

MAINE TIES

NEWS FROM THE MAINE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

FALL 2020



Building Bonds

Wabanaki Voices connects Skowhegan's past, present, and future

Meeting the Needs



In these disquieting times, the Maine Community Foundation remains focused on its mission: to improve the quality of life for all Maine people. For many, that quality of life is imperiled by a viral pandemic, systemic racism, food insecurity, lack of housing and health care, the effects of climate change, and other major challenges. The foundation is focused on helping communities across the state persevere and thrive.

MaineCF has awarded nearly \$3 million in grants since March from its COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund. Our grantmaking has focused on services to Mainers most vulnerable to the impacts of the pandemic, including those experiencing poverty, homelessness, hunger, child care needs, mental health disorders, violence, and/or substance use disorders. We hope to have sufficient funding to award additional COVID-19-related grants this fall to nonprofits, many of which report dramatic decreases in revenue.

MaineCF donors with donor-advised funds made an additional \$3.6 million in direct pandemic relief grants

to a wide range of organizations. Those grants include \$200,000 directed to small rural theaters.

Meeting needs means more than simply making grants. It means listening and responding to communities across Maine.

Drawing on their local knowledge, county advisors enhance the impact of our work now more than ever. Two of them profiled here, Mary Kate Reny and Ann Marie Bartoo, lead our outreach in Lincoln and Sagadahoc counties as co-chairs of the Southern Midcoast Committee. Their professional and personal dedication to the betterment of the people in their region is praiseworthy.

We also depend on professional advisors to help us promote philanthropy in Maine. In his interview, attorney Edgar Catlin of Brunswick notes how the pandemic has spurred Mainers to look more closely at their legacies. “Those who have considered a charitable component for their estate plan are thinking... ‘If not now, when?’”

Two of our *Maine Ties* stories provide an extra measure of hope. Maine philanthropist Maddy Corson and four journalists reflect on the impact of the Guy P. Gannett Scholarship Fund, now in its 20th year of sending Maine students out into the world to do good. And Barry Dana, a teacher, artist, and former Chief of the Penobscot Nation, helps raise awareness of Wabanaki culture by instructing Skowhegan

Area High School students in the construction of a traditional wigwam. The project is part of Skowhegan History House's two-year exhibit "Wabanaki Voices: Connecting Past, Present, Future," launched with help from a MaineCF Expansion Arts Fund grant.

MaineCF is on a journey to create a Maine where everyone has access to opportunities and life outcomes not determined or predictable, in any way, by race or ethnicity. To that end, the foundation supports a range of programs that support those who work to promote racial equity in Maine. At the same time, our work to enhance early childhood development, access to education, aging in place, and innovation and entrepreneurship continues with added urgency in these uncertain times.

"We are all in this together" is something of a cliché these days, but it's true: To meet Maine's needs going forward will take every one of us. The Maine Community Foundation was created for just this moment, as a resource in the toughest times. Thank you for believing in us.



Steve Rowe, CEO and President

Jan Damm and Arielle Ebacher bring theatrical circus artistry to Celebration Barn's drive-through production "Just Outside the Window" after it canceled its existing summer programming in South Paris due to COVID-19. Celebration Barn was one of 20 smaller community theaters that benefited from \$200,000 in general support grants from an anonymous MaineCF donor who wanted to help sustain them during the shutdown. Celebration Barn photo

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On the cover / In Skowhegan, a former Penobscot Nation chief helps students use their hands to build a stronger connection to Native people. Story, page 4.

The Maine Community Foundation works with donors and other partners to improve the quality of life for all Maine people. MaineCF is committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion, and ensuring Maine is a safe, welcoming, and accepting place for everyone. MaineCF's investment expertise supports our donors' effective and strategic giving. We offer a range of giving options tailored to fit each donor's financial means and charitable objectives. Our staff provides personalized service, community leadership, and a deep understanding of local issues. Learn more at mainecf.org.

MAINE TIES, FALL 2020

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ON THE
COVER

Bridging the Gap of Understanding



How do you present an authentic view of Indigenous culture in Maine? This was one of the questions the Skowhegan History House Museum and Research Center asked in its mission to raise awareness of the Wabanaki.

