



REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2021-2022
MAINE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

TOGETHER

FROM THE CHAIRS

A New Chapter

Big hearts and resilience have propelled Maine people through the past few months, and we aren't a bit surprised: That's what we do when times get tough.

Neighbors helped neighbors, led by nonprofit organizations that knew critical services couldn't slide when people got sick, lost jobs, or needed to fill the fridge.

Donors again answered the call with giving that allowed Maine Community Foundation to award more than \$1.2 million in proactive grants for pandemic-related relief. Grants came from donor-advised funds, MaineCF's unrestricted funds, individual contributions, corporations, private foundations, and MaineCF's endowed fund for food security.

While we are all eager to see the pandemic behind us, additional long-term challenges await: housing availability, food and energy costs, mental health concerns, and ripple effects of two very difficult years. We continue to address these growing concerns through MaineCF's Invest in Maine Fund, an unrestricted fund. We're inspired by our donors who understand the need for this flexible source of funds – and grateful for their confidence in MaineCF, our staff, and dozens of hard-working county advisors, board members, and other volunteers with their feet on the ground and eyes on the future.

The community foundation has been truly fortunate to have Sterling Speirn at the helm for the past year as our interim president and CEO. His years of experience leading other foundations have served us well as MaineCF concluded five years of strategic program work in areas we identified in 2016. We focused on improving services for children, adult learners, racial equity, support for older people, and entrepreneurship and innovation so more Maine people would have opportunities to contribute to their communities and Maine's economy.

We look forward to engaging you in discussions about MaineCF's work as we enter a new chapter with the arrival of Deborah Ellwood as our seventh president and CEO. Deborah joins us with a love for Maine and an impressive history of work in the community foundation field, most recently as executive director of CFLeads, the country's network of community foundations. You will have an opportunity to meet Deborah in July at receptions in Portland and Dedham (see page 24).

Your input will help guide our initiatives as we look forward to MaineCF's 40th year in 2023 and celebrate notable anniversaries this fall of our county and regional funds in Oxford, York, and the Western Mountains (Somerset and Franklin). We thank you for your continued support of the Maine Community Foundation as we continue our mission to improve quality of life for all Maine people.

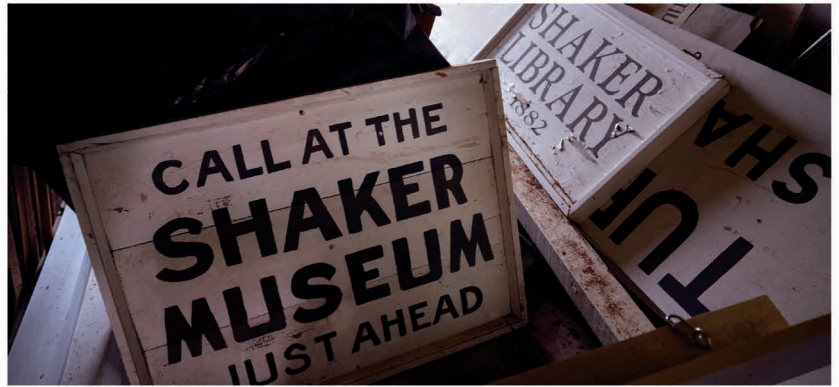
We couldn't do it without you.



D. Gregg Collins
Chair, Board of Directors



Adilah Muhammad
Vice Chair, Board of Directors



Inside

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A Maine Expansion Arts Fund grant funded blocks, left, to help continue the art of Native American basketmaking. Top right, dates mark the years when thousands flocked each weekend to Merrymeeting Park in Brunswick. The town purchased the park in January. Old signs, bottom, at the Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village. Photos by the Hudson Museum, left, and Gregory Rec, right

On the cover: Volunteers plant vegetables at Twin Villages Foodbank Farm in Nobleboro that will help feed the community. Ashley L. Conti photo

Giving Together for Good

Donors with advised funds support proposals that match their passions

Greg Millert didn't think twice about adding a few dollars to the convenience store donation box for the first-ever playground at Milo's middle school. He regularly stops by for a sandwich on fishing trips and knows the town struggles with poverty that impacts nearly 30 percent of its residents.

But Millert, of Brunswick, wished he could do more – and within days he had, with a grant to the project from the donor-advised fund (DAF) he and his wife, Linda, started a few years ago at the community foundation.

“This one is a no-brainer,” he wrote Laura Lee at MaineCF, who had forwarded him the playground grant proposal from SAD 41, which had been partially funded by the Piscataquis County Committee. MaineCF's Giving Together program provides donors with DAFs access to proposals so they can support nonprofit organizations and projects that reflect their passions. Last year, donors provided local programs nearly \$1.7 million through Giving Together.

The Millerts' gift helped fully fund the school's request to pay for a basketball court that will complement a new soccer field and nature trail. The facilities also will be open to the community during after-school hours. It matched the Millerts' passion for helping children, especially those in rural areas.

Donors with advised funds play a crucial role in grantmaking at MaineCF. The grants typically account for at least half of the community foundation's grants to local nonprofit organizations; in 2021 donors made close to 4,000 grants totaling about \$29 million.

Donor-advised funds have long been a part of charitable giving at community foundations, starting with the first DAF established in 1931 by the New York Community Trust. Today support through DAFs is even more important as nonprofit organizations contend with rising costs and recover from impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Donors, through their gifts and grants, also increase the impact of other programs including the Black, Indigenous,



The Grafton Forest Conservation Project will protect land – and views – with support from donor-advised funds. See article, page 12. Jerry Monkman photo

and People of Color Fund and the Invest in Maine Fund, which provides funding statewide for future and current issues, such as emergency pandemic support.

The support of advised funds has played another key role as nonprofit organizations rebuild after months of stalled events and fundraising.

“General support from DAFs has provided unrestricted funding that gives nonprofits the critical flexibility they need to meet whatever need, challenge, or opportunity that comes their way,” said Lee, MaineCF's director of grantmaking. “During a time when the unexpected is always happening, this freedom to be flexible is hugely important.”

Here are the top categories for donor-advised fund grants in 2021 and some of the many grantees that benefited from donors' generosity.

