



REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2020-2021
MAINE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

FORWARD

MOVING FORWARD

The Maine Community Foundation's annual *Report to the Community* offers an opportunity to review progress. It's also an occasion to reflect – 2020 and 2021 to date offer more than the usual food for thought. If there's one thing the pandemic has taught us, change can happen quickly and forcefully. As we move forward, MaineCF and our partners will use experiences of the previous 18 months to build an even stronger foundation for the future.

We know Maine, but we got to know the state even better as people faced health and economic hardships. It was all hands – and hearts – on deck. MaineCF processed a record amount of grants to nonprofit organizations that supported those who needed the most assistance. The COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund provided grants totaling more than \$4.3 million, with nearly two-thirds going to social services, food, health, and safety. Another \$4 million was granted directly from donor-advised funds to nonprofit organizations for similar critical COVID-related services.

Every year MaineCF receives more than 1,000 proposals through our 26 competitive grant programs. We are grateful for the involvement of MaineCF's donor-advised fund donors who, through our enhanced proposal-sharing program Giving Together, provided nearly half a million dollars in grants to nonprofit organizations that submitted proposals to our competitive funds. We thank our donors for stepping up year after year.

At the same time, the Maine Community Foundation reached a milestone in March when it surpassed \$500 million in grants awarded since it was founded 38 years ago.

This is a time of transition at the foundation. We thank Steve Rowe for his remarkable leadership as president and CEO over the past six years and welcome interim president and CEO Sterling Speirn, a seasoned foundation executive. We also thank Karen Stanley for her stellar guidance as board chair through unprecedented times. We are grateful she will stay on the board another year to lead the search for a new president and CEO.

The board also thanks Peter Mills and Anne Roosevelt for their nine-year board service. Mills served on the finance, governance, and audit committees, while Roosevelt led the program committee and county council and served on the Western Mountains Committee.

This year MaineCF's first three county funds – in Aroostook, Piscataquis, and Washington – will mark 35 years of grantmaking (see page 12 and the back cover). Our county committees are critical partners that help us accomplish our statewide work. The county advisors are our valued eyes and ears – and ambassadors to every corner of the state.

We also look forward to work on a new organizational strategic plan. Consultant Sutherland Strategies and the board's strategic planning committee will perform a situational analysis; analyze results of a survey of MaineCF donors, nonprofit partners, and others; and review industry best practices. Our goal is to present a final plan to the board at our December meeting. It's an ambitious agenda, but we're confident in our board and staff to embrace these changes and continue to move us forward.

Thank you for everything you do to support the Maine Community Foundation and its mission: to improve the quality of life for all Maine people.



D. Gregg Collins
Chair, Board of Directors



Adilah Muhammad
Vice Chair, Board of Directors



Inside...

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Above: A detail from a photo by Christopher A Mills Photography shows a tree on the Kingsbury Family Farm in Aroostook County that has offered picnic shade for decades; a detail from a photo of Little Spencer Mountain in Piscataquis County by Flickr user Jeff Gunn; a detail from a photo of West Quoddy Head Light in Washington County by Flickr user Kim Carpenter.

On the cover: Potato plants flower with white and purple blossoms in Monticello. Photo Christopher A Mills Photography

INSPIRED

The COVID-19 pandemic taught us a lot about ourselves and our communities, especially for many nonprofit organizations in Maine. MaineCF awarded its final rounds of proactive grants from the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund in May, bringing the total to \$4,345,953. This spring we reached out to three of those 238 nonprofit grantees to learn more about the challenges they faced – and takeaways that will move their diverse work forward.



“Although 2020 was a year of great challenge, it was also a rare opportunity for us to envision, create, and evaluate. It provided us with a clearer picture of what we hope to do as an organization to enrich and innovate, to move beyond and above.” - Puranjot Kaur

*Puranjot Kaur and Mahandeva Singh, co-founders of Open Table MDI, prepare salad for bagged dinners.
Photo Ashley L. Conti*

Open Table MDI

NOURISHING COMMUNITY
IN NEW AND BETTER WAYS

Mahandeva Singh and Puranjot Kaur launched Open Table MDI three years ago with free weekly dinners at Bar Harbor Congregational Church. The dinners are open to all, feature local musicians and some pretty amazing food served in the spirit of cultivating community. One meal this spring hosted a record 394 diners for a menu of green lentil curry (27 gallons), coconut carrots, basmati rice, mint Raita, blueberry chutney, and flatbreads.

That bounty – acquired locally, served up with abundant volunteer hands, and bolstered by a MaineCF COVID-19 grant of \$6,500 – was a boon to many on the island and beyond during the pandemic. Open Table MDI served 84

percent more meals in 2020 than 2019 as some families had to choose between buying food or paying household bills.

When physical distancing became a concern last year, the nonprofit organization offered takeout food and delivery, including provisions through its new MDI Food Access Project. Those weekly boxes include non-perishable food, prepared meals, produce, bread, and eggs.

The past year made clear that Open Table MDI was ready for an expansion: As this issue of the annual report goes to print, the kitchen built on love is tripling in size at 116 Cottage Street, a new downtown location.

Legal Services for the Elderly

EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY
TO KEEP OLDER ADULTS SAFE

Help line calls for emergency assistance from Legal Services for the Elderly (LSE) in Augusta increased 65 percent last year as older adults tried to stay safe at home during the pandemic – and the trend is continuing this year. The nonprofit organization provides free legal help to older adults in Maine when their basic human needs are at stake.



“It was of critical importance to keep our mission, and the needs of our clients, in the forefront throughout this challenging time. Doing so led to an inspiring level of creativity and adaptation by the LSE staff.” – Jaye Martin

Jaye Martin, LSE’s executive director, says clients faced the terrifying prospect of being forced to move in the midst of the pandemic because of an eviction, foreclosure, or loss of public benefits. Many also endured dangerous situations when abusive tenants or family members stayed in clients’ homes longer than expected.

As the health threat to older adults became clear, LSE immediately advocated for remote hearings and proceedings to protect clients from the risk of virus exposure at in-person proceedings. LSE, with MaineCF grant funding, purchased iPads to lend clients who didn’t have access to an electronic device or cellular access for video proceedings. Additional funding from MaineCF helped LSE gear up to handle more emergency cases.

Today Legal Services for the Elderly has embraced systemic improvements from the pandemic months, from the iPad lending library to Zoom for statewide trainings and technology that keeps staff in closer contact. “We are working to reimagine what a new and improved LSE will look like coming out of the pandemic rather than trying to ‘get back’ to the old ways of doing things,” says Martin.

Maine Immigrants’ Rights Coalition

BUILDING LADDERS TO
KEEP GRASSROOTS REAL

One glance at the network connected through the Maine Immigrants’ Rights Coalition (MIRC) on its ecosystem map shows the wide reach of its membership – 77 nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and others that support programs and policies that promote immigrant inclusion and integration.

