

# MAINE TIES

NEWS FROM THE MAINE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

SPRING 2024



## Community

*The light in Maine's darkest hour*

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The aftermath of the mass shootings last October in Lewiston simultaneously showed the worst of humanity and the best.

Maine people banded

together in the tragedy's wake and the Maine Community Foundation joined the many organizations and individuals supporting victims and families by creating the Lewiston-Auburn Area Response Fund.

No amount of money can ease the pain of this tragedy. But it can help alleviate additional financial pressures from medical and funeral bills, lost wages and other needs. We are forever grateful to the donors, volunteers and consultants who helped MaineCF through this process.

Speaking of Mainers guiding our work, MaineCF has been on a learning journey across the state to uncover what opportunities and challenges Maine communities face. We listened to more than 1,500 Maine people who deeply care about their state and communities. These voices will inform how MaineCF can best use its resources to meet those needs head first.

Common concerns include housing, health care and substance use disorder, early childhood development and climate change.



Maine experienced its second-warmest winter on record, which impacted businesses such as ski areas and snow removal services.

As we saw during the destructive winter windstorms, climate change impacts all Maine people – from the coast to the mountains – which is why I was pleased to be appointed by Gov. Janet Mills to the Maine Climate Council. This role emphasizes the importance of philanthropy as a key component of the all-hands-on-deck approach to climate change.

Whether we face environmental issues or other challenges that hinder the vibrancy and equity we envision for Maine, we will do it together. Just as neighbors show up for neighbors, MaineCF is there when and where we're needed. This is the power of a community foundation with statewide reach and perspective, and we're proud to be part of what makes Maine, Maine.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah Ellwood".

Deborah Ellwood  
President & CEO

The Maine Community Foundation brings people and resources together to build a better Maine. To learn more about the foundation, visit [www.mainecef.org](http://www.mainecef.org)

## ON THE COVER

Maine people rallied around their Lewiston neighbors in their time of need. Contributions to the Lewiston-Auburn Area Response Fund let in a sliver of light during a dark chapter in Maine history, page 4



Lewiston High School students sign and write messages on a giant “Lewiston Strong” poster after spending time with therapy dogs to help cope with the tragic mass shootings. *Russ Dillingham/Sun Journal photo*

## INSIDE

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8 / Friends and colleagues remember the late Art Thompson, Aroostook County champion and former MaineCF board member.

10 / The education landscape has evolved since 1984, the year MaineCF’s first scholarship fund was established. Today, these funds support all types of learners – from high school seniors to adults pursuing their passions.

12 / Investments in Maine industries enhance MaineCF’s commitment to build a better Maine.

14 / Estate attorney Calvin True shares his personal connection to MaineCF and why he refers his clients to the foundation.

### Maine Ties, Spring 2024

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**Maine**  
Community Foundation

# Lewiston Strong

Maine came to a standstill Oct. 25, 2023, after a gunman opened fire in Lewiston and committed the worst mass shootings in state history. The tragedy, and subsequent three-day search for the perpetrator, gripped the Lewiston community and beyond with fear, sadness and uncertainty.



Maine people from across the state came together to support the victims and families of the Oct. 25, 2023, mass shootings in Lewiston.

The 18 victims killed were enjoying a Wednesday night cornhole tournament at Schemengee's Bar and Grille and bowling at Just-In-Time Recreation when their lives were senselessly cut short. Friends and family members of those killed, injured and present at the shootings number in the hundreds. The ripple effect from this tragedy reached all corners of the state, as we are all neighbors in this collection of small towns called Maine.

Like so many other individuals and organizations, MaineCF wanted to contribute what it could to the continuum of care for the Lewiston community. Within 36 hours of the shootings, the foundation established the Lewiston-Auburn Area Response Fund.

**Sadly, there exists a long list** of communities impacted by mass violence across the country. In the early hours after the shootings, MaineCF leaned heavily on a network of community foundations in Buffalo, New York, Boston and others to access the unfortunate best

practices created following their similar experiences. With the help of Maine policymakers and victim advocates, the foundation quickly designed a fund that could help make the biggest financial impact for victims and families.

Jeff Dion, a national consultant who helps support philanthropic responses to mass casualty crimes, joined the foundation's effort. His team's expertise was essential to the foundation's efficient response.


"There is a tremendous need for relief funds for survivors of mass casualty crimes," Dion said. "The fund is an important part of the community's healing process as it offers people an opportunity to counter a horrific act of violence with acts of generosity and compassion."