Environment & Land Protection

Total given: \$6,962,345

Forest Society of Maine received significant funding from seven donor-advised funds to support its Grafton Forest Conservation Project. The conservation easement on 15,000 acres of sustainably managed forest fills a gap in a Maine-New Hampshire conservation corridor and preserves public access to wilderness and trails. In addition to the conservation grants, four donors provided annual support to the organization.

Arts, Culture, & Humanities

Total given: \$2,944,477

Maine Wabanaki REACH received funding for its Peacemaking Begins with Truth-telling project, which draws on Wabanaki traditions and ways of knowing to examine impacts of the Maine Indian Land Claims Settlement. Wabanaki REACH also received general support funding from eight donor-advised funds to help the organization with its overall mission.

Human Services

Total given: \$2,564,339

Knox County Homeless Coalition received funding from nine donor-advised funds, which included general support as well as funding for the Landing Place Youth Center in downtown Rockland. The center's staff and volunteers have worked since 2017 to break cycles of poverty by supporting local youth who are at high risk of experiencing adversity such as unstable housing, food insecurity, and lack of access to other resources and supplies.

Education

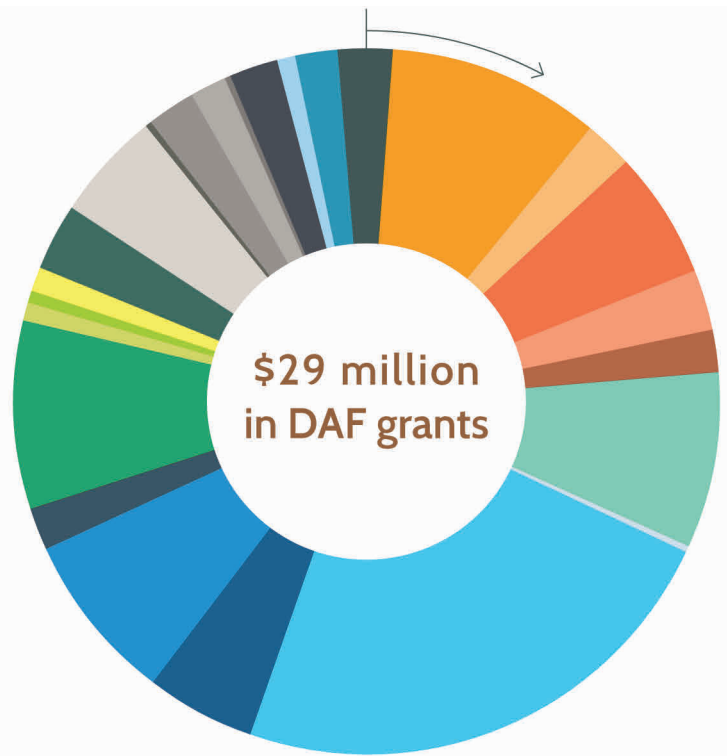
Total given: \$2,382,325

University of Maine Foundation received funding from 12 donor-advised funds. Grant purposes ranged from supporting scholarships, to climate work, to emergency funding for students in crisis.

Health Care

Total given: \$2,291,509

LifeFlight Foundation received funding from nine donor-advised funds for LifeFlight of Maine. The funding will support the state's only emergency air ambulance with a mission of lifesaving patient transport and go toward a new helicopter. Healthy Acadia also received funding from 13 donor-advised funds to support food programs, substance-use disorder recovery, and public health.



Grant category	Total Grants	%
Animal Protection & Welfare	\$773,118	2.6
Arts, Culture & Humanities	\$2,939,477	9.8
Civil Rights, Social Action & Advocacy	\$614,530	2.1
Community Improvement & Capacity Building	\$1,762,227	5.9
Crime & Legal-Related	\$797,490	2.7
Diseases, Disorders & Medical Disciplines	\$604,778	2.0
Education	\$2,382,325	8.0
Employment	\$52,500	0.2
Environment & Land Protection	\$6,961,845	23.3
Food, Agriculture & Nutrition	\$1,561,732	5.2
Health Care	\$2,295,509	7.7
Housing & Shelter	\$529,100	1.8
Human Services	\$2,604,322	8.7
International, Foreign Affairs & National Security	\$241,450	0.8
Medical Research	\$146,808	0.5
Mental Health & Crisis Intervention	\$337,497	1.1
Mutual & Membership Benefit	\$5,000	0.0
Philanthropy, Voluntarism & Grantmaking Foundations	\$969,936	3.2
Public & Societal Benefit	\$1,437,306	4.8
Public Safety, Disaster Preparedness & Relief	\$160,949	0.5
Recreation & Sports	\$670,731	2.2
Religion-Related	\$450,067	1.5
Scholarships & Student Financial Aid	\$103,278	0.3
Science & Technology	\$716,450	2.4
Social Science	\$182,650	0.6
Youth Development	\$569,796	1.9

If you would like to learn how you could establish a donor-advised fund at MaineCF, please contact Laura Young, vice president of philanthropy, at lyoung@mainecf.org or (207) 412-0844.



Above: Otto Hinck, 13, a student at Great Salt Bay Community School, plants a pepper plant at Twin Villages Foodbank Farm. Right: Becca Davies, farm crew at Twin Villages Foodbank Farm, plants peppers with seventh-graders from Great Salt Bay Community School. Ashley L. Conti photos

The Changing Face of Hunger

Mainers pitch in with myriad tactics to keep food on the table

Rising consumer prices are taking bigger chunks out of family budgets, but MaineCF grantees and volunteers across the state have found creative ways to make sure their neighbors have access to the food they need.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, Maine's rate of food insecurity was already higher at 12.3 percent than the national average of 10.5 percent. The struggle to put food on the table worsened when people lost their jobs and pushed Maine's rate to 14.7 percent. The rate is expected to rise again after expiration of a pandemic emergency increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

“Food insecurity is invisible and asking for help when we carry so much pride is sometimes a real barrier,” said Megan Taft, co-founder of Twin Villages Foodbank Farm in Nobleboro and vice president of equity, diversity, and

inclusion at Good Shepherd Food Bank. “During COVID-19, people lost their jobs and had never gone to a food pantry before. People are struggling who haven't before. The face of hunger is changing.”

The pandemic and record-high inflation have exacerbated an already high rate of food insecurity. But some groups of residents were impacted even more severely, such as people of color, immigrants, single parents, children, and those with disabilities.

