



DECEMBER 2017

Greetings!

Greetings,

Each of us at The Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers is deeply thankful. This quote captures our joy: "Gratitude turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity... it makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow." -Melody Beattie

We have shared a number of needs and concerns with you and our community, and we have been overwhelmed at the response. We were very pleasantly surprised with the participation in the Sukeforth Family Festival of Trees and the wonderful donations, the support of Giving Tuesday gifts and the extraordinary donations for the **Christmas Program**. Wave upon wave of pajamas, toys, books and donations have arrived on our campus to help us serve more children in need than ever before. Hundreds of businesses and community groups have held drives based on our **needs list** and reached out to help make sure that we can meet the needs of children throughout Maine. We are also deeply thankful once again for Marden's support through the Red Stocking Campaign. We have heard gratitude from the families that have come to our campus to pick up their gift boxes and from the more than 250 volunteers who have experienced the joy and meaning of this season by giving of themselves to bring hope, light and love to others.



We celebrate the amazing care, concern and hope for those we are helping and encouraging to bring more peace, safety, hope and growth for all Maine families. We are so grateful for you and your support.

May the light, hope and joy of this season be with you and your family.

In sincere gratitude,

Richard Dorian, Executive Director

Maine Children's Home

Working with children and their families...
every day

How did we do?

Program	Accomplishments
1 Adoption	15 new inquiries for the Adoption Program.
2 Harland Turner Counseling Center	Counselors are participating in a weekly Play Therapy training program! We are seeing more than 250 children & families each month.
3 Teen Parent School Program	6 enrolled students & 3 new are awaiting enrollment.
4 The Children's Place	20 new inquiries during November.
5 Christmas	We've received hundreds of donations this year enabling us to provide gifts to even more families. Thank you!
6 Annual Celebration	Our annual celebration is planned for January 25, 2018. More details in our next report card!
7 Fundraising	The annual Red Stocking Appeal has been released.  Look for it in your mailbox! Thank you for the support!
8 Volunteer Salute	Hundreds of volunteers have been sorting, packing & distributing for Christmas. Thank you!
9 Website	The new, mobile-friendly website has launched! Check it out & let us know what you think.

www.mainechildrenshome.org



Christmas Program Update

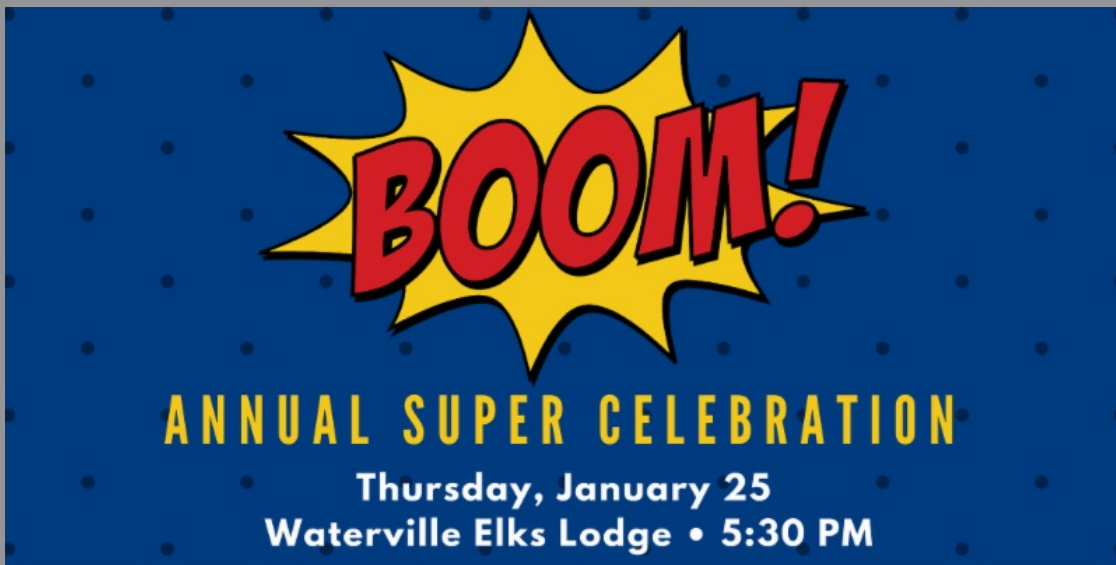
Once again, volunteers, donors and staff came together in the true spirit of giving to bring **the joy of Christmas** to more than 1,850 (more than ever before!) disadvantaged children across Maine this holiday season. With more and more of our generous donors donating earlier in the season, with some donating as early as the summer through Christmas in July celebrations, we were able to pack without interruption from late October until our last day of box distribution in mid-December.