Volunteers from the Lewiston area joined the two Lewiston-Auburn Area Response Fund steering committees, which drafted protocols to ensure a fair distribution process to both individual victims and nonprofit organizations supporting recovery efforts. Their time, dedication and compassion were integral to this process.

The Lewiston-Auburn Area Response Fund closed Feb. 20 with more than 5,241 contributions from around the world totaling \$6.6 million, 100% of which was distributed directly to those impacted by the tragedy and organizations supporting the community recovery.

"MaineCF very quickly stepped forward to lead the philanthropic response and assembled an inclusive group of community stakeholders to serve on the local steering committees," said Dion. "Its nimble response helped the process move forward quickly to get money to survivors in a timely manner. MaineCF leveraged its reputation and trusted relationship with the community to collect millions of dollars for survivors."

The foundation's response to this horrific tragedy is possible because its stable presence equips it to face unexpected circumstances and changing community needs. MaineCF will be here for the next 40 years and beyond to support Maine people and communities in hours dark and light.



Members of Lewiston's Deaf community use the American Sign Language sign for "I love you" during a vigil at the Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul. *Sun Journal photos*

**5,241**

contributions

**\$6.6**

million raised

**162**

individual  
beneficiaries

**29**

nonprofit  
beneficiaries

## Lewiston-Auburn Area Response Fund Steering Committees

### Victims & Families Fund

Tom Platz, chair, Platz Associates  
Deborah Anthoine, St. Mary's Health System  
Kevin Bohlin, Maine Association of the Deaf and Pine Tree Society  
Cara Cookson, Office of the Attorney General  
Marc Frenette, Trafton, Matzen, Belleau & Frenette, LLP  
Meg Greene, Brann & Isaacson and John T. Gorman Foundation  
Laura Lee, Maine Community Foundation  
Neil Kiely, Androscoggin Bank  
Steven Littleson, Central Maine Healthcare  
John Ochira, Maine Community Foundation  
Catherine Ryder, Tri-County Mental Health Services  
Joe Samaha, Father of Virginia Tech shooting victim  
Sitara Sheikh, Maine Association of the Deaf

### Broad Recovery & Organizations Fund

Rebecca Swanson Conrad, chair, RSC Consulting  
Joleen Bedard, United Way of Androscoggin County  
Kevin Bohlin, Maine Association of the Deaf and Pine Tree Society  
Nathan Davis, Gateway Community Services Maine  
Virginia Dearani, Thomas College  
Julia Harper, Good Food Council of Lewiston-Auburn  
Jake Langlais, Lewiston Public Schools  
Muhidin Libah, Somali Bantu Community Association  
Leslie Ogilvie, Tri-County Mental Health Services  
Julia Sleeper, Tree Street Youth

# Your Voices, Our Focus

Communities sound off on strengths and challenges that will inform MaineCF focus areas



*Connected. Collaborative. Engaged. Resilient. Hardworking. Scrappy.* These adjectives are among words used to describe Maine people and communities by participants in the Maine Community Foundation’s Statewide Needs Assessment and Issue Identification project.

The project, conducted in partnership with Elkin Consulting, began in May 2023 with the goal of answering the questions: *What are our communities’ strengths? Challenges? What emerging opportunities are there? How can MaineCF help?* What MaineCF learned will help inform the foundation’s focus and strategies for years to come.

After a literature review to gather existing state data, more than 1,550 individuals and organizations from all regions of the state participated in the project through four formats: a grantee survey, focus groups, community conversations and a public input survey.

While MaineCF has been working locally for 40 years and has extensive connections in all 16 counties, the needs assessment will help staff better understand strengths and challenges in Maine communities, regional and statewide trends, potential solutions and opportunities.

Through this broad and deep process, MaineCF heard perspectives from Maine people across the state that provide invaluable context on how the foundation can engage its resources – from grantmaking to donor and community partnerships, investments and advocacy – to make the biggest impact.

What was validated through this process is the strong sense of community respondents experience – no matter where in the state they live. Neighbors help neighbors. Nonprofit organizations, businesses and local governments offer services and all lend a hand when they are able. This is collaboration for the greater good.

But despite these strengths, communities face common challenges. Affordable housing, health care access, racial, geographic, and economic equity, mental health and substance use disorder, early childhood development and climate change

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**“Mainers love our state and our people. We are devoted to each other and the communities in which we live...Despite our differences, we strive for the greater good, always trying to make our communities a great place to live, work and raise our families.”**

**– MaineCF grantee**

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are among shared concerns across the state. This spring, MaineCF’s Board of Directors will decide on the foundation’s focus areas informed by the needs assessment findings, as well as existing state and national data, surveys of donors and agency fundholders and conversations with potential donors, partners and volunteers.