One of the answers? To invite master artisan and former Penobscot Nation Chief Barry Dana to build a traditional wigwam with nine local high school students.



“We wanted to involve high school students directly with a highly skilled artisan/teacher like Dana in hopes of breaking down some of the stereotypes and biases which were exposed in the effort to end the use of the Indian mascot at the Skowhegan Area High School,” said community volunteer Susan Cochran.

Dana provided the materials: birchbark for the sides, basswood bark lacing to strap the bent ash saplings to create the frame, and spruce roots to sew the birchbark panels together. Once essential to tribal life, the wigwam provided shelter and structure.

“I took the kids into some really fine skills,” Dana says, “and they just nailed it.” Once they were well into the weeklong project, “it was just like a unified group of people that had a bond.”

Said Cochran, “The process of using their hands and these four wood products – ash, birch, spruce, and basswood – to build such a beautiful structure was a profound lesson about Native American values, lifestyle, and treatment of the environment.”

“Building a wigwam with Barry and Nate Dana reinforced my belief that Indigenous Maine culture needs to be preserved for generations to come,” says Carly McCabe, a first-year student at Skowhegan Area High School. “This is why I believe that education about Native culture by Native people is so important.”

The wigwam construction, completed in July, is the first phase of a two-year exhibit, “Wabanaki Voices: Connecting Past, Present, Future,” organized by the Skowhegan History House with support from a MaineCF Expansion Arts Fund grant. The organization, led by Board President Patricia Horine, formed an ad hoc committee with Penobscot consultants John Bear Mitchell and Darien Ranco and partnered with the Skowhegan Free Public Library, SAD 54 administrators, and other community groups to develop the wigwam project.

Built on the west lawn of the History House campus, the wigwam will be a site for speaker events and programs when it’s safe to engage the community. “A traditional Wabanaki dwelling has returned to the shores of the Kennebec where there used to be villages of such dwellings,” Cochran noted.

Dana’s son-in-law, Nathan Dana, who is part Passamaquoddy, helped gather the materials and also assisted with instruction. “I wanted to pass on these skills and that’s really my responsibility,” says Barry. He was pleased to witness Nathan become a teacher in the process.

Dana hopes the project will bring greater recognition of the town’s connection with Native people and the value of traditional skills.

“Just my being there helped bridge that gap of understanding, that we’re just people and we need to be understood.”