The pandemic added more layers to MIRC’s mission: translating COVID-19 information into 17 languages, developing a 24-7 referral call system with the state, and acting as fiscal sponsor for close to 15 small ethnic communities that helped channel funds directly to grassroots organizations that did not have nonprofit status.

MIRC created the referral system with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, community action agencies, and immigrant-led community organizations. It provided social services from trusted health workers to any community member in quarantine or isolation at a time when language and cultural considerations were so important. Today the system, also used for COVID-19 testing and scheduling vaccinations, is being viewed as a model across the country. A \$30,000 grant from MaineCF’s COVID-19 fund helped support this critical work.



“The Maine Immigrants’ Rights Coalition did not only advocate for systematic change for equitable access to resources during this pandemic, but our work exemplified ‘moving forward,’ how to empower ethnic-based organizations so that services can reach grassroots communities.” – Mufalo Chitam

Mufalo Chitam, MIRC executive director, says structures created during the pandemic will last long after the pandemic for use in other areas, such as education. “We don’t need to turn grassroots into mainstream – we can build ladders in between that provide that support.”



Bridging the Nature Gap

Portland's Riverton Trolley Park marks 125th anniversary with a conservancy's commitment to its neighbors.

It's hard to imagine, on an afternoon walk through Portland's quiet Riverton Trolley Park, that some 10,000 visitors in long Victorian dresses, suits, and elaborate hats strolled the grounds for its opening day on June 27, 1896.

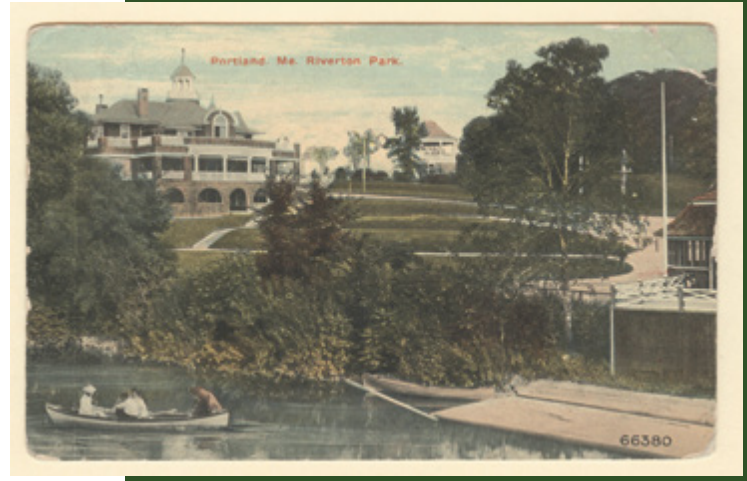
Today the park, with its tall trees and grassy paths, is silent save for a symphony of birds along the banks of the Presumpscot River. A few reminders of the park's glorious past remain – large stone gates, scattered granite blocks, and a cascade of carved steps that lead to the water. Weathered copies of old images, tacked on posts along the path, show visitors what they might have seen so long ago.

Still, the future of Riverton Trolley Park remains hopeful despite its status as the city's most underutilized public park. The Portland Parks Conservancy, with grants from MaineCF's Conservation for All and Community Building grant programs, has embraced this historic gem as a place to welcome more Maine people to the outdoors.

Access for underserved communities and preserving the park's history will play key roles in conservancy plans for its 20 acres. The Riverton neighborhood is one of Portland's most racially diverse areas, home to many immigrants and refugees who live just a short walk from the park's entrance behind a Little League ballfield.

While other parks in affluent neighborhoods have “friends of” groups that offer support, the effort to revitalize Riverton will rely primarily on grants and philanthropy. Nan Cumming, executive director of Portland Parks Conservancy, has high hopes a \$500,000 federal matching grant, if approved, will provide the access and amenities that would draw neighborhood families and others.

Urban parks such as Riverton are essential to close the “nature gap,” where people have inequitable access to the outdoors based on race, income, and age. In Maine, 96 percent of low-income and non-white residents live in a nature-deprived area, according to 2017 U.S. Census



statistics. MaineCF's Conservation for All grant program aims to break down those barriers and help build strong connections between all Maine people and its land and water.

“One of the unique things about Maine is the proximity to special places all around us, whether that’s the local park, beach, stream, frog pond, or the 100-Mile Wilderness,” said Maggie Drummond-Bahl, senior program officer at MaineCF. “The hard truth is that access to these special places is not easy for all of us. This grant program aims to support organizations and programs that break down the barriers.”

This spring, the Conservation for All grant funded the Portland Parks Conservancy’s survey of neighbors – in seven languages. Nearly 400 people responded, including replies from people who don’t live in the area. The response, says Cumming, was gratifying, with real passion from neighbors and equal enthusiasm from folks who’d never even been to the park and saw potential for amenities that don’t exist elsewhere in the city.

At the top of the needs list are wayfinding and interpretive signs in several languages that would tell the site’s history and a kiosk to welcome visitors. The dream list includes a picnic pavilion, mountain bike/pump track, fields for pollinators, and community gardens.

The Community Building grant awarded this spring through MaineCF’s Cumberland County Fund will help fund a conservancy volunteer coordinator position. In July, the nonprofit organization also is launching the Portland Youth Corps, a leadership development and service program for young teens from disadvantaged backgrounds. Crew members will receive a stipend, mentoring, and work experience for conservation work in Portland parks.

“The whole public process has been personally very moving to me,” says Cumming. “The people I spoke with who live in the neighborhood truly do feel forgotten. They know what a huge impact the park will have on their lives and the future of their community.”

If you’d like to learn more about MaineCF’s Conservation for All grant program, please contact Maggie Drummond-Bahl at mbahl@mainecf.org.

The Portland Railroad Company built Riverton with hopes a 5-cent round-trip trolley ticket (including park admission) would draw working-class Portlanders from downtown to the edge of Westbrook on weekends when trolleys needed passengers.

Its lawns and flowers, envisioned by designers of the Boston Public Gardens, featured a large casino (not for gambling), dance hall, bandstand, carousel, small zoo, croquet field, and the outdoor Rustic Theater that could seat 2,500 people on a hillside amphitheater. Anglers would find a stocked trout pond or access to the Presumpscot River for canoes and small steamboats.

The company sold Riverton Park at the beginning of World War I, but it remained open with more amusement park rides and other attractions until 1933. Buildings that weren’t destroyed by fires were scavenged for wood during the Great Depression.

*Parts of Riverton Trolley Park’s past still remain on the site, including steps that once led to a pavilion and the entrance gates.
Photos Jill Brady.*

Above right, a ca. 1910 postcard from the collection of the Seashore Trolley Museum, Kennebunkport, shows the park’s casino.