These strategic initiatives will have the full weight of the foundation behind them, as MaineCF leverages its expertise, finances, partnerships and resources toward positive change. The effort will be inclusive – built by all of us and for all of us.

## Grantee Survey: Facing Challenges

A total of 644 nonprofit organizations that applied for or received MaineCF funding within the past three years responded to an online survey. This group shared optimism about the work being accomplished by colleagues in the nonprofit sector, but shared concerns about housing, health care access and education.

*A huge challenge is a lack of affordable housing for all kinds of wage earners – extremely low, low-middle and upper-middle class.*

*-MaineCF grantee*

## Focus Groups: Equity

The lack of equity in the workforce, economy, health and housing were the main challenges identified by focus groups. These discussions included 68 participants from workforce development, philanthropy and local government sectors as well as representatives from immigrant and refugee, LGBTQ+, tribal, women and youth populations.

*One of the major challenges I perceive is that there are very different experiences in Maine, whether for those who live in rural or urban areas, southern or otherwise, between those who have financial privilege and the rest of Maine.*

*-Philanthropy professional*

## Community Conversations and Public Input Survey: Collaborative Communities

The public was invited to participate in five virtual community conversations and a public input survey. Common themes among 857 participants included concerns about climate change and affordable housing, mental health and substance use disorder treatment access. Many respondents focused on the need for collaboration at all levels, since these challenges are frequently interconnected.

*The cycle of homelessness, addiction and incarceration is bigger than a single category. Supporting families that are on the margins is part of this. These issues need a systemic approach rather than our current silo model.*

*-Public input survey respondent*



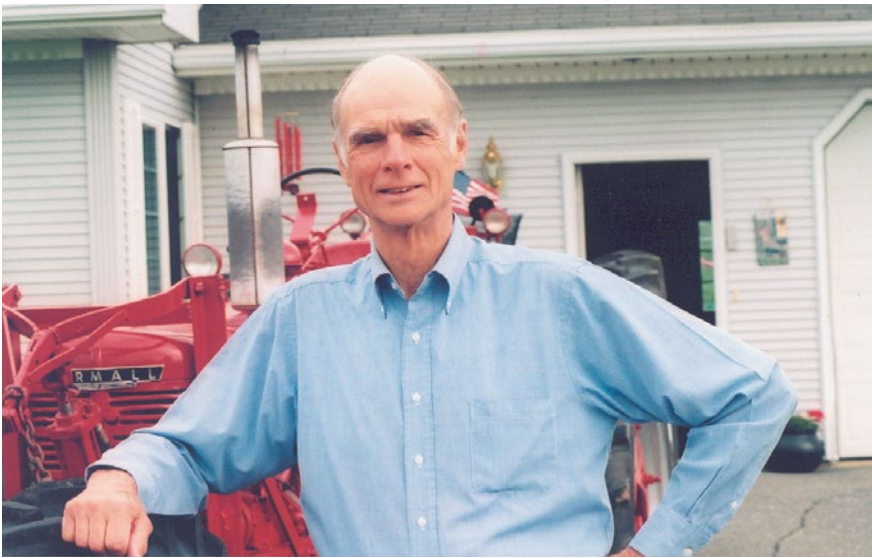
## Invest in Maine Fund

Information gathered through this project will be used to inform the foundation's next focus areas. The Invest in Maine Fund is designed to respond to changing needs and allows the foundation to direct support where it's needed most.

In 2020, the Invest in Maine Fund granted \$75,000 to organizations supporting those impacted most severely by the COVID-19 pandemic. Soon after the Lewiston mass shootings, MaineCF directed \$60,000 from this fund to support organizations leading the recovery effort. Contributions to this flexible fund enhance individual philanthropy and allow MaineCF to be nimble and proactive in times of great need.

[www.maine.org/donate](http://www.maine.org/donate)

Kingfield Kinder Care is one of dozens of child care centers that blossomed from Coastal Enterprise Institute's Child Care Business Lab. MaineCF support helped grow the program to address critical child care needs across the state and develop economic opportunity for child care professionals. *Kingfield Kinder Care photo*



Art Thompson, pictured on his family potato farm in Limestone, served on MaineCF's Board of Directors and Aroostook County Committee for a total of 12 years. He dedicated his life to family, community and the clients of his financial planning firm.

