



Maine
Community Foundation

Press Forward
Maine

Strengthening Local News. Strengthening Maine Communities.

What Is Press Forward Maine?

Press Forward Maine is a nonpartisan, philanthropic initiative aimed at strengthening local news by working with partners across the state to **reimagine, reinvest in, and rebuild local journalism.**

Why Local News Matters

Research from MaineCF's Community Needs Assessment and national Press Forward partners shows the stakes clearly. In communities with strong local journalism:

- Local governments are less polarized and more accountable
- Civic engagement, volunteerism, and voter turnout are all higher
- Residents feel more informed, connected, and empowered to get involved

Yet across Maine, local news organizations are under pressure and under-resourced. Traditional revenue has declined, leaving many communities without reliable, fact-based local information.

Press Forward Maine was created to respond to this challenge. We are working to ensure every Mainer has access to trusted local news and information.

Building Stronger Local News: A Strategy Grounded in Maine

With help from the Advisory Committee, Press Forward Maine is launching a portfolio of projects designed specifically for Maine—not as one-time investments, but as practical, **systems-level solutions** that strengthen the local news ecosystem for the long term.

Early investments include:

Understanding Maine's Local News Ecosystem

In partnership with the Roux Institute, we're building a data-driven understanding of Maine's local news landscape — including coverage gaps, vulnerabilities and opportunities — to identify community needs and guide future investment, policy efforts and collaboration.

Growing the Next Generation of Journalists

We're designing a statewide Community News Hub that connects Maine college students with an experienced editor to expand community reporting capacity while training the next generation of journalists.

Supporting Local News Innovation

We're helping local news organizations—new and established alike—build lasting sustainability through business model innovation, new technology, coaching, and peer learning.

Advancing Public Policy Solutions

Working with the Maine Press Association, Maine Broadcasters Association and Rebuild Local News, we're building the infrastructure needed to advance public policy solutions to strengthen local news.

How You Can Help

The future of local news in Maine will require many kinds of support. MaineCF is working with donors who want to invest in trusted information, stronger communities, and a healthier civic life. Depending on your interests, you can:

- **Join other donors in the Press Forward Maine pooled fund** to support statewide strategies and shared priorities.
- **Fund a specific project** within the Press Forward Maine portfolio, including research, student reporting, innovation support, or policy infrastructure.
- **Endow a gift** to provide lasting support for local news in Maine.
- **Support a local outlet** in your community through a subscription, donation, sponsorship, or by encouraging others to do the same.

Press Forward Maine Advisory Committee

Emily Barr, *Retired CEO, Graham Media Group*

Carlos Barrionuevo, *Director, Public Media Company*

Jeanne Bourgault, *CEO, Internews*

Maulian Bryant, *Executive Director, Wabanaki Alliance*

Andrew Butcher, *President, Maine Connectivity Authority*

Ryan Donahue, *Princeton University Student;
Skowhegan, ME*

Judy Meyer, *Editor, Monitor Local*

Prashant Mittal, *Professor and Data Scientist, Roux Institute*

Bobby Monks, *Board member, Pro Publica*

Kathryn Olmstead, *Author and Former Journalist*

Andrea Perry, *Program Director, Broad Reach Foundation*

Maizy Weirich, *University of Maine School of Journalism
(2026 Graduate)*

Lisa DeSisto, *Lead Advisor – Former Maine Media Executive*

About MaineCF

Maine Community Foundation brings people and resources together to build a better Maine. We're a grantmaker, philanthropic partner, and statewide leader on key issues affecting Maine. Press Forward Maine is part of a national network of chapters working to strengthen local news so communities stay informed, connected and engaged.

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