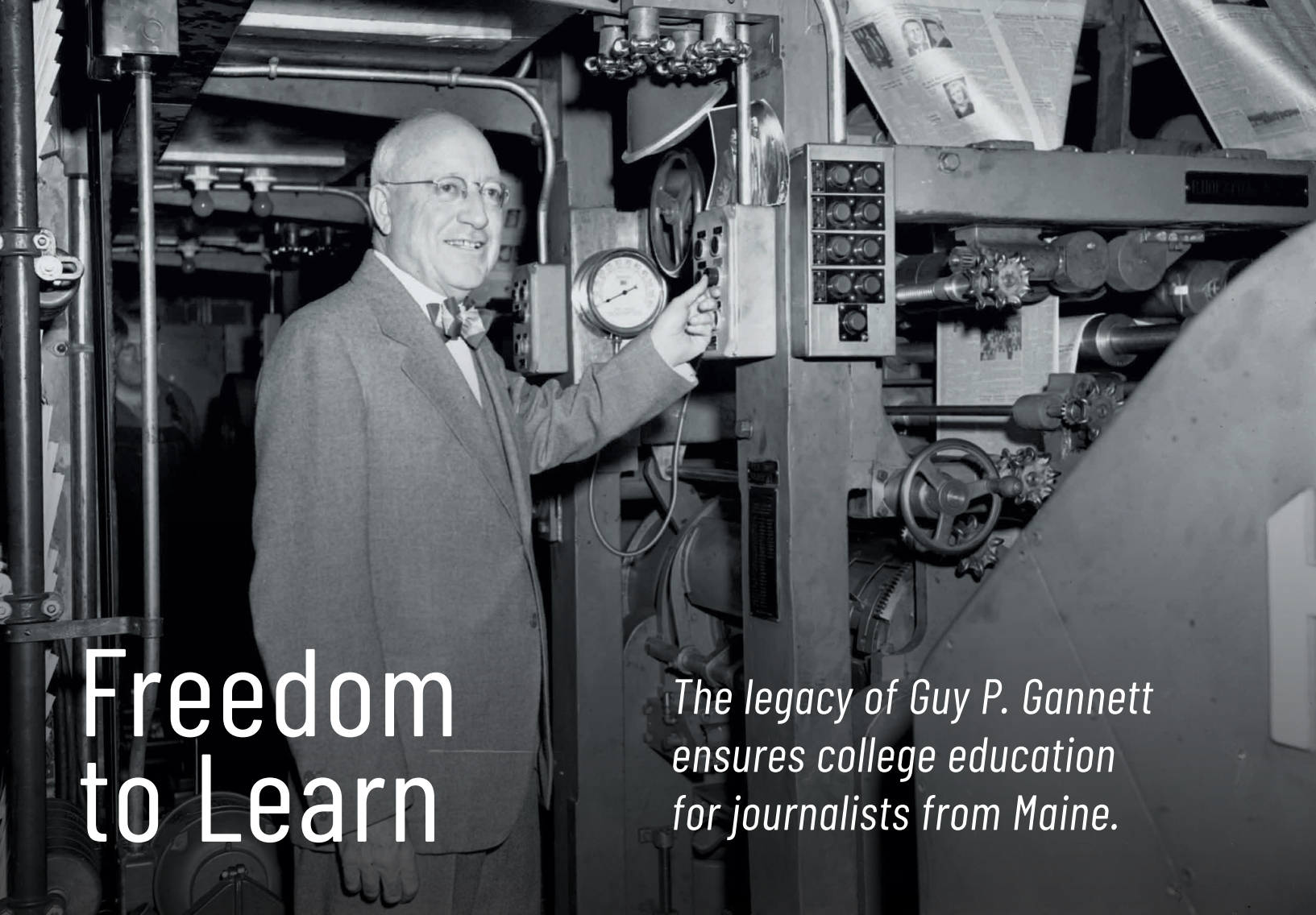
On the cover: A closer look at one of the wigwam’s panels.

Above: Students Maddie Thorndike, left, and Carly McCabe work on the Skowhegan wigwam last summer.

Photo Susan Cochran

Left: The wigwam at the Skowhegan History House Museum was constructed by local students and will be a site for speaker events and programs. Photo Gabe Souza

Above: Barry Dana. Photo Gabe Souza



Freedom to Learn

*The legacy of Guy P. Gannett
ensures college education
for journalists from Maine.*

“What would Maddy do?”

That’s the pressing question journalists from across Maine ask every spring as they review applications to the Guy P. Gannett Scholarship Fund. They can be a tough crowd, but Maddy Corson’s warm heart always prevails.

Corson and her uncle John Gannett, who died in July at 100, established the fund 20 years ago to pay tuition and expenses for Maine students who dream of careers in journalism. Since then, the initial \$3 million scholarship fund – MaineCF’s largest – has helped educate 133 students with over \$3.2 million in support. Corson’s goal: Every Gannett scholar should graduate without debt.

Guy P. Gannett, Corson’s grandfather, launched his daily newspaper career in 1921 with the purchase of two newspapers he merged into the *Portland Press Herald*. Corson was in eighth grade when Gannett added her name to the newspaper trust, ensuring her role as a future steward.

By 1998 when the family sold Guy Gannett Communications, its media reach spanned several states with three daily newspapers in Maine and seven television stations. Funds for the namesake scholarship came from the Guy Gannett Foundation, which Corson’s grandparents established.

“He was passionate about newspapers,” Corson recalls. Every night at 5 p.m. Gannett sat in the bay window of his Cape Elizabeth home, any youngsters hushed, so he could read his newspaper before dinner. As a publisher, he expected his staff to “attack dishonesty, graft, and mismanagement of public affairs.”

Guy Gannett’s words still resonate, even as newspapers face challenging days ahead: “I have never regarded the newspaper as a piece of private property to be managed for mercenary ends; but rather as an institution to be managed for the public good.”



Your legacy, their future

In 2019, MaineCF awarded 1,512 scholarships totaling more than \$4 million.