How's Your Speed?

If you've struggled with broadband access, you're not alone. MaineCF forges connections that move Maine forward.

After the past 14 months of Zoom time, we've grown accustomed to slow-motion or frozen images and intermittent conversations that reveal where we are on the connectedness spectrum.

In Maine, it's not hard to spot who has a rural internet location. Sometimes it's even hard to find one.

At least 83,000 households in Maine don't have internet access, according to a 2020 estimate from the state's ConnectMaine Authority (ConnectME). The fix is costly: an estimated \$600 million to provide high-speed internet to 95 percent of Maine.

That situation hopefully will change soon, thanks to multi-pronged efforts across Maine supported by MaineCF and \$120 million coming our way in federal Economic Recovery Act funds to expand internet through communities and private providers. Maine also realized more internet funding from the \$15 million High Speed Internet Infrastructure Bond that voters approved last July.

"The federal news was sweet indeed after a grueling and heartbreaking year of COVID-19 when our ability to connect virtually was more important than ever," says Maggie Drummond-Bahl, MaineCF senior program officer. She oversees the community foundation's Community

Broadband Grant Program, launched in 2018 as part of MaineCF's work to support entrepreneurs and innovators.

"As a community foundation, with a small percentage of discretionary funding available, we initially did not think we could meaningfully support the work of expanding broadband," says Drummond-Bahl. "If we didn't have the scale of funding that infrastructure requires and it is really the role of government to invest in infrastructure, what could we contribute?"

The answer was partnerships – what Drummond-Bahl calls the "secret sauce" – to propel Maine toward better high-speed internet service. "We must use the funding we have to support community planning efforts, build the capacity of organizations and coalitions doing field work, be ready for emerging opportunities, and raise our voices to advocate for better connectivity," she says.

Last year, MaineCF's Community Broadband Grant Program awarded nearly \$118,000 in grants toward broadband efforts and donors contributed an additional \$31,000 through their donor-advised funds. This third year of funding supports community working groups and nonprofit organizations, helps increase digital literacy, and aims to ensure more equitable internet access.

Building trust – and partnerships – in an independent, rural, and coastal state like Maine has been critical to meet the needs of different communities. One partnership has the potential to change life dramatically at Passamaquoddy Indian Township Reservation near Calais, which has no high-speed internet service.

More than 150 students at the Tribe’s K-8 school haven’t set foot in school since March 2020 – and spotty cell service meant roughly half couldn’t access virtual instruction through the tablets and hot spots the Tribal school department provided. The poor connection also limited studies on virtual days for Passamaquoddy students who attend off-reservation high school.

The dire situation propelled Education Resource Coordinator Nakia Dana on a mission this spring to find high-speed internet for the Tribe’s 320 households. Dana contacted Drummond-Bahl, who convened and coordinated a partnership between foundations and MaineCF donors to find \$315,000 in matching funds that enabled the Tribe to work with a local internet provider. Pioneer Broadband will build the network and provide affordable internet service after approval arrives to string cables on utility poles.

Fund commitments came from MaineCF’s Broadband Initiative Fund, the John T. Gorman Foundation, Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, Sandy River Charitable Foundation, the Broadreach Fund, and two MaineCF donors through their donor-advised funds.

“Bridging the digital divide is more than infrastructure,” says Drummond-Bahl. “It’s about ensuring equitable access to high-speed internet for everyone in our communities.” To this end, the project at Indian Township includes summer programming to begin reconnecting kids as well as an affordability fund to ensure that the maximum number of households are connected to the new high-speed service.

Dana’s fast-tracked project got more good news in early June when ConnectME awarded the Tribe over \$105,000 toward the community project – one of 20 grants funded through the 2020 broadband bond. The Tribe also has applied to buy into the Downeast Broadband Utility, Maine’s first (and only) municipal internet broadband utility, owned by Calais, Baileyville, and Alexander.

“Broadband is an essential utility at this point in our lives. I know there are other rural places that lack high-speed internet, but it feels like the 1950s when there was access to electricity all around us, but not here on the reservation,” says Dana. “Not only will students have access to educational opportunities from primary grades to graduate studies, but it changes the makeup of our economic development potential.”

Making Connections

MaineCF’s Community Broadband program provided funding to nonprofit organizations and municipalities for a wide range of efforts in 2020, with grants totaling nearly \$118,000 and additional awards of more than \$31,000 by donors from their donor-advised funds. Several grants in Western Maine were made in collaboration with the Betterment Fund.

Projects since 2018 include:

- Maine West Broadband Bootcamp workshops to help communities learn about economic impacts of broadband expansion, mapping of services, financing, and other planning
- The Alexander Broadband Project that will help offset costs of providing high-speed internet to residents and joining Downeast Broadband Utility
- Opportunity Center of North Franklin County’s plan to run fiber to homes in six of 36 communities
- 3 Bridged Islands Broadband Company’s work with Georgetown, Arrowsic, and Southport to acquire grants for a fiber-to-home broadband system.

Opposite: The Town of Lisbon received a Community Broadband grant to create public WiFi “hot spots” that will boost internet connectivity for entrepreneurial, youth, and adult education initiatives.

Photo Russ Dillingham PhotoGRAPHICS

What We've Learned

MaineCF's work to improve quality of life in Maine provides a path toward progress in critical areas.

When the Maine Community Foundation began its strategic planning work in 2016, we asked two fundamental questions: What can we do to improve the quality of life for Maine people? And how can we work with our partners to do it? Here's a look at our five strategic focus areas today, an example of a strategy that worked, and where we go from here.

STRONG START

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

What worked: What young children need to thrive is well documented, but critical gaps still exist between best practices and opportunities for children and families. MaineCF selected six communities as pilot sites to explore how to bridge those gaps in Maine. Our Early Childhood Community Grant Program provided first-year planning grants so each area could identify its childhood population, resources, and barriers, and develop action plans to overcome obstacles. Additional funding helped implement the plans in second and third years.

Leaders from each community collaborated across traditional divides during the planning process and in creating their implementation plan. The trust, connections, and communication they developed during strategic planning created a foundation for rapid responses when the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

What's next: Networks established with MaineCF "seed" grants have expanded and successfully secured other grant funding to continue their work.

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Our vision: *All Maine people, including adult learners and other nontraditional students, can complete a degree or certificate program to maximize their potential.*

What worked: Our research shows adults comprise 30% of Maine's post-secondary enrollment, but they often do not have adequate funding or supports to complete their education. MaineCF's new Adult Learner Scholarship program meets students where they are, for the program they need, and provides funding until they complete their

education. Making the program as flexible as possible – allowing the scholarships to work for almost any credential program and having frequent deadlines, simple applications, and renewable awards – filled a critical gap.