# A Man of Many Shoes

## Remembering Art Thompson, former MaineCF board member and Aroostook County champion

**One might say**, when reflecting on a person's full and meaningful life, that they wore many hats. But for the late Art Thompson, Maine Community Foundation fundholder and volunteer, it was what he wore on his feet that signified his life's passions.

There were the waterproof waders he wore fly fishing and the cross-country skis he stepped into during long Aroostook County winters. He pulled on boots to work the Thompson family potato farm in Limestone and laced up running shoes to pound the pavement for miles with Aroostook Mustards. He slipped into dress shoes for days at the office of Thompson Financial Group.

But no matter what shoes he wore, one thing remained constant: his love for his community, state and the people in it.

**Thompson, who died in December 2023** at the age of 89 on the same farm where he was born, was an active, tremendous force for good in Maine and leaves behind an incredible legacy of community building and philanthropy. He was a vocal champion for MaineCF's mission and work as a member of the Board of Directors from 1998-2007 and strengthened his community as an Aroostook County Committee member from 2003-2012.

Thompson was a 1952 graduate of Limestone High School and earned a bachelor's degree in

agricultural engineering from the University of Maine at Orono in 1956. He returned to the family farm before founding Thompson Financial Group, an estate planning firm, in 1962 where he guided clients for the next five decades.

Brian Hamel, Thompson Financial Group advisor and former MaineCF board member, recalled Thompson's generous spirit.

"Art was a dear friend for nearly 30 years. He taught me many things, but one important lesson was to give back to your community," Hamel said. "Art was my mentor and the driving force behind my joining the MaineCF Board of Directors. Thanks, Art, for setting the perfect example for others to follow."

Tim Crowley, president of Northern Maine Community College and MaineCF board member, said, "Art was a wonderful, community-minded person. He was an avid runner for many years and always encouraged others. He will be missed by many and his kindness will be remembered for many years to come."

Erica McCrum, MaineCF community partner, will remember not only Thompson's generosity, but his "goodness to all." McCrum knew Thompson from childhood when he became her family's financial planner after her father's death left her mother a young widow.





Thompson left a mark on his beloved Aroostook County and its people. *Christopher Mills photo*

“He always took such good care of us,” recalled McCrum. “There was not a birthday that went by that he didn’t call or stop into our house.

Every time a picture or a snippet about points scored in a school sports game appeared in our local newspaper, he cut it out and send it to me with a card that always said, ‘Nice job, Erica!’”

“Aroostook County has definitely suffered a loss. We will miss his kind demeanor and the twinkle in his eye. May we carry on his spirit of generosity and putting others first as we move forward without him.”

It’s clear that Thompson, a man of many shoes, left big pairs to fill.

**Art Thompson’s philanthropic legacy** and love of community live on in his planned gift to MaineCF’s Aroostook County Fund. This foresight will support a broad spectrum of nonprofits in Aroostook County including arts, education, environment, economic development and human services for years to come.

MaineCF has funds for all 16 counties, permanent grantmaking resources invested for growth through contributions from individuals, businesses and foundations. These partners share MaineCF’s commitment to strengthen communities and increase charitable resources for all.

For more information on making a gift to a county fund, contact Bree Arsenault, vice president of philanthropy, [barsenault@mainecf.org](mailto:barsenault@mainecf.org) or 207-412-0844.

# Access to Education for All

40 years and thousands of awards later, MaineCF scholarships evolve to support learners of all backgrounds

**Tip Ackerman** spent much of her life believing a college education was not in her cards.

“I didn’t realize college was an option for me or that those doors were open,” she said. Last fall, Ackerman joined the University of Maine at Farmington’s (UMF) Class of 2025 at the age of 62. She is now on her way to earning a bachelor’s degree in education and forging a new career path as a teacher.

Ackerman is just one of the thousands of Maine learners supported by the Maine Community Foundation scholarship program. These scholarships have provided thousands of educational and career-advancement opportunities to Maine students since its first scholarship fund opened in 1984.

Four decades later, MaineCF’s 700 scholarships support a broad range of learners from all corners of the state. The foundation has awarded more than 32,000 scholarships totaling more than \$72.2 million.

MaineCF scholarships have evolved as Maine has evolved since the 1980’s. Today, a student might be on a traditional post-secondary path at a four-year university. Or they may have newly arrived in Maine from another country and seek to earn a high-school diploma. Like Ackerman, they might be an adult looking to pursue a passion discovered later in life.