When you create a scholarship fund at the community foundation, you're investing in Maine's future.

"MaineCF works with its donors to build the legacy they'd like to leave for future scholars, whether it's to honor a family member, a beloved teacher, or support an alma mater," says Liz Fickett, MaineCF's scholarship funds manager.

The foundation offers a wide range of scholarships to benefit students and match donor interests. MaineCF's 661 scholarship funds support elementary school students to adult learners, and assist with private high school tuition, certificate and licensure programs, community college, four-year degrees, graduate school, as well as camps and extracurricular experiences.

What does it take to establish a scholarship fund? Our staff will walk you through options that start at \$10,000 for a designated fund. All gifts to scholarship funds are tax deductible and the funds benefit from MaineCF's investment expertise. For more information, contact Liz Fickett at efickett@mainecf.org.

Today's Gannett scholars practice journalism across the country and around the globe. (See profiles, next page.) Some, including Nick McCrea, have planted roots in Maine newsrooms. Today he's managing editor of *The Times Record* in Brunswick and serves on the scholarship review committee.

"The Guy P. Gannett Scholarship supported me through five years of college in two states, helping me earn two post-secondary degrees in the industry I love," says McCrea. "This generous scholarship freed me to focus on improving my journalism without worrying about mounting college debt." Through the scholarship, he adds, "I built relationships with people across Maine's journalism landscape that continue to enlighten me a decade into my professional career."

Maddy Corson has kept every scholarship thank-you note for two decades – a trove of heartfelt thanks, emotional stories, and passionate accounts of budding careers.

"It's a huge legacy for these young adults to continue the journalism work," says Corson. And, even if some change course, she's proud knowing these well-educated Maine students "will go out into the world and do good."

Left: Guy P. Gannett switches on the new Hoe presses in 1948 at the Portland Press Herald building on Congress Street. Photo courtesy Portland Public Library Special Collections & Archives

Above: Maddy Corson, the granddaughter of Guy P. Gannett, saved 20 years of thank-you notes from Maine students who have graduated with no or little debt thanks to the Gannett Scholarship Fund.

Maine's Eyes on the World

Now journalists, Gannett scholars report news with values grounded in Maine.



Esmé Deprez

Senior reporter, projects and investigations team,
Bloomberg News and *Bloomberg Businessweek*

Education: Master's in journalism, Columbia University

Most memorable assignment: As the presidential race heated up in the summer of 2016, my editor called me with what felt at first like an insane idea. Within weeks, I found myself aboard a Greyhound bus departing Philadelphia for Los Angeles with one goal: to take readers outside the Washington-New York bubble and introduce them to a slice of the electorate with whom they have little contact. Over 3,041 miles and 11 states, a photographer and I dug into the lives of more than 100 voters. We rode as many as seven hours a day and loitered in bus depots to gauge the mood of this mobile community. It wouldn't be enough simply to meet people – we'd need to persuade them to share their most personal experiences, beliefs, and hopes while surrounded by strangers.

Ten teams throughout the newsroom collaborated on the project, Bloomberg's first of this type. "Bus to November" gave readers special insight into an unsettled, angry electorate yearning to be heard. The value of mere conversation would prove prescient: As the horse race dominated coverage, it obscured the support that would propel Donald Trump to victory.

mainecf.org

Levi Bridges

Freelance international audio reporter and podcast producer; bylines with National Public Radio, Public Radio International, "Marketplace"

Education: Master's in journalism, University of California, Berkeley

How has Maine shaped your view of the world? As an independent foreign correspondent working in Mexico and Russia, I'm always amazed when I come back to Maine and how safe it feels here. I see myself trying to tell the stories of the vast majority of the world's people who weren't fortunate to grow up in a place like this. When you live in a state like Maine it's really easy to lose yourself in the sense of peace – and in rural places in general – and forget what life is like for people in the rest of the world. When I'm writing and reporting stories, I have people who live in places like Maine in the back of my mind because those are the people I want to reach.

Why is journalism important today? How journalists can restore faith in the media and combat disinformation is going to be the most important question that we will have to answer during our careers in the coming decades.

Levi Bridges interviews a Honduran migrant at a shelter in southern Mexico.