In 2021, 175 grants totaling \$1.18 million from MaineCF's grant programs and donor-advised funds went to nonprofit organizations fighting food insecurity throughout Maine. The following grantees are examples of the type of frontline nonprofits and strategies working to get Mainers the food they need.

Gleaning

Taft and her partner Sara Cawthorn started **Twin Villages Foodbank Farm** in Nobleboro in 2016 on three acres owned by the Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust. The farm partners with eight food pantries and organizations in Lincoln County to provide 50,000 pounds of fresh produce a year.

The farm's refrigerated hub offers a storage space for local food pantries that work from church basements with no place to store fresh produce. Students at nearby Great Salt Bay School help start seedlings in the greenhouse and come back later in the spring to plant as part of their science curriculum. Local volunteers help out on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"This is really a community effort we feel like we're a part of," Taft said.

In 2021, MaineCF's Southern Midcoast Committee awarded Twin Villages Foodbank Farm \$5,000 and a donor-advised fund awarded an additional \$5,000 to grow its capacity to feed Lincoln County.

Backpack Programs

More than one-quarter of children attending school in Cumberland County are at risk of going hungry in the evening, over the weekend, and during summer break. The **Locker Project** partners with more than 40 schools, preschools, childcare facilities, and other agencies in Cumberland County to connect children and their families with reliable access to nourishing foods. When school is out for the summer, Locker Project staff and volunteers host free, fresh food events at summer meals sites and other convenient locations across Greater Portland.

"Summer can be a difficult time for families struggling to make ends meet," said Kathryn Sargent, executive director of the Locker Project. "We want to make sure children and their families can continue to enjoy nutrient-dense fruits and vegetables, including locally grown berries, greens, tomatoes, and other items." The Locker Project will host more than 80 food events again this summer to make sure children have the nutrition they need year-round.

MaineCF support for the Locker Project included \$5,000 from the Rines Thompson Fund, \$7,500 from the Edward H. Daveis Benevolent Fund, and \$10,000 from the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund.

Meal Programs

Table of Plenty is a community kitchen that offers weekly meals to about 200 people in Berwick and Kittery.

Volunteers provide healthy, home-cooked meals at no charge to anyone who requests them, regardless of their financial situation. Last summer three renowned chefs from Portsmouth and southern Maine partnered with the organization and offered up their talents to create gourmet, take-home meals each week. Entrees range from comforting beef stroganoff and shepherd's pie in colder months to lighter barbecue chicken and garden salads in the spring.

In 2021, Table of Plenty received a \$9,666 grant from MaineCF's York County Committee to support its meal programs after the organization's clientele rose 37 percent during the pandemic.



Food Pantries

Area Interfaith Outreach Food & Energy Assistance (AIO) in Rockland has worked since 1990 to combat food insecurity in its community. The organization serves 4,000 households per year and 10,000 individuals use its food pantry.

The food pantry offers curbside pick-up on Mondays and Fridays, during which clients receive prepacked bags filled with groceries such as meat, dairy, produce, shelf-stable products, and personal hygiene items. On Wednesdays, AIO's market is open for grocery shopping.

AIO was awarded \$4,000 from MaineCF's COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, and in 2020 received \$6,000 from the Knox County Committee to support its strategic planning work.

How You Can Help

To discuss how you can partner with MaineCF to help reduce food insecurity in Maine and learn about organizations in your interest area, existing donors should reach out to their staff contact. For further information, contact Lelia DeAndrade, vice president of community impact, Ideandrade@mainecf.org or (207) 412-0843.

A Gift for the Future of Arts in Maine

Philanthropists' generosity expands funding for rural and BIPOC programs



Alex Edney works on his piece during a spoon-carving workshop at Tear Cap Workshops, which offers educational opportunities and work space for artisans. Brianna Soukup photos

A surprise gift of \$2.5 million in 2021 is a game changer for the arts in rural communities and for Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC) as MaineCF's Maine Expansion Arts Fund celebrates its 35th year.

"This gift will have a large positive impact on the arts in Maine for years to come," said MaineCF Senior Program Officer Leslie Goode, who oversees the program.

The contribution from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott and her husband, Dan Jewett, has tripled the budget for

grants from the endowed fund, which has awarded 455 grants totaling \$1.4 million since 1997.

The new budget allowed grantees in 2021 to submit grant proposals for a maximum of \$10,000 rather than \$5,000. More changes are in the works. The gift will also allow the grant program to define more distinctly its two goals: funding for small, rural organizations and funding for BIPOC-serving organizations that support the arts and artists.

"This enables us to expand the BIPOC aspect of the program

and create options in a way we couldn't with a more limited grant budget," Goode said.

Maine artists and others in the arts community review grant proposals and make funding recommendations.

In 2021, the fund awarded 17 grants totaling \$139,090 to organizations and projects ranging from hands-on workshops to cultural preservation and community art events. Here are a few Expansion Arts grantees; view a full list at mainecf.org.



Belfast Creative Coalition

Visual and performing arts were some of the “nonessential” services upended during the COVID-19 pandemic. With theaters and galleries closed to the public, Belfast Creative Coalition decided to bring the arts to the public.

The coalition’s solution: “Betty the Art Van,” a 1970s Toyota camper the coalition turned into a traveling art studio, gallery, theater, and music venue.

The van travels around Waldo County and stops in public spaces to provide live music, performances, and visual arts. Betty has hosted banjo and fiddle performances, dance, rap, and interactive art projects throughout the area.

The Maine Expansion Arts Fund awarded the art van project \$10,000 in 2021.

Hudson Museum

The Wabanaki art of brown ash and sweetgrass basketmaking has been a shared tradition for centuries of Micmac, Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, and Penobscot people in Maine.

Now a new generation of basket makers will have additional access to wooden basket forms. The Hudson Museum at the University of Maine has collaborated with the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance to create a lending library of basketmaking blocks to carry on the art form.

The museum has 160 historic wooden blocks used by Wabanaki basketmakers during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The blocks were traditionally passed down through families, but over time many were lost. Replicas of the original blocks are now in use at the lending library for those who do not have family blocks or for people interested in learning the art.

A donor-advised fund at MaineCF awarded the University of Maine’s museum \$6,500 for the lending library.