University of Maine at Farmington student Tip Ackerman is on her way to a bachelor’s degree at age 62. She is a recipient of MaineCF’s Adult Learner Scholarship, which supports nontraditional students earning degrees and workplace certificates. *Matt Billian photo*

**The James and Marilyn Rockefeller Scholarship** was created in 2007 to support adults who are on a “road less traveled” and seek educational experiences that will change their life and the lives of those around them. This became the foundation of MaineCF’s Adult Learner Scholarship, which has since awarded 2,306 scholarships totaling \$5.1 million.

The Adult Learner Scholarship has opened doors to new careers and helped nontraditional students earn credentials to advance their current careers. These are adults who often have families and full-time jobs but want to attend school for the first time or return to school.

**It wasn’t until Ackerman was 59** that she thought about earning a college degree. After working as a landscaper, painter and for the U.S. Census Bureau, she found herself volunteering in a kindergarten classroom.

“That was it,” she said. “Within hours, I knew where I wanted to be.” She earned a high school equivalency diploma a couple of months later and enrolled at Washington County Community College to pursue an associate degree.

She was awarded several MaineCF adult learner scholarships to fund her education there.

In 2021, Ackerman enrolled at Washington County Community College to pursue an associate degree. She was awarded several MaineCF adult learner scholarships to fund her education there.

An avid hiker and lover of nature, Ackerman is grateful for her internship at Sipayik Elementary School, with the Passamaquoddy Nation, which deepened her understanding of where values around community, environment and nature-based education meet.

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**“The support of MaineCF has really helped me start seeing what is possible.”**

**— Tip Ackerman, Adult Learner Scholarship recipient**

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“As someone who experienced early parental loss, displacement and chaotic changes, I always found my own secure attachment in the woods and in nature,” said Ackerman. “When I discovered there was a whole movement around nature-based education, I was really, really excited.”

She credits her instructors at WCCC for the inspiration to continue her education. Once she graduates from UMF, Ackerman plans to work in nature-based and trauma-responsive early education and curriculum development.

“The support from MaineCF and encouragement of my instructors really helped me see the trail that was opening up for me”, she said. “This was instrumental in understanding how my own early years could become something of value and believing in those dreams.”

**The Ira M. Cobe Scholarship Fund** has itself evolved from offering traditional scholarships to funding a broad range of educational opportunities over the past 32 years.

The fund opened in 1991 with an initial intent to support “poor boys and young men” living in Waldo County pursuing post-secondary education. A 2001 amendment to the fund opened scholarships to girls.

Today, the Cobe fund has several components. It supports students pursuing higher education, camperships at local summer camps, awards grants

to Waldo County elementary, middle, and high schools and for educational opportunities such as class trips, college visits and summer school tuition. The fund has awarded scholarships totaling \$3.4 million.

In addition to traditional college scholarships, the Cobe fund provides support for high school students on different career paths. Students pursuing a Certified Nursing Assistant certificate can receive scholarships for required items such as scrubs, stethoscopes and supportive footwear. Those entering trades such as welding or building construction can purchase protective boots.

“Those are all very expensive items. Some students don’t have an extra dime to spend on equipment,” said Bonnie Kein, student services coordinator at Waldo County Technical Center. “They wouldn’t be able to participate in these programs without Cobe scholarships.”

The right equipment helps students get a head start on their careers. Once they earn a certificate, they are ready to enter the workforce with everything they need to succeed.

MaineCF scholarships invest in the future of Maine people by supporting their education and career aspirations – whatever those may be.



Wyatt Ford, an Ira M. Cobe Fund scholarship recipient, used his passion for fly fishing and nature to earn a bachelor’s degree in zoology at the University of Maine. He is now pursuing a master’s degree in wildlife and conservation management at Unity Environmental University. His goal is for a career with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. *Ashley Conti photo*

For more information, visit [www.maine.org/scholarships](http://www.maine.org/scholarships).

# Full Circle Investments

## MaineCF capital supports innovative initiatives

Maine is fertile ground – and water – for innovation. That’s why MaineCF is putting its primary pool portfolio to work; to invest in opportunities that blend return potential and support initiatives across the state. These investment returns are expected to boost fundholders’ portfolios to support their charitable activities while investing right here in the Pine Tree State.

MaineCF allocated 2% (approximately \$14 million as of Dec. 2023) of its primary pool portfolio for investments in Maine industries. The initial focus is partnering with third-party investment managers to put money behind Maine-based opportunities.