Because there are so many doors for adults to reenter college – adult education, career centers, campuses – it is challenging to connect to potential applicants. Working with partner organizations brought in more adult learners and provided support they needed to be successful.

What's next: Endowed funds will continue support for MaineCF's Adult Learner Scholarship and changing needs of adult students.

RACIAL EQUITY

Our vision: *All people in Maine have access to opportunities and life outcomes that are not determined or predictable in any way by race or ethnicity.*

What worked: We discovered leaders of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and other people of color) organizations often struggle to find time and resources for relevant professional development. MaineCF's Investing in Leaders of Color grant program matched BIPOC leaders with individual coaches who helped focus on specific areas of development. Leaders grew professionally, strengthened their organizations, and built networks that raised their profile and their organizations. Stipends from MaineCF allowed the leaders to carve out time and structure for their own development, which provided for concrete organizational changes and improvements.

What's next: Funding will continue this program for several more years. Leaders who participated in the program continue to network with each other and the greater nonprofit community.

THRIVING OLDER PEOPLE

Our vision: All older people in Maine are valued and able to thrive and age in their workplaces and communities with health, independence, and dignity.

What worked: We know many communities want to support older residents but struggle to build infrastructure that can support aging. MaineCF's Lifelong Communities



Fellows Program, implemented by the University of Maine's Center on Aging, connected older adult volunteer leaders (fellows) to communities that needed assistance with lifelong community efforts. The program included training, stipends, support for fellows, and opportunities for everyone to learn.

The fellows developed their skills and leadership and brought new ideas and fresh eyes to each community. The communities, in turn, benefited from the fellows' help and could speed up efforts that improved the quality of life for older residents.

What's next: The Center on Aging has applied for a grant to create the Lifelong Maine AmeriCorps Program (LMAP) that will enable fellows to mentor each LMAP member.

INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Our vision: All entrepreneurs and innovators in Maine have the opportunity to bring their big ideas to life.

What worked: We know many rural entrepreneurs have limited services and connections to meet their needs. MaineCF worked with the Maine Downtown Center to bring

national expertise to Main Street communities through our Community Entrepreneurship Program. This program helped communities plan and implement projects to support entrepreneurs and innovation and build an entrepreneurial "ecosystem" – a network of resources that influences business success.

Targeting entrepreneurial work in geographic regions instead of linking efforts to a specific industry aligned better with how rural Maine operates. And pairing

planning and implementation grants helped support change from beginning to end. The virtual format imposed by COVID-19 became a plus that allowed communities to easily connect beyond their region.

What's next: The program will continue through the Maine Downtown Center.

Holly Allen of Yarmouth strikes a pose in this photo by her daughter Ashley Allen, the first-place winner in the amateur division of the Focus on Real Aging in Maine (FRAME) Photo Contest. The contest aimed to bring a more positive perspective to older Mainers during the COVID-19 pandemic and was sponsored by the Maine Gerontological Society and the University of Maine Center on Aging in collaboration with the Maine Community Foundation and Elder Abuse Institute of Maine. Holly Allen made more than 1,500 masks for donation during the pandemic. Ashley will study photography at Endicott College this fall as a MaineCF Guy P. Gannett journalism scholar.

TRAILBLAZERS

This year, we celebrate the 35th anniversary of our first three county funds, pioneers all: Aroostook, Piscataquis, and Washington. We'll host a party – see this report's back cover for details – with videos and anniversary grants to mark the occasion as well as celebrate the work of grantees to strengthen Maine. More than that, it's an opportunity to thank the many donors who built the funds with their generous contributions during their lifetime and through their estate plans. We also thank the volunteer community leaders who review grant applications and help inspire giving in all corners of Maine. They are the backbone of our County and Regional Program.

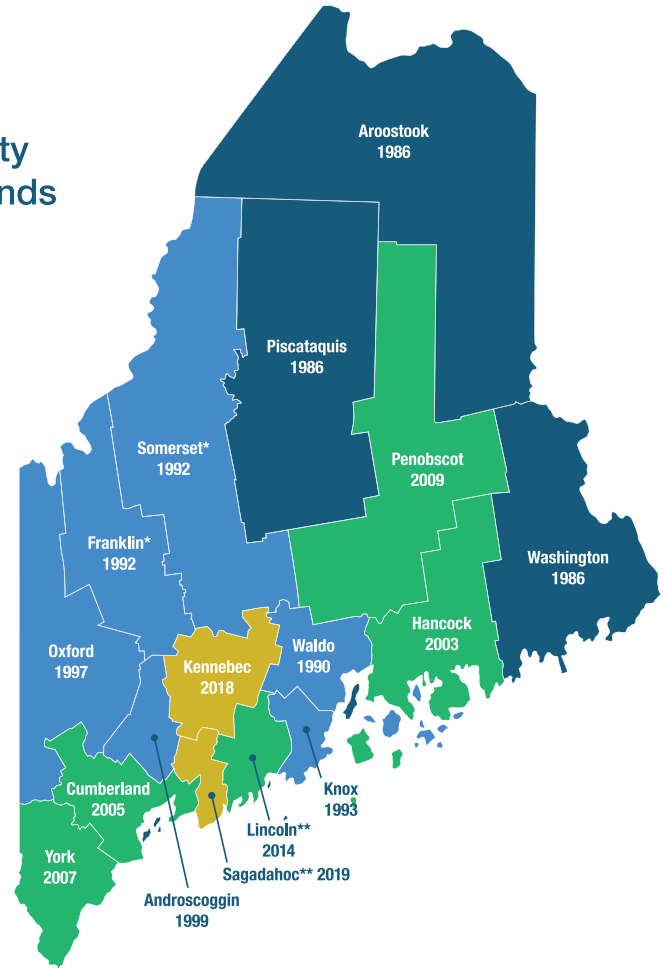
MaineCF's County and Regional Funds

Year Established

- 1980s
- 1990s
- 2000s
- 2010s

**Grants in Franklin and Somerset counties are awarded by the Western Mountains Committee.*

***Grants in Lincoln and Sagadahoc counties are awarded by the Southern Midcoast Committee.*



Aroostook County



Total county fund grant dollars since 1986:
\$1,052,731

Total county fund grants since 1986:
373

County fund grants in 2021:
\$57,879

Donor-referred grants in 2021:
\$26,980

Other competitive grants in 2021:
\$25,000

Scholarships to county students in 2020:
78 awards totaling \$194,599

BigRock Mountain Ski Area

A grant from the Aroostook County Fund helped expand after-school programs for local students at BigRock Mountain Ski Area. The Mars Hill nonprofit organization's goal: to increase the number of young people it reaches through skiing and snowboarding lessons. Photo BigRock Mountain