Tear Cap Workshops

The site of a former sawmill is the perfect setting for Tear Cap Workshops in Hiram. Its 19 acres and 11 buildings offer ample space for woodworkers, timber framers, and other artists to rent workbenches. Community members can also learn hands-on crafts such as woodworking, bookbinding, basketmaking, and more at Tear Cap’s classes.

Founded in 2016 by carpenter Henry Banks and his daughter Sarah, who grew up learning skills at her father’s work sites, Tear Cap Workshops is named after the mountain peak that rises above the campus.

The property is always bustling with professionals working on their trades and novices learning to carve wooden spoons or make wooden benches during one of the guided workshops.

“We are an educational organization and so it’s been so great to have people come together and learn a new skill,” said Henry Banks. “Our residents bring a great energy to Tear Cap and are really beneficial to us.”

Tear Cap Workshops was awarded \$10,000 from Maine Expansion Arts Fund in 2021.

To learn more about the Expansion Arts Fund, please contact Senior Program Officer Leslie Goode at (207) 412-2002 or lgoode@mainecf.org.

Keeping It Local

The eyes and ears of local volunteers inform grantmaking close to home

This year, we celebrate three of our county and regional funds that together have provided nearly \$2.8 million in grants to nonprofit organizations and projects in Franklin, Oxford, Somerset, and York counties.

MaineCF launched its first endowed county funds in 1986, built with the generosity of donors who knew their gifts could collectively improve the quality of life in places they love. Today the County and Regional Program encompasses every county in Maine.

While staff members oversee the program, they rely on volunteer advisors in each county for firsthand knowledge of their communities' needs and aspirations. In 2022, local committees across the state reviewed 462 proposals and recommended 192 Community Building grants totaling \$1.6 million.

YORK COUNTY



York County has the second-highest median income of all counties in the state, but like much of Maine it also wrestles with dual challenges of housing and food insecurity.

For the past 15 years, donors have helped the York County Fund grow to more than \$1.8 million – assets that have provided 183 grants totaling more than \$873,000 to nonprofit organizations and projects across the county.

Grants in 2021 targeted several housing and food efforts during the pandemic, with support for community gardens in Biddeford, takeout meals in Berwick, and curbside food distribution in several towns. Other grants helped a Kittery nonprofit expand a pilot program that secures permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness and a new housing program in Alfred to assist homeless women recovering from substance addictions.

WESTERN MOUNTAINS



MaineCF's Western Mountains Fund began with the generosity of King Cummings, MaineCF's first board chair, who loved western Maine and its hard-working people. Cummings, who had been president of Guilford Woolen Mills, believed in on-the-ground grantmaking and left \$1 million in his will to launch the fund.

Thirty years later, the fund has benefited a broad range of projects and organizations in both Franklin and Somerset counties and helped build stronger communities through 464 grants totaling more than \$2.2 million.

High poverty rates, food insecurity, transportation, and a lack of affordable housing are top of mind in these rural counties. Grants in 2021 also helped provide key services during the pandemic, including library internet service, support for essential workers, and expansion of safe spaces for outdoor gatherings.



OXFORD

The Oxford County Fund, now celebrating its 25th year, has focused on small grants to core organizations that do broad community work – from food security and environmental education to recreation and access to the outdoors. The Oxford County Committee has awarded 195 grants since 1997 that total more than \$697,000.

Last year, grants through the fund helped start a new food pantry in Rumford and provided support for a food center that provides community education from garden to table in Norway. Grants also benefited rural and underserved

youth through summer science education programs; residents of the Bethel region over age 70 through an outreach program; and low-income pet owners with subsidized veterinary care. Everyone benefited from a grant that supported building more trails as enjoying the outdoors became one of the safest and most popular activities during a pandemic.

Learn more about MaineCF's County and Regional Program and view new grant awards by county at mainecf.org.

York: A volunteer with Youth Full Maine helps load food during a curbside pickup. The nonprofit organization received a grant through the York County Fund. Youth Full Maine photo

Western Mountains: The "feathered star" painted panel in Phillips is part of the Maine Barn Quilt Trail, created through a grant to the High Peaks Creative Council. Saskia Reinhold photo

Oxford, above: Adventures on land and in the water await youngsters at Bryant Pond Learning Center, a MaineCF grantee in Oxford County. Bryant Pond Learning Center photo



The People's Back Yard

Conservation, urban and rural, connects Maine to its land

Summer 1898 was a grand time for Brunswick, when thousands of visitors took a five-cent trolley ride for the opening of Merrymeeting Park with its castle-like entrance at the bend of the Androscoggin River. It boasted a four-story casino, zoo, 4,000-seat amphitheater, broad lawns and festivities that lasted late into the evening with fireworks and dancing under the stars.

Little is left today of the amusement park built on the site where early Abenaki people fished and shipbuilders launched schooners. By 1906 the park had scaled back its events, and within years its structures were gone and lagoons drained.

But this year Merrymeeting Park has a new future with the Town of Brunswick's purchase of the 42.5-acre parcel with grant support from MaineCF's Maine Land Protection

program and donor-advised funds. The town has eyed this site for years as its top place to preserve if the landowners decided to sell.

The scenic area so close to downtown Brunswick will have interpretive signs to mark key historic sites and wildlife habitats and create one more link in the town's growing network of protected places that includes five islands in the river.

"There's so much history around that site," said Tom Farrell, Brunswick parks and recreation director. "There's evidence that goes back thousands of years of human activity on the property. It's just a really special place."

Maine Land Protection is one of two recent competitive grant programs that grew from MaineCF's first land

conservation program, which began in the early 1990s. The Maine Land Protection grant program supports land acquisitions and easements, while Conservation for All grants help open the outdoors to more people.

In 2021, donors with advised funds made clear their support for conservation by directing \$474,000 to supplement Maine Land Protection grants of \$145,000. Since 1983, when MaineCF's first conservation grant went toward the purchase of Laudholm Farm in Wells, the community foundation has awarded more than \$28 million in grants to 153 land trust and land conservation organizations.

Conserving both urban and rural lands is important in Maine – and not only to provide more access to nature. Forests are critical as we combat climate change – they absorb about 60 percent of our carbon emissions every year. The Maine Climate Council's action plan includes a goal to increase conserved lands in the state to 30 percent by 2030.



That's a lot of land, with 12 million acres in Maine – roughly three and one-half times the size of Connecticut. But we're getting close, with about 21 percent conserved already. Karin Tilberg, president and CEO of the Forest Society of Maine, thinks we can do it.