“We like to say that behind every scholarship, there is a person, and Maddy Corson – and her family – are wonderful examples of people in Maine doing good for the people of Maine,” says Liz Fickett, scholarship funds manager who works with the Gannett committee. “Our Gannett scholars are forging new places for themselves across all forms of media, believing in the highest calling to tell the truth and bring the news to their communities.”

Four Gannett scholars from Maine share their views on journalism in these edited excerpts from longer responses posted online at mainecf.org.



Dominique Hessert

Cinematographer on *The New Yorker* video team

Education: BFA in photojournalism, Rochester Institute of Technology

Why journalism? Growing up, I was painfully shy. Hiding behind a camera was my way to experience and observe my life, my friends, but mostly my big family. That blossomed into an intense passion for observational photography, which I identified as photojournalism.

When I got to college, I began to second-guess my photojournalism major and dabbled in advertising and fine art photography. To clear up my decision, I went on a photojournalism internship to Kenya and followed high school students working on an invention to eliminate deforestation and pollution that had harmed their villages. I spent the summer capturing the hours of work these kids put in just so their homes could survive. It became so natural to ask questions and engage with strangers, a skill that was once my biggest obstacle. I realized the impact of my Nairobi experience was something I wanted to share with others. That's when the power of journalism became clear, and I never questioned my degree choice again.

Hessert on the job as a cinematographer.

Nick McCrea

Managing editor, *The Times Record*;
previously *Bangor Daily News* reporter

Education: BA in journalism, University of Maine; master's in journalism, Syracuse University

Most memorable assignment: I wanted to know what it was like to live on an isolated Maine island in the dead of winter. A photographer and I took the mail boat to Isle au Haut in the middle of January and spent the weekend with most of the dozen residents. I spoke to both students at the one-room schoolhouse about how they entertained themselves. I spoke with a man whose ancestors settled the island more than 200 years ago. More importantly, I talked to residents about their worries. The number of year-rounders is dwindling as more people move off island, putting the future of the entire community in question. It was a fun, gritty story with people, their relationships, and the hardships of remote life at its heart.

Advice to future Gannett scholars: Strive for the truth. Never stop learning, reading or asking difficult questions. Once you've asked those questions, push to find the answer – especially if it's hidden.

McCrea at The Times Record in Brunswick.

Two-County Coverage — and Commitment

Co-chairs of MaineCF's Southern Midcoast Committee, Mary Kate Reny and Ann Marie Bartoo, share a love for the two counties they represent, Lincoln and Sagadahoc.

In these challenging times, what role can Maine Community Foundation county funds and their advisory committees play to help communities thrive?

The county funds, Mary Kate Reny believes, are “true engines and partners” for local organizations. The volunteer advisors, she notes, bring their networks and knowledge of their communities to the table. At the same time, says Ann Marie Bartoo, “It is a huge responsibility to make informed decisions around grantmaking, but also very joyful when we see positive impact on nonprofits.”

In the two years that the Southern Midcoast Committee has been active, advisors have reviewed 89 proposals from 63 nonprofit organizations in the two counties. The grantmaking is diverse, from education and social services to arts and the environment. But demand is greater than the permanent endowed funds can support, so Reny, Bartoo, and their fellow committee members promote charitable giving wherever and whenever they can.

The two women came to Maine via different routes, but each has a special skill set and life experiences that prepared them to become community leaders.

Facing page left: Mary Kate Reny visits “Lulu the lunch wagon,” a mobile meal unit launched by Lincoln County Summer Meals, a project of Healthy Lincoln County. The lunch wagon is part of a program to increase children’s access to free, healthy lunches during the summer.

Facing page right: Ann Marie Bartoo volunteers at the Phippsburg Elementary School’s Ed Secskas Memorial Garden. “It’s a special place for many school-aged children (and adults, too) as it is dedicated to a well-loved teacher who passed away a few years ago,” Bartoo says. Photos Sijie Yuan



Mary Kate Reny: A Passion for Downtowns

Born in Los Angeles, Reny attended the University of California at Santa Barbara where she earned a B.A. in geography/environmental studies. She worked at Glacier and Yosemite national parks before moving east in 1987. Following a stint at DeLorme mapping in Freeport, Reny spent eight years at the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and then completed a master's in planning and community development at the Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine. From 2001 to 2018 she held various positions at Reny's.