Piscataquis County



Total county fund grant dollars since 1986:
\$909,950

Total county fund grants since 1986:
247

County fund grants in 2021:
\$43,500

Donor-referred grants in 2021:
\$2,000

Other competitive grants in 2021:
\$17,000

Scholarships to county students in 2020:
66 awards totaling \$45,721

Appalachian Mountain Club

Katie Joyner-Robertson, left, science teacher at Penquis Valley High School, prepares to release Atlantic salmon fry into the West Branch of the Pleasant River with Genevieve Trafelet, former Maine education and program manager for the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC). A grant from the Piscataquis County Fund helps expand hands-on outdoor programming for students in Piscataquis County. Photo AMC

Washington County



Total county fund grant dollars since 1986:
\$1,828,414

Total county fund grants since 1986:
458

County fund grants in 2021:
\$107,542

Donor-referred grants in 2021:
\$53,764

Other competitive grants in 2021:
\$25,000

Scholarships to county students in 2020:
75 awards totaling \$218,037

Healthy Acadia

Volunteers Eric Buck, left, and Phil Alteri assemble a swing set outside Safe Harbor Recovery Home for Women and Children in Machias in May. Safe Harbor received a Washington County Fund grant through Healthy Acadia that helped purchase the swing set along with furnishings for the house. Photo Ashley L. Conti

Gregg Collins: Champion of Community and Aroostook County's Future

The new chair of the MaineCF Board of Directors reflects on his connections to the foundation and the place he calls home.

MaineCF: The Collins family has been involved with the Aroostook County Fund and the Maine Community Foundation since almost day one. When did you first become aware of the foundation?

Gregg Collins: My father Don always had a strong desire to serve his community, so it was no surprise when he and other local leaders provided seed money to establish the Aroostook County Fund in 1986. When I was first asked to join the Aroostook County Committee, I knew of the history and was drawn to the mission of helping others in the community where I lived and worked. My dad went on to serve on the MaineCF board, so I guess I've followed in his footsteps.

MaineCF: You were an advisor for the Aroostook County Fund from 2006 to 2014, serving as vice chair and then chair. Looking back, was there a particular grant that stood out?

Collins: When I first joined the Aroostook County Committee in 2006, I remember we struggled to meet funding requests with limited dollars. We often faced difficult decisions, especially when additional sources weren't available, and our partial contribution wasn't enough to make a difference. The Catholic Charities Food Bank, Maine Winter Sports Center, and Homeless Services of Aroostook are some of the memorable grant requests that were funded when I served on the committee.

“I ... was drawn to the mission of helping others in the community where I lived and worked.”

Fast forward to today: With increased contributions to MaineCF's county funds and the outstanding returns provided by our investment committee we are often able to fully fund requests. The strategy in recent years to fully fund fewer requests instead of a partial funding approach has made a significant difference.

MaineCF: What do you hope will come out of MaineCF's new strategic planning process?

Collins: The new strategic plan will adopt best practices by identifying those areas the foundation does well and addressing those that might need to change while recognizing our culture and values as Maine's community foundation. It's extremely important that we continue to be in contact with our donors while supporting Mainers in this very diverse state. The needs of Aroostook and Washington counties can look significantly different than those of Cumberland or York. As our mission states, we work to improve the quality of life for all Maine people.

MaineCF: You took part in a MaineCF's Leadership Learning Exchange for Equity. What was a takeaway from that experience?

Collins: The Leadership Learning Exchange provided me an opportunity to connect with other Maine leaders to discuss racial justice and equity issues. The experience gave me a greater knowledge of the historical barriers that have existed for BIPOC people. As employers struggle to find enough workers, we need to be more welcoming to new Mainers and eliminate obstacles that may exist.

MaineCF: You are an advisor to the Presque Isle High School Regional Trades Program. What is your role?

Collins: Working with the director of the PIHS regional career and technical center along with other advisors, I help review curriculum for the Building Trades Program, which provides students knowledge, skills, and hands-on experience in carpentry, masonry, and cabinetmaking. Recently I judged the statewide cabinet-making competition. The amount of talent from the young men and women who competed was truly impressive. Programs like this and similar ones offered by community colleges are critical to provide skills and education to build the workforce of the future in this important trade.



Board Chair Gregg Collins on a visit to Catholic Charities of Maine's Farm for ME in Caribou. Launched in spring 2013 with support from MaineCF's Aroostook County Fund, the program is designed to increase local access to nutritious vegetables, reduce food insecurity, and improve food sustainability in northern Maine. Photo Becky Shea, Sha~Lam Photography

MaineCF: You also are an advisor to the Bicycle Coalition of Maine. Do you ride?

Collins: The Bicycle Coalition of Maine does a great job with promoting cycling events, providing safety education, and advocating for safer routes for both cyclists and pedestrians. I have been a big fan of their Bike Maine event, which draws people from all over the country to Maine each year for an eight-day cycling tour.

I took up the sport in my early 30s and became interested in cycling after a friend of mine loaned me a road bike so I could compete in a local race. I was hooked. Cycling offers me the opportunity to explore scenic roads and meet some wonderful people who have a similar passion for the sport. I consider myself lucky to live in Aroostook County where the

secondary roads have low vehicle traffic, and the majority of motorists are respectful of cyclists. At our retail store in Caribou, S.W. Collins sponsors a weekly ride that is available for all abilities. It's a way to help build community.

As vice president and treasurer of the S.W. Collins Company, D. Gregg Collins is part of the fifth generation to run the family-owned lumber, hardware, and building material business, established in 1844. Collins is a past chair of the Cary Medical Center Hospital Board, Northern Maine Community College Foundation, and the Caribou Planning Board. He joined MaineCF's Aroostook County Committee in 2006 and was chair from 2012-2014. Collins holds a B.S. in business administration, with a concentration in finance, from the University of Maine. He and his wife Lori live in Caribou.



Giving Together

Donald Small of Castine partners with MaineCF to support innovative education programs in memory of a special teacher.

When Leslie Goode saw a grant proposal from Island Readers & Writers to expand reading programs for public school students, she had a notion. Goode, MaineCF’s senior program officer for Hancock and Washington counties, thought of a donor with a donor-advised fund at MaineCF who supports public school programs – especially when activities take learning beyond the classroom. It felt like a good match, so she forwarded the proposal to Castine resident Donald Small.

Goode was right: Small was struck by the opportunities students would have to read outside a formal learning situation. What’s more, it reminded him of Maine Seacoast Mission after-school programs, of which he is a great fan. He made the grant.

MaineCF staff have shared proposals with its donor-advised fund donors for many years, but the foundation recently expanded the benefit through its online Giving Together program. In addition to personal alerts from staff, donors can now access grantee applications through a special online portal.

“It’s an ideal situation,” says Small, who lives in Castine. He collaborates with MaineCF, which he says does “all of the hard work for me and takes care of the money and sorts out what the real needs are and where they are. Then I get to pick and choose the ones I feel come closest to what Bary would have wanted.”