Just this spring, the Forest Society of Maine and the Northeast Wilderness Trust permanently conserved 21,300 acres of land in Grafton Township on the New Hampshire border that buffers two American icons – a famous stretch of the Appalachian Trail and Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge. It also fills the last gap in a conservation corridor between the two states with views of the White Mountains and Mahoosuc Range. Donor-advised funds at MaineCF contributed \$168,000 toward the project.

Left: Future interpretive signs at Merrymeeting Park will also teach visitors about the land's natural features. Above: Brunswick has had its eyes on land for Merrymeeting Park for two decades, and on January 1 completed the purchase with support from MaineCF and others. Gregory Rec photos

Efforts like these are also crucial to help plant and animal species remain resilient in the face of climate change through conservation corridors devoid of roads, cars, and houses, Tilberg noted.

“For the first time in probably a long time, we are losing forest land in Maine to development,” Tilberg said. “There is increasing development pressure and we are seeing huge spikes in real estate activity in gateway communities, pressing into the North Woods.”

The easement permanently conserves public access to the area with year-round opportunities, from hiking in the

summer to grouse hunting in the fall and Nordic skiing from early winter to spring. It's also a win for Maine's economy with outdoor recreational businesses and forest management opportunities that will continue to provide jobs.

“So many people contributed, so many foundations contributed, and it was a very moving experience to see the outpouring of commitment to the

goals of the project and to just keeping Maine's forest,” Tilberg said.

She added, “So many people knew of the area, but many people also gave just because they wanted to do what they could. And that's wonderful.”

Visit mainecf.org to learn about more projects supported through MaineCF's Maine Land Protection and Conservation for All grant programs.



Small Town, Big Impact

In Brooksville, a scholarship awaits every student thanks to a community committed to education

Author and illustrator Robert McCloskey found the bucolic setting of Brooksville so appealing he used it as the backdrop for his 1952 picture book “One Morning in Maine.”

Passersby might observe this community on the westernmost tip of the Blue Hill Peninsula hasn’t changed much since then. With just over 900 residents, it boasts two churches, a volunteer fire station, elementary school, combined town office/public library, and seasonal market. The town, too small for its own high school, sends most of its students to either George Stevens Academy in Blue Hill or Deer Isle-Stonington High School.

Though small, Brooksville has done something bigger than many other towns its size. Over the past two decades, the Brooksville Education Foundation (BEF) has helped 126 students earn post-secondary degrees. Today more than 70 percent of Brooksville high school graduates pursue post-secondary education, and some go on to earn graduate degrees.

The success story began in 2000 when Brooksville residents Mike McMillen and Gerry Bryan started discussions on how they might support programs at Brooksville Elementary School. Both had retired – McMillen from a career in commercial real estate development paired with a lifelong interest in education, and Bryan from teaching.

As they talked to people in town, many encouraged McMillen and Bryan to instead focus efforts on making higher education more affordable for high school students. They met the challenge by convening an informal advisory group, the beginnings of the Brooksville Education Foundation.

That year, the town’s median household income was \$36,458. Brooksville high school graduates, like many others in rural areas, often had limited financial resources to follow their dreams. McMillen also learned the rate of students pursuing post-secondary education was lower in Brooksville and much of Down East than the rest of Maine.

“From the beginning we have believed that we would be able to raise the educational prospects of all students only by encouraging our fellow citizens to raise the educational

aspirations of the community. Our motto became ‘Lift all boats,’” McMillen said. “We concluded we could be most helpful by providing financial aid to motivate more kids to go to college and that aid should come from the community that raised them.”

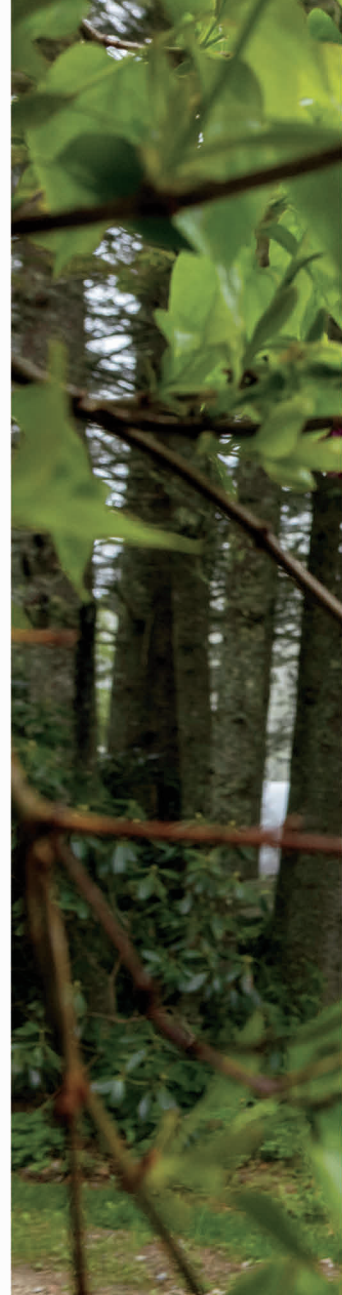
The Brooksville Education Foundation sent its first appeal for donations to every household in town, including summer residents. It was a success: \$70,000, enough to jump-start a new fund at the Maine Community Foundation. The education foundation’s first project was a series of scholarships supported by their friends and neighbors and open to all Brooksville students.

Almost every Brooksville household has, at one time or another, donated something to the fund since the first appeal letter went out 22 years ago, McMillen said.

“It continues to be a community effort,” he said. “Some students have written to say that they are encouraged to work extra hard in school because of the community backing of their scholarships.”

“We have supported two generations of students and have seen an impact of our presence in the community,” McMillen said. “The Brooksville Education Foundation is now a staple in the lives of Brooksville families. Families who might not have seen a path to college before are now taking advantage of these scholarships.”

“I believe at times that if it wasn’t for this scholarship many kids, including me, would feel there is no hope for them to go to college,” said Barbara Blake-Chapman, who earned a business degree from the University of Maine in 2009. She





now works as a data manager for Northern Light Health and serves on volunteer boards of the foundation and Brooksville School.

