can give directly to charity using their required IRA minimum distribution as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). The beauty of a QCD is that the gifted IRA distribution is not recognized as taxable income. Consequently, our advice depends somewhat on the donor's age. If the donor is under 70½, we recommend a DAF and, of course, MaineCF is a wonderful place to do it.

MaineCF: What is it about donor-advised funds at MaineCF that you think sets us apart for your clients?

Deighan: MaineCF knows the state and needs in our communities. Some of this knowledge comes from grassroots work done through county funds. Local volunteers serve on the county committees, review grant applications and proposals from local nonprofits, and then make the grants in their communities. They're MaineCF's eyes and ears across the state. The great gift MaineCF brings to donors is that it is plugged into the needs of Maine. MaineCF can help match the donor's interest areas with those needs, and that makes something really wonderful happen as communities across Maine grow and become stronger.

Jean Deighan holds her puppy in the Bangor office of Deighan Wealth Advisors, which she co-founded in 1994. Deighan graduated from Hampden Academy, Tufts University, and the University of Maine School of Law. She practiced law briefly then joined a bank trust department, where her interest in financial planning and portfolio management began. Photo Thalassa Raasch

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PRESERVING TRADITIONS



Gina Brooks, a master Maliseet artist from St. Mary's First Nation in Fredericton, New Brunswick, teaches the art of etching designs on birch bark panels during a two-day workshop at the Maliseet Boys and Girls Club in Houlton. Brooks seeks to enhance and deepen connections to the land "and to ourselves." She also feels a responsibility to maintain cultural traditions. Around 20 students ages 5-18, many of them Maliseet, also learn how to preserve and make frames for their artworks. Above, Foxx Hardy shows his finished art.

Opened in 2010, the club has become a hub of activity for Native American youth. The club

runs a mentoring program and "Power Hour," an academic tutoring program that helps students with homework. It also organizes physical fitness activities such as kickball, yoga, soccer, basketball, and snowshoeing.

MaineCF's Belvedere Traditional Handcrafts Fund provided funding for the event through a grant to the Penobscot Boys and Girls Club, which represents Micmac, Maliseet, and Passamaquoddy tribes. "With this grant," says Nichole Francis, CEO of the club, "the Maliseet community is now in a position to bring in Maliseet artists to share their traditions intergenerationally."