Bary was his wife, Leonie “Bary” Lyon Small, namesake of and inspiration for the MaineCF fund Small established with support from family and friends not long after her death in

2000. “She was a wonderful person, she was spectacular, she was admirable,” he says. She also was a teacher devoted to innovative ideas. She taught in central Maine, was a special education teacher at an inner city school in Boston, and did a stint with an American school in Brazil. “I thought, ‘Let’s try to set up a program where we can encourage other teachers to do the same thing,’” says Small.

Over the years Small has directed grants from his donor-advised fund at MaineCF to a variety of organizations in the downeast region. Small supported creation of the Community Childhood Learning Place in his hometown



and funded Island Heritage Trust’s April Vacation Nature Camp on Deer Isle, Blue Hill Heritage Trust’s Forest Days Professional Learning program, and the Passamaquoddy Bay Symphony Orchestra’s Music for Children production at the Eastport Arts Center of *Brundibár!*, an opera for children composed in 1938 by the Czechoslovakian Jewish composer Hans Krása.

Last year Small transferred money from his donor-advised fund to MaineCF’s COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund. He recognized that operations for nonprofit organizations during the pandemic would be complicated. More than that, he knew many people had lost jobs or had their work cut back. Giving to the COVID-19 Fund was a way to help them.

Small traces his philanthropy to his parents, Harrison and Helen Small. The “modest income” couple – he taught at Maine Maritime Academy and she was a homemaker – donated on a regular basis to organizations that needed help. “They were willing to share what they had,” says Small, adding, “so it was like I didn’t know anything else.”

Small moved to Castine with his family in 1946, when he was eight. After graduating from Castine High School, he went off to the University of Maine to earn undergraduate and graduate degrees in engineering. He worked in industry doing research and developing new equipment around the U.S. and Canada before returning to Castine to teach engineering courses at Maine Maritime Academy for 30 years.

Since retiring, Small has devoted much of his time to volunteer work, including serving in a variety of positions at the Wilson Museum (MaineCF manages its endowment). He also helped found the Castine Writers Group. In 2016 Penobscot Bay Press published his *Salt Water Town*, a collection of stories about Castine from the 1920s to the 1950s. He’s working on a second volume.

Small is a people person; he can’t wait to return to gatherings with his friends and neighbors. He also looks forward to attending musical programs with his wife Shelley, also a retired teacher. They love the Bangor Symphony Orchestra and Celtic concerts on Prince Edward Island.

Small is keen to continue his work with MaineCF, embracing the benefits of giving together. His philosophy is straightforward: “I have more than I need and there are other

people who don’t have enough. Why should we not be sharing it?”

Donors can establish their own donor-advised fund at MaineCF with a minimum contribution of \$25,000. Contact Laura Young at lyoung@mainecf.org or (207) 412-0844 to set up your own fund and learn more about Maine’s nonprofit organizations through MaineCF’s Giving Together program.

Opposite: Caldecott Medal-winning author/illustrator Sophie Blackall shares her picture book Hello Lighthouse with kindergartners at Whiting Village School. Photo Island Readers & Writers

Above: Donald Small on the Castine waterfront with Maine Maritime Academy’s Training Ship State of Maine at dock behind him. Small taught engineering at MMA for 30 years. Photo Gabe Souza

Donna Hathaway: Committed to Community and County

When it came time to plan her estate, this Dover-Foxcroft accountant and former Piscataquis County Fund advisor turned to the Maine Community Foundation.

Donna Hathaway is a seasoned nonprofit volunteer. In her many years advising boards and committees, she has learned a lot about how nonprofit organizations work – and don't. One thing Hathaway noticed: Few nonprofit advisors have investing experience and financial circumstances sometimes lead to poor decisions. "In trying to juggle program budgets with limited funds," she says, "even those organizations with endowments are sometimes tempted, in financially hard times, to withdraw money when it is irresponsible to do so from an investment point of view."

So, when it came time to create her will, Hathaway, a certified public accountant, called on the Maine Community Foundation because she trusts its professional money management. Her bequest to MaineCF will support in perpetuity some of the many organizations she has worked with in Piscataquis County. "Dealing with one organization for my planned giving simplified and streamlined my estate planning while still meeting my objectives," she says.

“Working with other members of the county committee ... was truly eye-opening.”

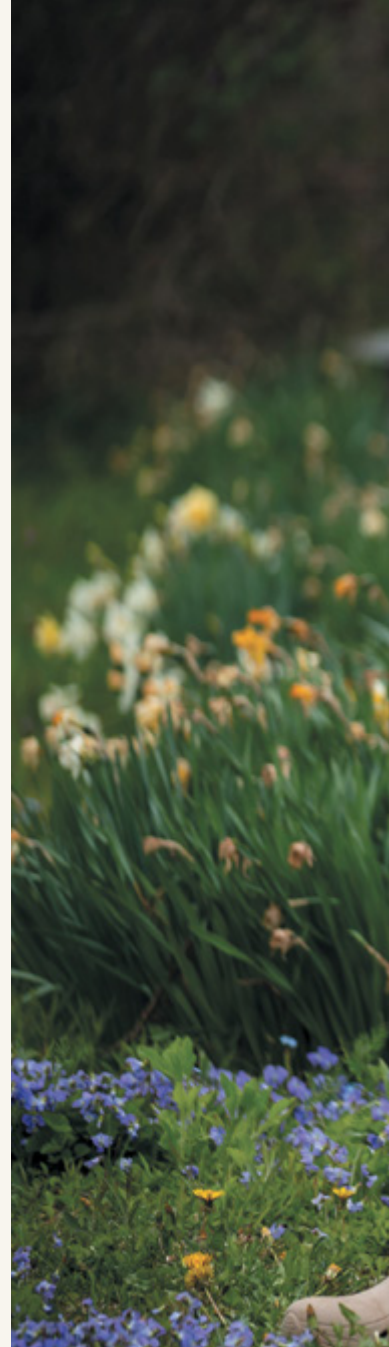
Hathaway and MaineCF go back a ways. She joined the Piscataquis County Committee in 2007 and helped advise grantmaking and build philanthropic resources, including the Piscataquis County Fund, for the next nine years. In that role, she saw firsthand the financial challenges small nonprofit organizations faced. "Working with other members of the county committee, many of whom I hadn't met before becoming an advisor, to learn about new projects and prioritize the limited funding available across the county was truly eye-opening."

But Hathaway best remembers the satisfaction of helping small nonprofit organizations build capacity. "Piscataquis

County Fund grants make a significant difference in the programs nonprofit organizations are able to bring to communities," she says, including helping to build more productive boards with the assistance of capacity-building support. "The county fund is an important resource," she believes. "It will continue to grow and support a variety of nonprofit organizations working to build community and help meet the unmet needs of the region."