Students can complete a single application to eight funds that comprise the Brooksville Education Foundation. A volunteer board determines which fund will support each student based on the applicant's academic interests and status as a first-generation college student. All applicants receive \$2,500 for the school year and first-generation students receive an additional \$1,000. The scholarships can be renewed up to five times.

Thanks to the continued support of its donors, BEF can support every applicant who is a year-round resident of Brooksville. Scholarships are available for traditional

students attending two- or four-year colleges and for adult learners going back to school or enrolled in certificate programs.

"We are impressed by what our students have achieved in school and beyond," McMillen said. "Our community is proud to have helped them on their way. Between our hard-working, caring families and generous donors, along with the Maine Community Foundation stewarding our endowment, we see this story continuing for future generations of Brooksville youth.

"All in all, a pretty good showing for a little town like ours."

Above: Mike McMillen was an early organizer of the Brooksville Education Foundation, which awards scholarships to all post-secondary applicants from the town. Ashley L. Conti photo



Brother Arnold Hadd, who has lived at the Shaker Village for 40 years, outside the herb house.

The herb house at the Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village, untouched for a century, will be restored with support from a MaineCF donor and others. Gregory Rec photos

A Simple Gift

An anonymous gesture will help Maine Shakers share their story in a year-round space for visitors

The \$100,000 gift from a MaineCF donor arrived unexpectedly last year at the Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village, just as the only active Shaker community in the world launched a project to share its past.

The quiet philanthropist, who has a donor-advised fund at MaineCF, preferred to remain anonymous. But the significant gift kept giving, spurring more support for the planned \$4.3 million Shaker Herb House Cultural and Traditional Arts Center at the community in New Gloucester.

“This gift was instrumental in helping us gain traction in fundraising,” said Michael Graham, director of the Shaker Museum and Library. “It was enormous for us.” In April, the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded the project another \$750,000 grant.

The Shakers are a Christian sect founded in Manchester, England, in 1783. The 1,800-acre Shaker Village on Sabbathday Lake was established in the 1780s, along with more than a dozen Shaker communities in the United States. The Shaker population on Sabbathday Lake peaked at 150 in the late 1800s. Today, only two active Shakers live at the village, which also houses a library and museum.

Adherents of an egalitarian, pacifist, communal lifestyle, the Shakers’ primary business was herbalism and agriculture. Shakers are also known for their practical yet beautiful furniture and handicrafts. Built in 1824, the herb house was used until 1910 when the business closed after competition from the growing pharmaceutical industry. Today, the Sabbathday Shakers earn income from land leases, orchards, and selling crafts and herbs.

The restored herb house will headquarter the Shakers’ herb production and provide year-round space for visitors – classes and demonstrations in herbalism and agriculture, culinary arts, traditional crafts, and educational opportunities for schools.

Hannah Whalen, MaineCF director of philanthropy and donor services, said preserving Shaker history is important to the donor. “They wanted to help preserve the historically and culturally important project, but chose to remain anonymous,” she said.

Anonymous giving happens to align with the Shakers’ philosophy.

“To give to someone anonymously is the greatest gift of all,” said Brother Arnold Hadd, a 40-year Shaker Village resident. “For them to want to stay in the shadows without being recognized increases the impact of the gift.”

“Donors choose to remain anonymous for many reasons,” Whalen said. “It could be that they would rather not be solicited for gifts, or they would rather keep their finances private. It is also an altruistic way of giving; they may simply want to give back without public acknowledgement.” On the other hand, donors who give publicly offer their names and influence that may inspire others to give.

Donors with advised funds at MaineCF may choose to remain anonymous for all grants they recommend or only for specified gifts. They also might choose anonymity if the causes they support could be considered controversial in their social or professional circles.

“In Maine, we have ‘the millionaire next door,’” Whalen said. “It might be a neighbor driving a 25-year-old Subaru who happens to be a philanthropist and they want to remain private about that.”

“There is a stoicism in Maine,” Graham said. “When you need help, people show up. It is the donor saying, ‘I don’t want this to be about me and my name – I want to keep this about the project.’”

Restoration of the center will begin this summer and is expected to be completed by the end of 2024 – a serendipitous date that marks the bicentennial of the original structure. The project is the largest in the history of the Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village and one that will both touch on the past and shepherd the Shaker spirit into the future.

Said Brother Arnold of the support, “It really does hit you in the heart and shows that there is goodness and kindness in the world.”

SCHOLARSHIPS

Built on Love: A Gift to Maine, LGBTQ+ Students, and Their Allies

LGBTQ+ youth always had an ally in Betsy Parsons, one of Maine's first public school teachers to come out openly as gay. Now, three years after her death, Parsons' family is giving back to the state they love with a scholarship inspired by her leadership and love of education.

This May the Parsons Scholarship Fund for LGBTQ+ Youth and Allies awarded its first two scholarships to graduating seniors from Presque Isle and Gorham. The MaineCF fund continues to grow with a \$20,000 anonymous donation this year.

“Being a recipient of this scholarship means the world to me,” said Gabriel Flannery, who will leave Aroostook County for Husson University in Bangor to pursue dual degrees in criminal justice and psychology. “This has not only helped validate my identity as a gay man in such a small rural community, but also putting my story out there for others will hopefully inspire other young queer kids to live their lives truthfully, and – with the right guidance and advice – flourish.”

Mavy Ho of Gorham has her sights set on a career as a dermatologist, a long road ahead that she's eager to start. She'll attend Bates College in Lewiston on a pre-med track to study biology and minor in musical performance, her violin in hand.

“To be from Maine as an Asian transgender woman, it's hard to be heard,” said Ho. “Growing up trans wasn't widely accepted until the past two years. I think I'm at peace now.”

Betsy Parsons moved to Maine in 1977 to pursue teaching in Portland and plant roots in her parents' home state that she had loved and visited every summer. Her mother, Beverly, was born and grew up in Portland, and her father, Robert, was raised in the village of East New Portland near the Carrabassett River.

In 1998, like Flannery, Parsons found strength in sharing her story.



The Parsons family started the Parsons Scholarship Fund for LGBTQ+ Youth and Allies to give back to Maine and honor their daughter and sister, Betsy Parsons.

Her moment came during a Deering High School discussion of the “Scarlet Letter” and community stigma when Parsons told her class she was a lesbian. Later that day, about two dozen students sought her help to start Deering's first gay-straight alliance. Parsons went on to help found the Southern Maine Chapter of GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network) and lead the statewide creation of about 90 student clubs called GSAs (Gender and Sexuality Alliances).