Reny became committed to creating vibrant downtowns through her work at the family-owned Maine department store. She has shared her passion as board member of the Maine Downtown Center and the Twin Villages Alliance, and as the leader of several community efforts and initiatives benefiting Main Street Damariscotta and Newcastle. "Downtowns are both the physical 'living rooms' of communities and their personality," she says. They are also often "the hub and incubator of the local economy."

Reny has witnessed the "tightening" of community bonds through her work to address food insecurity. In what she calls her "pandemic pivot," she became part-time coordinator this summer for Lincoln County Gleaners and the Free Summer Meal Program.

As Reny considers the future of the midcoast region, her deepest hope is that "people acknowledge their commitment to this shared place we love, and simply start there."

Ann Marie Bartoo: Changing the Conversation

Bartoo was born and raised in New York state, earned a B.A. in communications from Antioch College and a master's in leadership and organizational studies at the University of Maine. She has worked with, and for, dozens of nonprofit organizations across Maine and New England – including the Maine Community Foundation – and now advises nonprofits through her business, Corner Market Consulting, in Phippsburg, where she lives.

Bartoo's work has shown her firsthand the challenges organizations face during the pandemic. She also recognizes the opportunities these unprecedented times bring: "In many ways, it is a time to rethink and redesign how we do things." She encourages nonprofit leaders to "change the conversation from 'We can't do this' to 'What would it look like if we tried this?'"

For Bartoo, diversity and youth will be crucial to prosperity and growth in the southern mid-coast region, as well as a sense of community. "Our ability to experience community both in our homes and out in the world can empower us and, I hope, give us the resources we need to get through to the other side of the pandemic."

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



Aaron Gordon at the Norridgewock Fire Department.
Photo Ashley Conti

The Corporal Cole Way

A memorial scholarship honoring a fallen sheriff's deputy helps a former colleague advance his education.

Aaron Gordon first met Corporal Eugene Cole as a dispatcher at the Somerset Regional Communications Center in Skowhegan. The Somerset County sheriff's deputy – “Gene” or “Grampy” or “Gramps” to friends – stopped in occasionally to chat and get to know the public safety staff. These visits, says Gordon, were “immensely important to maintain a good connection between the responders on the street and the dispatchers behind the radio.”

Cole's life ended tragically on April 25, 2018, when he was shot in his hometown of Norridgewock as he tried to arrest a drug suspect. Gordon has fond memories of Cole's dry sense of humor and remembers his colleague as “the most reasonable and fair officer” with whom he ever worked.

Gordon had continued to cross paths with Cole prior to the shooting as his career advanced to Mercer Rescue and the Norridgewock Fire Department. It was there that Gordon supported law enforcement during the four-day manhunt for Cole's killer.

On April 25, 2020, Gordon became the first recipient of the Corporal Eugene Cole Scholarship. Managed by the Maine Community Foundation, the scholarship supports Somerset County residents pursuing careers in law enforcement or public safety. The Cole family presented him with the scholarship on “Corporal Eugene Cole Day” in Norridgewock. “I could not be more humbled to be given this gift, especially with the emotional ties it has for me,” Gordon says.



The scholarship represents another step in Gordon's education journey that began at Mount Blue High School and included studies in fire science at Southern Maine Community College, a live-in firefighter program in Windham, and, most recently, rookie school through the South Portland Fire Department.

Along the way, Gordon worked in public safety dispatch centers and took on vocational and public safety employment while maintaining an on-call status with local fire departments. In 2018, he became a full-time firefighter/EMT in Farmington, a position he left about a year later to pursue a paramedic license. He worked for Delta Ambulance in Waterville as an EMT and was hired full time in June as a firefighter/EMT for the City of South Portland.

Gordon is using the \$2,070 Cole Scholarship for studies to obtain a paramedic license through a nationally accredited program at the United Training Center in Lewiston. The financial support was especially important: As a nontraditional student attending an educational center not affiliated with the University of Maine system, Gordon cannot access traditional student aid.