The foundation’s primary pool portfolio is managed by investment staff, assisted by an outside consultant and supervised by a volunteer investment committee. The investment committee, which sets MaineCF’s investment policy, strategic asset allocation and overall strategy, approved investment opportunities in which the foundation can support local initiatives and generate a significant return on invested capital.

To date, MaineCF has committed \$8.1 million to three initiatives in the state, including to Bold Ocean Ventures, a partnership between experienced venture capital investors and the Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland.

The fund aims to connect capital and science to grow the ocean economy and address the impacts of climate change in the Gulf of Maine and the North Atlantic. Targeted investments include aquaculture, the seafood supply chain, sustainable ocean operations, ocean data analysis and climate change solutions.

“We believe the ‘blue economy’ is a unique opportunity for Maine,” said Tim Agnew, Bold Ocean Ventures general partner. “We have a long maritime tradition and a lot of startups whose work will help to build our coastal economy. We’re interested in companies that are using innovative technology to improve the ocean and the ocean economy, and that have the potential for growth and attractive returns to our investors, including MaineCF.”

The foundation has also committed capital to Aligned Solar Partners 6, a solar infrastructure investment fund that owns and operates solar projects in multiple rural locations throughout the state.

“Not only do these projects offer energy cost savings to homeowners and businesses, but they also create hundreds of construction and civil engineering jobs in Maine,” said Brendan Bell, chief operating officer of Aligned Climate Partners. “The property leases provide income streams to private or commercial landowners.”

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“This is a great step for MaineCF to make statewide impact through its investment portfolio.”

— Tim Agnew, Bold Ocean Ventures

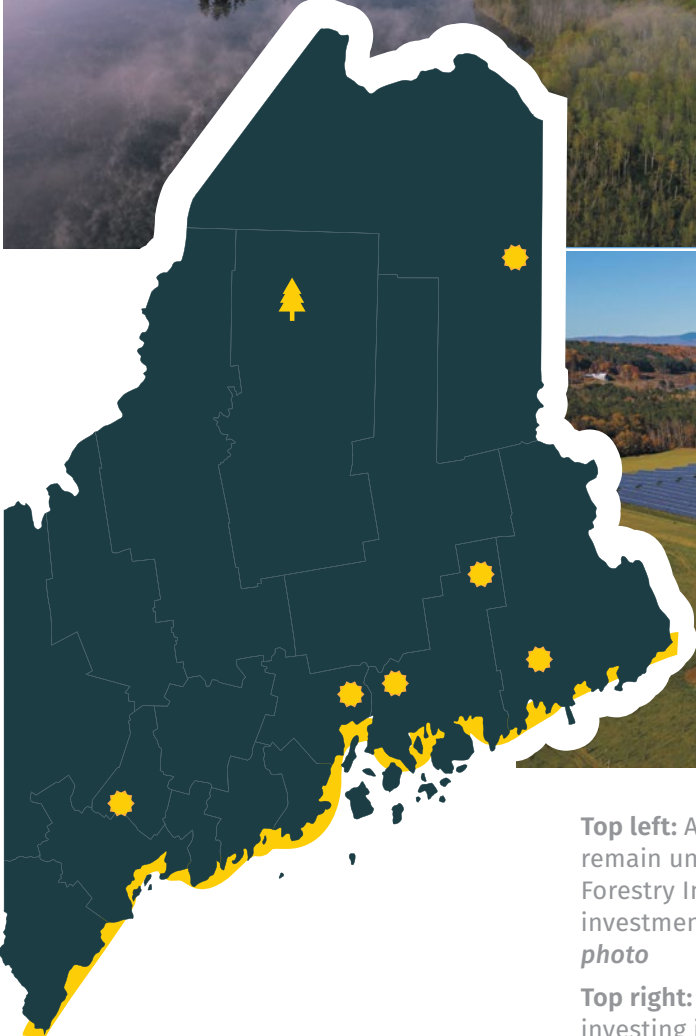
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A sustainable timber project near Moosehead Lake that is part of the Exemplary Forestry Investment Fund initiative will also benefit from a MaineCF investment. The investment helped secure the purchase of the 3,000-acre Scammon Ridge Headwaters, which encompasses several important ecosystems.

Conserving this land will ensure the habitats it provides remain undeveloped. The Scammon Ridge Headwaters is used year-round for recreational activities and contributes to the local forest products industry and economy.