Betsy Parsons' brother Scott, whose family established the scholarship fund, wasn't surprised by his big sister's bravery: “Betsy was never afraid to put herself out there and take a



Mavy Ho will attend Bates College with a Parsons scholarship.



Gabriel Flannery will use his Parsons scholarship at Husson University.

stance.” But as he cared for Betsy during her final months before she died at age 65, Scott and his parents – now in Indiana – learned what a beloved public figure she had become.

“She’s left a real legacy in people that she mentored or taught and who are continuing her legacy in many ways across the state, in New England, and everywhere,” Scott said.

The Parsons Scholarship Fund will build on Betsy Parsons’ legacy of acceptance and passion for education, starting with Gabriel Flannery and Mavy Ho as they embark on life after high school. The annual scholarships will be awarded to students from both rural and urban Maine.

“I’m hoping that with the further expansion of this scholarship and the many winners to come, up-and-coming queer kids can love themselves and in turn be the guidance for the following generations,” Flannery said. “All queer people aren’t family, but we raise and mentor each other as if we were. “

If you’d like to learn more about establishing or contributing to a MaineCF scholarship fund, please contact Liz Fickett, director of grants and scholarships, efickett@mainecf.org or (207) 412-2015.

2021 Financials

BY THE NUMBERS

\$62,916,626

TOTAL GIFTS

\$57,748,812

TOTAL GRANTS
AND SCHOLARSHIPS

\$2,586,919

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
TO INDIVIDUALS

\$787,432,392

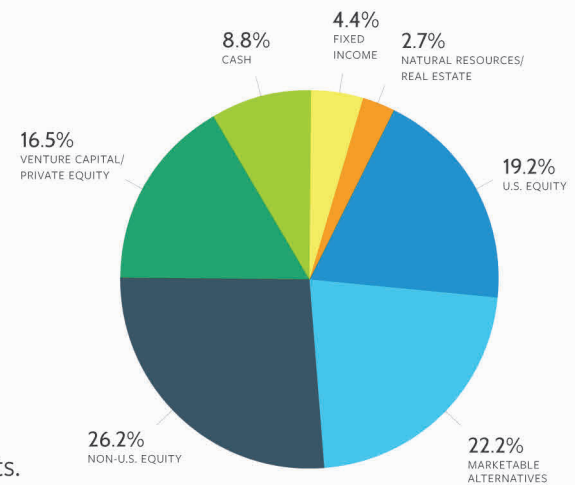
TOTAL ASSETS
As of 12/31/21

+17.6%

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

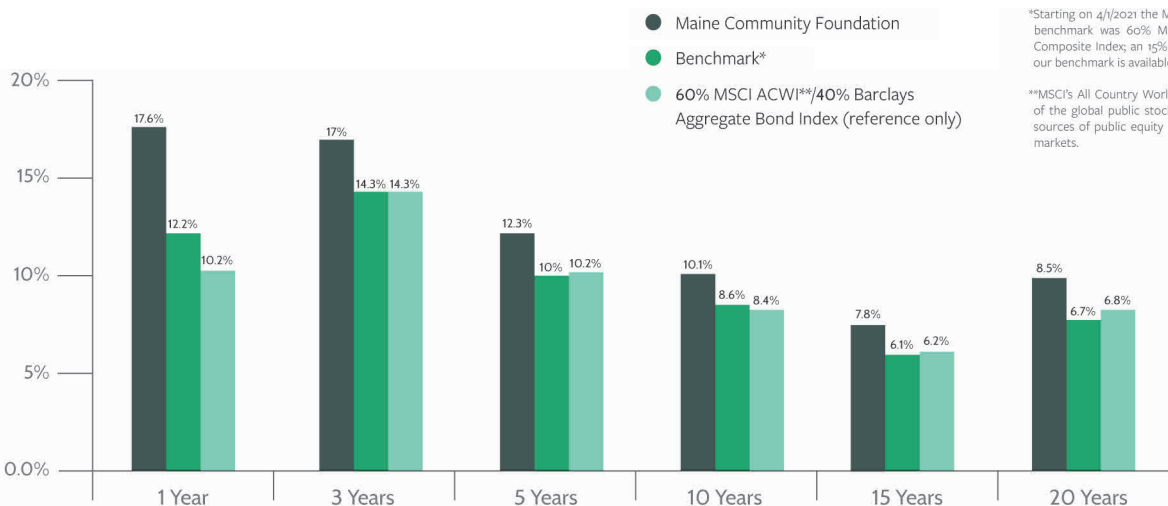
A DIVERSIFIED PORTFOLIO

The goal of MaineCF's investment program is to preserve and enhance the real value of assets over time. To accomplish this goal, the community foundation pursues diversified asset allocations and utilizes more than 30 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. MaineCF 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 17.6 percent in 2021 outperformed our benchmark by more than 5 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 2021, MaineCF's primary investment portfolio gained 17.6 percent while our benchmark index rose to 12.1 percent. 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 Dec. 21, 2021, with comparative information for the preceding year.

Responsible Investing

Maine Community Foundation is committed to ensuring that Maine is a safe, welcoming, and accepting place for everyone. This commitment extends to management of the community foundation's investment assets through work with investment managers who demonstrate a shared commitment to environmental, social, governance, diversity, equity, and inclusivity (ESG and DEI) factors. For more information on MaineCF's investment policies, please contact Brendon Reay, vice president of investments, brey@mainecf.org.