Gordon plans to continue per-diem and on-call work for the Reddington-Fairview General Hospital EMS in Skowhegan and the Farmington and Norridgewock fire departments.

These jobs, he explains, generally don't fall in the same week as one another or conflict with his full-time position as a firefighter/paramedic with the City of South Portland. Gordon also aspires to be an instructor in emergency services.

Corporal Cole's family, friends, and law enforcement brothers and sisters launched the scholarship fund at the Maine Community Foundation to honor the deputy's passion for law enforcement. "I did a bit of research and talked to [MaineCF Scholarship Funds Manager] Liz Fickett, and within weeks we were up and running," said Sheryl Cole, his wife of 41 years.

"We felt extremely proud, blessed, and comforted to be able to award the first scholarship to Aaron, who worked with Gene," she said. "Our family wants to help those who choose to help others," she added. "It's the Corporal Cole way: respect, dignity, and kindness, the way he treated everyone," she said. "We want his way to live on."

The Maine Community Foundation has worked with donors and educators since 1983 to provide Maine students access to educational opportunities. MaineCF manages more than 660 scholarship funds. For more information about our scholarship program, contact Scholarship Funds Manager Liz Fickett at efickett@mainecf.org.

Left: Corporal Eugene Cole was 61 when he was killed in the line of duty.

Right: Runners, led by Cole's daughter Jill (at right), cross the Corporal Eugene Cole Memorial Bridge in Norridgewock during the second annual Corporal Cole Memorial 5k and Half Marathon. Due to the pandemic, this year's races were virtual. All proceeds support the scholarship. Photo Cheyenne Paron/Town Line

PROFESSIONAL
ADVISOR



*Edgar S. Catlin, III, photographed
in downtown Brunswick.
Photo Sijie Yuan*

"If not now, when?"

Brunswick attorney at law Edgar S. Catlin, III, reflects on the increased attention to planned giving during the pandemic.

MaineCF: How did you first become familiar with the Maine Community Foundation?

Edgar Catlin: I first heard of MaineCF in the 1990s through a client. I was retained to review an estate plan focused on MaineCF. I'm embarrassed to admit I wasn't familiar with the foundation at that time; this was before "Google" was a verb or available as a search engine. I fumbled around online, became educated about MaineCF, and was impressed by what I read.

MaineCF: When do you think about the community foundation as an option for your clients?

Catlin: I first contacted MaineCF for my own purposes. In the early 2000s I was working with a group to establish a 501(c)(3) to provide camperships for deserving campers otherwise unable to attend the Maine summer camp I had attended as a kid. That effort was frustrated by a number of factors, so I turned to MaineCF.

To be a successful fund and attract donors, I knew it had to be bullet-proof from the perspective of the IRS. MaineCF's participation, and its due diligence that preceded its involvement, assured that that would be the case. That experience, in my dual capacity of donor and advisor, convinced me that MaineCF was the preferred option for a client with a charitable focus.

MaineCF: The pandemic has caused many people to think about what is important to them and their own mortality. How do you think planned giving reflects this moment?

Catlin: Many of my colleagues report a significant increase in estate planning since March. In my own practice, I am experiencing the same.

I think that like all other things that we put off in life, those who have considered a charitable component for their estate plan are thinking these days, "If not now, when?" Planned giving can easily be a can that gets kicked down the road. I think that people who have had a planned giving intent, but who have not yet implemented it in their estate plan, are now feeling more inclined to formalize their planned giving.

MaineCF: Are there any client scenario(s) that you'd like to share?

Catlin: Over the years I have had a number of clients donate to MaineCF, whether by establishing a fund during their lifetime and providing additional funding to it via their estate plan, or by identifying one of the many funds that the foundation administers that appeals to a particular interest or matter of importance to them.

I also have introduced a client to MaineCF who wanted to make a charitable bequest but who did not have a particular focus for their giving. Again, credit goes to the client and not to me: They instructed me that their focus was MaineCF, period, without specification, i.e., making a discretionary charitable bequest to the community foundation.

I called MaineCF and learned that such a bequest is not only possible but of great importance to the lifeblood of the organization, allowing it to be nimble to address issues and challenges as they arise. That particular estate plan was finalized with the discretionary bequest to MaineCF included. Since that experience, when asked by clients for charitable bequest opportunities, I always mention a discretionary bequest to MaineCF as a possible option.