In addition to providing capital for these projects, MaineCF hopes its investments will catalyze more support for Maine initiatives and bring new ideas for a sustainable future to life.

“These three initial investments reflect the foundation’s commitment to building a better Maine by putting money to work here,” said Mark Howard, MaineCF board member and chair of the Investment Committee.



MaineCF is investing capital in crucial industries across the state. Projects include solar farms, land conservation and innovative coastal research.

**Top left:** A wooded and wild 3,000-acre parcel near Moosehead Lake will remain undeveloped thanks to a MaineCF investment in the Exemplary Forestry Investment Fund. This is among the first of the foundation’s such investments to support Maine initiatives and industries. *Isaac Crabtree photo*

**Top right:** Bold Ocean Ventures aims to boost the ocean economy by investing in innovative maritime technologies, including aquaculture, sustainable ocean operations and solutions for climate change. *Gulf of Maine Research Institute photo*

**Bottom:** Six solar projects across Maine offer energy savings, create jobs and boost local economies. *Aligned Solar Partners 6 photo*



# Connecting People and Resources

Calvin True spent 51 years as a lawyer with Eaton Peabody. He spent most of his career assisting individual and corporate clients with wealth transfer and business succession planning and worked with individuals and charitable organizations to develop and implement their charitable objectives. True served on the Maine Community Foundation Board of Directors from 2003 to 2008.

*Brianna Soukup photo*

**MaineCF:** You have been involved with MaineCF in many different ways over the years. What spurred your involvement on the Board of Directors?

**Calvin True:** I was an early supporter of having an organization like MaineCF. I had watched it grow and had utilized some of the resources that were available on the foundation's website and knew a couple of the lawyers who had either served or were serving on the board. When the legendary Art Thompson sat down with me one day and asked if I would think about serving on the board, I said that sounded like something that would be of interest to me.

**MaineCF:** As a trust and estate attorney, what do you see as your role in the philanthropy conversation with clients?

**True:** I divide my clients into three categories when it comes to philanthropy. The first is those who have no experience being donors to charitable organizations. Typically, they don't come in with a plan to have a portion of their assets go to one or

more charitable organizations. For those clients, it might be \$5,000 to the church or \$1,000 to the Humane Society.

The second category is those who have a very clear focus. They may want to create scholarships for engineering students at the University of Maine, and in that case, I work directly with the University of Maine Foundation on their behalf.

The third is really where MaineCF comes into play in a significant way. It's those who typically have some wealth and are very charitably inclined, but don't really know how to go about implementing a plan for how their philanthropic dollars should be used. Those are the ones who want to do something meaningful.

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**“MaineCF is the resource that connects Maine people to both identify and implement philanthropic endeavors.”**

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I put them in the hands of people at the foundation who do this every day and who are really good at it. Invariably, those people come back to me and say it worked out well. From my standpoint, it's a win-win-win situation. I helped my client, my client is happy and communities benefit from grants from MaineCF.

**MaineCF: Would you be willing to share an example of an experience where partnering with MaineCF helped a client achieve their charitable goals?**

**True:** A couple of years ago, I worked with a woman who had sold her business and had gotten more money than expected. She wanted to put \$5 million to \$10 million toward philanthropic objectives but didn't know how to go about it. She met with a MaineCF staff person in the Ellsworth office.

She is really happy and is in the process of putting more dollars with MaineCF because of her experience. I have no question something really good came out of it.

**MaineCF: As you move on to your next adventure beyond the practice of law, are there any parting words you have for other professional advisors about how they may benefit from working with MaineCF?**

**True:** MaineCF works to build healthier and stronger communities. I view it as an organization that helps Maine people implement their philanthropic objectives. That happens in a variety of ways.

I had a relatively wealthy couple from Washington County with a desire for their assets to go to worthy charitable organizations. They asked their son to disperse this to qualifying charitable organizations that he selected. When we got into the settlement of the estate, we had to identify where the money is going to go. The son was just wringing his hands. He didn't want to be forced to decide and wanted to do what was right by his parents.

To give him some time to be able to make a comfortable decision, we put everything with MaineCF in a donor-advised fund. It bought him some time so that he and the person he's working with at MaineCF can comfortably get him to a good result honoring his parents' wishes.