Born in Dover-Foxcroft, Hathaway graduated from Foxcroft Academy in 1966 and went on to earn a BA in mathematics with highest distinction from the University of Maine. She married attorney Arthur Hathaway in 1968 and worked for more than two decades as a legal assistant/paralegal in his Dover-Foxcroft law firm. They raised a family of four (she now has six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren).

As her children got older, Hathaway returned to school and attended Husson College for courses in public accounting. She became a licensed CPA in 1988 and was self-employed in that profession for nearly 20 years until she retired in 2006. "I was raised by generous parents who believed in giving back," says Hathaway, explaining how she learned about philanthropy in her youth. Her husband, who passed away in 1992, also influenced her giving. "He believed in the importance of supporting your community and was adamant that even small nonprofits should have endowments."





Donna Hathaway in her garden in Dover-Foxcroft. Photo Gabe Souza

For much of her life Hathaway has given back to her community and county, be it serving on the finance committee for the Congregational Church in Dover-Foxcroft, her 23-year tenure as trustee treasurer of Foxcroft Academy, or being on the board of the Piscataquis YMCA. And there's no letting up: She currently is a member of the Pine Tree Hospice Finance Committee, a director of the University of Maine Foundation, and a corporator of Bangor Savings Bank. She also supervises accounting for the Piscataquis County Economic Development Council.

Despite her extensive volunteer responsibilities, Hathaway manages to get away. She spends summers at her cottage on Sebec Lake and has traveled across the U.S. and Europe.

"I have a long bucket list and I hope to travel more once COVID-19 is under control," she says. She has also enjoyed singing with the University of Maine Oratorio Society and the Dexter Community Chorus for several years.

Whether sheet music or spreadsheets, Hathaway gives it her all.

To learn more about planned giving at the Maine Community Foundation, visit www.mainecef.org. For a private consultation, please call (207) 761-2440 or email info@mainecf.org. If you have already named the foundation in your will, please let us know. We'd be honored to have you become a Friend of Maine.

2020 Financials

BY THE NUMBERS

\$45,495,310

TOTAL GIFTS

\$52,617,978

TOTAL GRANTS
AND SCHOLARSHIPS

\$2,012,388

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
TO INDIVIDUALS

\$680,136,207

TOTAL ASSETS
As of 12/31/20

+14.8%

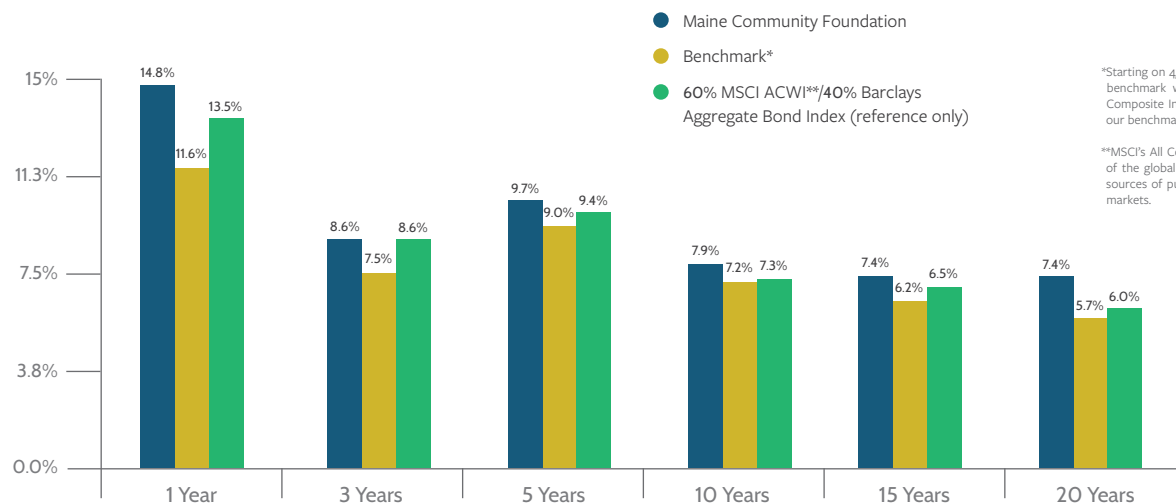
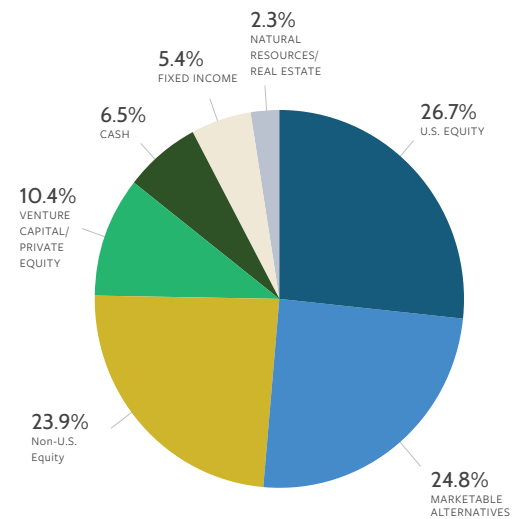
INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

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 40 different investment managers who employ a broad array of strategies and span the globe. Additional financial and investment information is available at mainecf.org/investments.

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

Effective stewardship of philanthropic assets is the key to building permanent charitable funds that can help strengthen Maine communities. The Maine Community Foundation has maintained a sound record of risk-adjusted returns that has served well the foundation and its donors over the long term. Our investment increase of 14.8% in 2020 outperformed our benchmark by more than 3 percentage points.



*Starting on 4/1/2021 the Maine Community Foundation's custom benchmark was 60% MSCI ACWI; 25% HFRI Fund of Funds Composite Index; an 15% BBC US Aggregate TR. The history of our benchmark is available at www.mainecf.org under Financials.

**MSCI's All Country World Index (ACWI) is the accepted gauge of the global public stock market. It provides a view across all sources of public equity returns in 47 developed and emerging markets.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

For 2020, MaineCF's primary investment portfolio gained 14.8% while our benchmark index rose 11.6%. Our overall strategy remains the same: to balance risk in order to preserve and grow capital for charitable purposes. The following chart provides financial figures as of December 31, 2020, with comparative information for the preceding year.

In the past year we received more than \$10 million in bequest gifts and over the past ten years more than \$75 million, demonstrating the collective commitment of close to 100 individuals to the future of Maine. A listing of those who have included MaineCF in their estate plans can be found on our website under "Friends of Maine."