Financial Highlights for the Fiscal Years Ended December 31, 2021, and 2020

Assets	2021 (Unaudited)	2020
Donor-advised funds	\$298,628,662	\$249,073,719
Endowment funds held for nonprofit organizations	138,881,288	126,319,466
Funds designated to specific organizations	127,482,395	111,918,640
Field-of-interest funds	122,379,685	104,749,623
Scholarship funds	68,661,455	60,896,431
Charitable gift annuities and other planned gifts	8,543,606	7,427,129
Special programs	1,199,375	1,792,095
Supporting organizations	11,666,434	10,073,247
Operations	9,989,493	7,885,860
Total Assets	\$787,432,392	\$680,136,209

Gifts Received and Additions to Endowment Funds

Donor-advised funds	\$44,675,962	\$25,530,567
Endowment funds held for nonprofit organizations	9,822,696	5,351,844
Funds designated to specific organizations	1,549,451	7,509,023
Field-of-interest funds	4,883,741	2,523,088
Scholarship funds	1,157,874	4,214,952
Charitable gift annuities and planned gifts receivable	50,000	0
Special programs	775,551	363,835
Operations	1,350	2,001
Total Gifts and Additions to Endowments	\$62,916,626	\$45,495,310

Grants Paid and Distributions from Endowment Funds

Donor-advised funds	\$29,160,094	\$28,753,809
Endowment funds held for nonprofit organizations	15,036,211	9,358,264
Funds designated to specific organizations	4,152,394	3,444,840
Field-of-interest funds	4,709,654	7,349,753
Scholarship funds	2,586,919	2,062,892
Supporting organizations	268,612	258,750
Other grants	1,834,929	1,401,671
Total Grants and Distributions from Endowments	\$57,748,812	\$52,629,979

The annual audit of the 2021 statements was not complete at the time this report was printed. If you would like audited financial statements, please contact financial Chief Financial Officer Michele Camarco at mcamarco@mainecf.org or (207) 412-2026. You can also visit mainecf.org to view audited financial statements, tax returns, and to learn more about the community foundation's investment program.

New Funds 2021

Bobby Goding Scholarship Fund

The Bobby Goding Scholarship Fund provides support to graduating seniors at Ashland District School who embody the spirit of Bob Goding, an Ashland graduate and gifted athlete who was killed in action in Vietnam. Candidates will demonstrate strong school citizenship, athletic participation, financial need, and good academic standing.

David E. Warren Charitable Fund

David E. Warren of Portland started this donor-advised fund to support Maine causes that have been important to him and his family. The fund will benefit a variety of nonprofit organizations with a focus in the areas of healthcare, education, and human services.

Jackman Community Health Fund

The goal of this designated fund is to support the rural health care facility in Jackman and ensure continuing 24-hour acute care, services for older community members, and projects that support a healthier community.

Jeanette Martin Webb Memorial Scholarship Fund

Family and friends of Jeanette Martin Webb established this scholarship in memory of her strong work ethic and determination. As a motivated single mother, she worked full time while taking courses to advance her skills. This scholarship honors her by supporting single-parent students in Penobscot County who would like to further their education through continuing education certificates, licensing programs, or community and vocational colleges.

Lubec Area Musicians Philanthropic Society

The mission of the Lubec Area Musicians Philanthropic Society (LAMPS) is to share a passion for music, foster connections between local musicians, and create stronger communities through volunteering and charitable giving in Washington County. LAMPS offers educational programs, community outreach, admission-free cultural events, and a scholarship fund to support those pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in music.

Tree Street Youth Sustainability Fund

Tree Street Youth in Lewiston offers after-school and summer programs for more than 500 youth from preschool to high school. This agency fund will help support the organization's academic, empowerment, college access, leadership, enrichment, and mentorship programming for years to come. Tree Street Youth grew out of a volunteer-led homework help organization and recently celebrated its 10th anniversary.

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OUR MISSION

Maine Community Foundation brings people and resources together to build a better Maine.

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Editorial: Andrea Nemitz, Taylor Mace
Research: Cherie Galyean
Design: Portland Design Co
Printer: Penmor Lithographers

Issues in Maine

Here are some ways MaineCF and donors are building a better Maine together

Housing

Housing is increasingly unaffordable for both renters and buyers. Last year, numbers rose sharply for Maine's homeless population, which includes asylum seekers.

What helps: From 2021 through May 2022, MaineCF funded \$1.3 million in grants for housing-related programs, including nearly \$783,000 from donor-advised funds. MaineCF led emergency conversations to identify key nonprofit organizations that are assisting asylum seekers, and in June our Critical Issues Fund received \$200,000 in gifts to help provide services.

Childcare

Lack of childcare is acute in rural Maine with 22 percent of children statewide living in a childcare desert. And the cost is high: Last year the typical fee for infant care statewide was just under \$1,000 per month.

What helps: MaineCF funded community projects to assess and develop services for families, invested in advocacy for early childhood education, and funded programs that help start childcare businesses. Grants totaling \$300,000 during the pandemic helped childcare providers maintain services and balance revenue loss.

Health and Safety

Mental health providers report long wait lists and workforce shortages, stressing the system. Opioid use still plagues Maine, with 23 percent more overdose deaths in 2021 than 2020.

What helps: MaineCF directed more than \$1 million in emergency grants for general health care, mental and behavioral health, and domestic violence and substance abuse recovery services.

Worker Shortages

Maine unemployment is low but the number of people participating in the workforce has shrunk. Widespread worker shortages include the nonprofit sector, which is struggling to compete for employees.

What helps: Educating Maine's existing workforce is one key to filling labor shortages. In 2021, MaineCF awarded 122 adult learner scholarships for advanced education; 20 percent of applications were for health care studies. MaineCF also is investing in translating foreign credentials for the immigrant and refugee population.

Ways to Invest in Maine

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

HERE ARE A FEW WAYS YOU CAN PARTNER WITH US:

Give Now

Lead with Us: Donate to a Fund

Help us strengthen Maine and its communities by giving to a flexible fund at MaineCF such as our unrestricted Invest in Maine Fund and/or our county and regional funds.

– OR –

Name Your Passion: Create a Fund

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

Give Later

Give to the Future: Make a Planned Gift

Your legacy can be shaped to support the causes you care about now and provide financial and estate savings. Everyone has a legacy. What's yours?

TO LEARN MORE

Visit www.mainecf.org or call Laura Young, vice president of philanthropy, at **(207) 412-0844**, or email her at lyoung@mainecf.org for a confidential consultation.



A Time to Gather

This month the Maine Community Foundation welcomes Deborah Ellwood, our seventh president and CEO. We hope you will join us at receptions in Portland and Dedham for an opportunity to chat with her and other foundation staff – and please feel free to bring a friend. The events will include indoor and outdoor places to gather, light refreshments, and a cash bar.

Portland

Tuesday, July 19, 4-6 p.m.
Halo at Thompson's Point

Dedham

Wednesday July 27, 4-6 p.m.
The Lucerne Inn

Register here: mainecf.org/reception