With deep appreciation for the kindness and generosity of people toward strangers, we now turn our efforts to building our inventory in time for the beginning of the next Christmas season in October of 2018. Please keep us in mind during post-holiday sales, summer celebrations and whenever you wish to bring the light of Christmas to those who need it most. THANK YOU!

Click the image below for a very special thank you to our volunteers:



Join Us: Super Celebration Event



Join The Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers on Thursday, January 25, for our Annual Super Celebration. The superhero-themed night will consist of a cash bar, DJ, award presentations, motivational speaking by **David Pride**, author Juliese Padgett will talk about her book "**The Newest Flower**," and more!

Tickets are \$35 per person. Tickets are also available by calling Kelly Couture at (207) 872-0261. If you would like to sponsor the event, please click [here](#). All proceeds to benefit The Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers' Annual Appeal. See [Facebook](#) for more information and updates!



Party with a Purpose

A few years ago, a new trend was started to help special causes, Party with a Purpose,

celebrating a loved one's special event, such as a birthday or anniversary, with a charity to specific cause in mind.

In January, one of our volunteers will be celebrating her 64th birthday and her goal is to collect 64 pairs of solid-colored mittens for newborns to twelve years of age to be donated to the **Christmas Program** for next year's season. This year, The Maine Children's Home helped more than 1,850 Maine children and one of the items we struggled to keep in our inventory was warm mittens for the kids.



Your generosity would help eliminate that problem next year. Gifts of mittens can be sent to:
26 Back Road
Fairfield, ME 04937

OR

The Maine Children's Home
93 Silver Street
Waterville, ME 04901

Please mark packages with **ATTN: Debbie Plummer** so they can be counted towards her goal. Thank you in advance for helping keep Maine kids warm next winter!

Teen Pageant Update



In July, we asked the public to join us in supporting one of the teens from the Waterville Alternative High School to achieve her dream of participating in the Miss Maine Teen Beauty Pageant.

Cassidy Hartin was able to participate in the pageant and placed in the top 15 out of 36 contestants! Although Cassidy did not win the title, she did win the most prestigious "Spirit Award," which was chosen by the pageantry staff and was one of only three awards given to the contestants. We are very excited for Cassidy and want to thank all of you who helped to get her to this dream!

News from The Children's Place

On December 21, preschoolers and toddlers from [The Children's Place Early Care and Education](#)



Center trooped across the parking lot to join students from the [Sharon Abrams Teen Parent School Program](#) and Waterville Alternative Ed for a holiday treat. With a table full of gingerbread cookies and decorating supplies, the preschoolers, toddlers and teens worked together designing their edible art.

The best part of the activity, after intense concentration and joyful chatter, was getting to eat their artistic creations.

As families wind down their holiday celebrations and head into the winter months, keep in mind the wealth of wintertime fun that Maine has to offer. The children at The Children's Place love playing outside and are "chanting" for snow (but without the freezing rain or numbing windchill temps that would keep them indoors).

There is so much to discover as they investigate the outdoors through a different lens than during the warmer seasons. And, the health benefits of outdoor play include: fresh air free from the germs that can circulate throughout closed indoor spaces, stronger immune systems, and exposure to the sun's UVB rays enabling their bodies to produce vitamin D. Kids who play outside are happier, healthier, and stronger! Check out this article by Maine Winter Kids, "[12 Fun Things to do in Winter](#)," and Happy New Year!



**THE MAINE
CHILDREN'S HOME**
for Little Wanderers

Serving families and children since 1899

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