Financial Highlights for the Fiscal Years Ended December 31, 2020, and 2019

Assets	2020 (Unaudited)	2019
Donor-advised funds	\$250,278,797	\$220,449,602
Endowment funds held for nonprofit organizations	122,335,739	108,334,629
Funds designated to specific organizations	110,608,476	86,865,553
Field-of-interest funds	106,699,057	94,761,823
Scholarship funds	60,497,853	49,593,747
Charitable gift annuities and other planned gifts	8,532,990	11,581,158
Special programs	3,032,039	3,840,315
Supporting organizations	10,597,713	9,325,574
Operations	7,553,543	6,933,941
Total Assets	\$680,136,207	\$591,686,342

Gifts Received and Additions to Endowment Funds

Donor-advised funds	\$25,530,567	\$21,522,303
Endowment funds held for nonprofit organizations	5,351,844	12,621,810
Funds designated to specific organizations	7,509,023	2,207,250
Field-of-interest funds	2,523,088	1,230,821
Scholarship funds	4,214,952	2,614,295
Charitable gift annuities and planned gifts receivable	0	1,098,283
Special programs	363,835	781,350
Supporting organizations	0	0
Operations	2,001	6,275
Total Gifts and Additions to Endowments	\$45,495,310	\$42,082,387

Grants Paid and Distributions from Endowment Funds

Donor-advised funds	\$28,832,300	\$18,278,078
Endowment funds held for nonprofit organizations	9,353,754	4,843,316
Funds designated to specific organizations	3,444,840	6,047,937
Field-of-interest funds	7,326,275	3,251,981
Scholarship funds	2,012,388	7,591,734
Supporting organizations	258,750	242,343
Other grants	1,389,671	855,471
Total Grants and Distributions from Endowments	\$52,617,978	\$41,110,860

The annual audit of the 2020 statements was not complete at the time this report was printed. If you would like an audited financial statement, please contact Vice President and Director of Investments James Geary by email, at jgeary@mainecf.org, or by phone, at 877-700-6800. You can also visit www.mainecf.org to view audited financial statements, tax returns, and to learn more about the community foundation's investment program.

New Funds 2020

Donors and nonprofit partners established 70 new funds at the Maine Community Foundation in 2020, bringing the total number under management to more than 2,000. We hope this small sampling conveys a sense of their commitment to Maine.

Cobscook Institute Maintenance Fund

This agency fund supports work of the Cobscook Institute, which opened in 1999 as Cobscook Community Learning Center after members of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Euro-American community, and neighbors from nearby New Brunswick, Canada, came together to find ways to improve life in Washington County. Today the institute offers experiential programs and a campus that is a hub for community learning.

Deer Isle Yacht Club Scholarship Fund

The Deer Isle Yacht Club Scholarship Fund provides scholarship support to a graduating senior at Deer Isle-Stonington High School pursuing a post-secondary education. The first scholarship recipient, Samuel Knowlton, will attend the University of Maine, Orono, to study computer engineering.

Friends of the Alfred Shaker Museum

This agency fund supports charitable or educational purposes of the Friends of the Alfred Shaker Museum. Local residents formed the Friends of the Alfred Shaker Museum to preserve Shaker history in southern Maine.

Geiger Family Fund

Jeffrey and Marjorie Geiger are excited to return to Bath, Maine, after several years in Connecticut. Their donor-advised fund will benefit nonprofit organizations in Sagadahoc County and beyond.

Home Care for Maine

Home Care for Maine was a statewide nonprofit home care agency that closed in April 2020. Residual agency assets were used to create this fund, which will support efforts to assist older adults who want to remain at home, particularly in rural Maine.

Jane and Frank Bragg Family Fund

Jane and Frank Bragg of Bangor established their donor-advised fund to benefit nonprofits in the area and to engage their children in philanthropy. Frank formerly chaired MaineCF's Penobscot County Committee.

The River Fund Maine

This agency fund supports The River Fund Maine, founded in 2018 and developed from the former Sunday River Community Fund. The fund aims to change lives through scholarships, educational workshops, and supporting community needs.

To find out how you can start a fund at the foundation, visit the “Support/Start a Fund” section at mainecf.org.

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Our Mission

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.

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Writing/editing: Andrea Nemitz, Carl Little

Design: Portland Design Co

Printer: Penmor Lithographers



Grady Satterfield (827), of Bowdoinham, helps his high school team win the 2019 Maine State Class A Cross Country Championship. Satterfield attended a pre-season cross country and distance-running camp at The Pennsylvania State University on a Ferrier scholarship. Photo Candy Wright

Scholarship funds at MaineCF are a true reflection of life’s passions and what matters most to anyone who ever wondered, “What if we had a scholarship to...?”

They mirror the spirits of beloved educators, leaders with vision – people who prize learning in all its forms. Each year, more than 900 students from Maine return to school with the confidence that a MaineCF scholarship provides.

This year, as we move forward with a renewed sense of adventure and appreciation for Maine’s great outdoors, it’s...

Time For Camp

DANIEL CARDILLO CHARITABLE FUND

Dan Cardillo was a junior Olympic skier, avid fisherman, serious student, gifted artist, and an exceptionally kind human being, say family, friends, and admirers. They established a fund to celebrate Cardillo’s passion for life and the way he encouraged others to do their best. Past recipients include visual artists, musicians, equestrians, future doctors, and Olympic athletes.

RICHARD A. FERRIER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Richard Ferrier’s estate provides inspiration for students to explore less traditional pathways to education – even clown camp. Bowdoinham students who benefit from Ferrier scholarships have also gone to sports camps and on foreign educational tours, The YMCA Freedom Tour, early college programs, and cross-country bike explorations.

SEAN O’BLENIS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Sean O’Blenis loved camps – sports, music, leadership, technology, academics – so his friends and family remember him with a memorial scholarship fund. Campers have taken their O’Blenis scholarships to Deepwood Farm, Kieve-Wavus Camps, Camp Ketcha, and the Bates Dance Festival.

TENNY DONNELLY FUND FOR YOUTH ENRICHMENT

Girls get first dibs on Tenny Donnelly scholarships for summer enrichment experiences at several wilderness and nature-centric camps. This year’s camps are the Gundalow Company Summer Camps, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, and White Pine Programs.

Interested in scholarship funds?

Our staff can walk you through options that start at \$10,000 for a designated fund. All gifts to scholarship funds are tax-deductible and benefit from MaineCF’s investment expertise. For more information, contact Liz Fickett at efickett@mainecf.org.



3 x 35 = A Grand Celebration!

Please join us September 28, 4-5 p.m.
to mark the 35th anniversary of our first three county funds

Aroostook, Piscataquis & Washington

Bring your snacks & beverages and tune into Zoom as we...

- Reflect on 35 years of grants and community work they've supported
- Premiere three new videos celebrating each county
- Thank our dedicated county advisors
- Announce special anniversary grants

Visit mainecf.org/35 for a link to sign up.