Raised in Brunswick, Maine, Edgar S. Catlin, III, received a B.A. degree from Hamilton College in 1976. Upon graduation, he returned to his hometown to work for the Maine Legislature and a local attorney. After earning a J.D. from the University of Maine School of Law in 1981, he was a law clerk for the judge for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maine. Catlin started practice as an associate with Locke, Campbell & Chapman in Augusta. In 1987, he joined the law firm Eaton, Peabody and became a partner in 1988. In 1994, Catlin opened his own office where he focuses on real estate, business, commercial, corporate, and banking law.

Catlin has been active in various board and advisory roles in the mid-coast region, including Brunswick Resources Corporation, Pejepscot Historical Society, First Parish Church of Brunswick, Mid-Coast Hospital, Maine Hospital Association, and Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Bath-Brunswick. He has also been a member of the Town of Brunswick Zoning Ordinance Task Force and served on the board of the Bath-Brunswick Area Chamber of Commerce.

What Matters Most?

The past few months have tested Maine traditions we hold so dear, from crowded breakfast tables on Maine Maple Sunday to bean suppers and backyard picnics. Still, our common traits remain strong during this trying chapter of Maine history: commitment to community, compassion, and resilience.

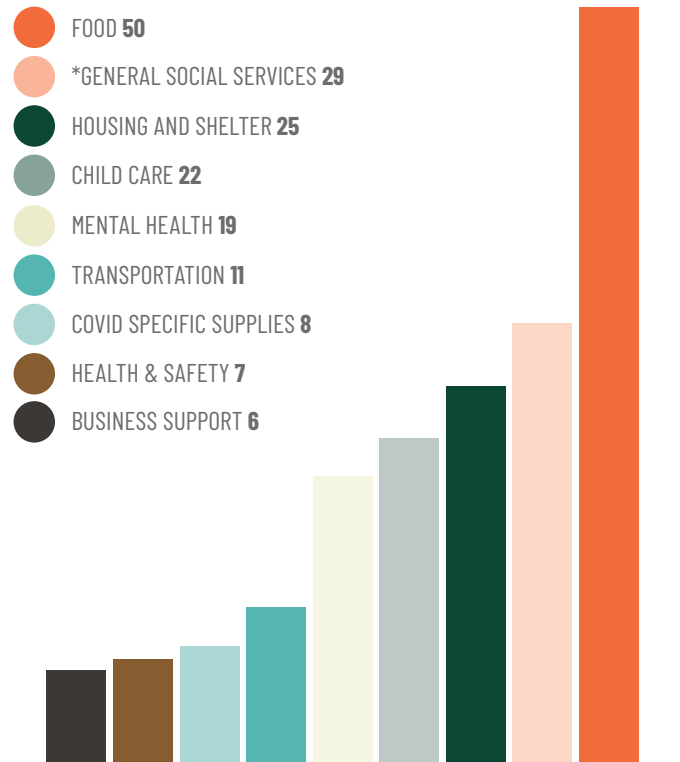
Mainers have stepped up in so many ways during the pandemic. They show they care with hand-painted signs (“Keep the hope!”), more kind words, smiling eyes, and help for neighbors. MaineCF has awarded more than \$3 million in flexible emergency grants to the state’s nonprofit organizations and our donors have issued nearly \$3.6 million more in direct grants from their advised funds.

Still, we’re very worried about the ongoing needs of Maine people and their quality of life as the pandemic’s grip tightens and winter sets in. Our COVID-19 grantees are grappling with uncertainty, financial instability, and snowballing demands they predict for the months ahead. “It is a constant fear that we will not be able to meet the increased need and that we will have to start turning community members away,” wrote one grantee.

Now is a time to hold tight to what matters most, whether it’s our families, education, righting racial injustices, or leaving our state in good hands for future generations. Please join us as we reflect on ways we can all give back and shine a light during the dark months ahead.

COVID-19 Needs

Late this summer we asked COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund grantees about the most pressing needs they anticipated for the populations they serve.



**General financial assistance, unemployment assistance, and assistance connecting to state resources.*