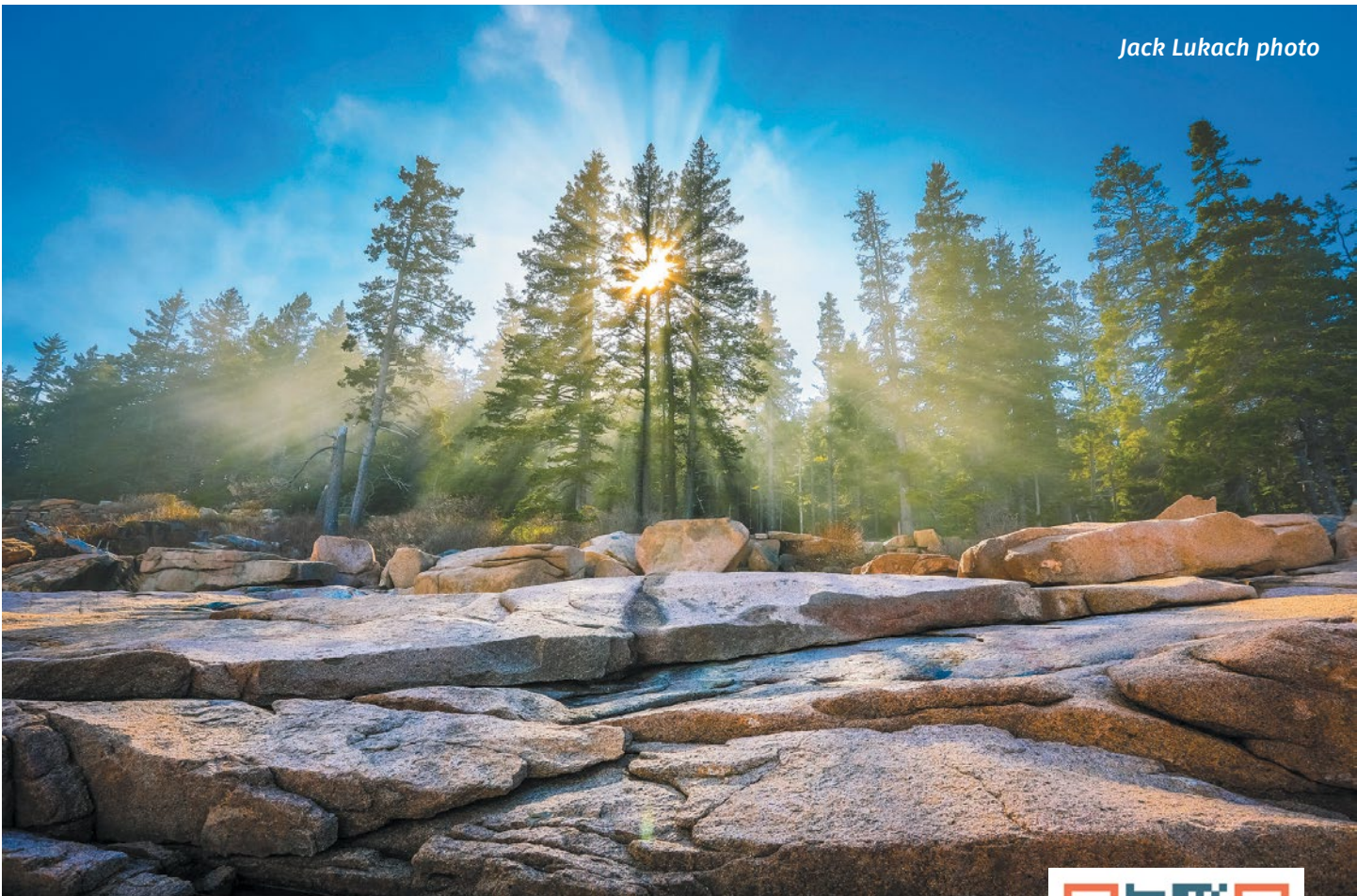
Recently, I got several calls from clients after the Lewiston shootings saying, “Tell us what we can do to be helpful.” I was already aware that the foundation was putting together a support fund. I told them, “There are a lot of well-intended organizations out there, but I know MaineCF is going to do the right thing with your funds.”

From my standpoint, it doesn't matter whether it's a new professional advisor or someone who's on the verge of retiring like I have been for years now. MaineCF is the resource that connects Maine people to both identify and implement philanthropic endeavors.



**Maine**  
Community Foundation

245 Main Street  
Ellsworth, Maine 04605  
ph: 207-667-9735



*Jack Lukach photo*

The Maine Community Foundation is here when we're needed – today and for all of Maine's tomorrows. Join us to build a better Maine. [www.mainecef.org](http://www.mainecef.org)

