



**THE MAINE
CHILDREN'S HOME**
for Little Wanderers
Serving families and children since 1899



Open Arms

September 2017

Greetings!



While school is back in session and summer is winding down, we have fond memories of this summer's growth.

One of my favorite parts of this summer has been seeing waves of volunteers coming to our campus. We can't possibly meet all the needs of [our programs](#) without the incredible support from individuals, clubs and

businesses.

- This summer, we had a great visit from riders from the Low XII Chapter of the Widows Sons Motorcycle Club, which helped the [Christmas Program](#) and [Summer Camp Scholarships](#).
- The staff at SAPPI held another successful golf tournament to help support camp scholarships.
- Volunteers from Johnny's Selected Seeds pitched in to help with support for the gardens.
- Dozens of volunteers from Camp Mechuwana mission teams visited us throughout the summer to do demolition work in our Mock Building and to build a storage building for [The Children's Place](#) over five weeks.
- Throughout the summer, Kennebec Valley Credit Unions teamed up to gather presents and support for the [Christmas Program](#). Hundreds of people stepped up.
- A great young supporter devoted her recent birthday party to the [Christmas Program](#) and said it was a far bigger gift to receive presents for the children than it would have been for herself.

We are so thankful to the many people who step up and can't all possibly be listed here. Because of you, lives are going to be better and brighter.

In sincere gratitude,

Richard Dorian, Executive Director

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Thank You

Donate Online



*From the bottom of our hearts,
thank you for making our
programs possible.*



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Agency Report Card

July 2017

Maine Children's Home
Working with children and their families... every day

How did we do?

	Program	Accomplishments
1	Adoption	Added an additional social worker to our team to support growth of services & provide outreach.
2	Harland Turner Counseling Center	Demand for counseling services continues to grow & we plan to grow the staff this fall.
3	Teen Parent School Program	A generous grant of \$15,000 received from the Bill and Joan Alford Foundation.
4	Fundraising	Received an individual donation of more than \$10,000.
5	The Children's Place	A much needed storage shed was built as part of the mission work of Winthrop's Camp Meduwana.
6	Events	October – Friends' Lobster Roll Lunch – stay tuned! November – Benefit Holiday Craft Fair at T&B's.
7	Christmas	Local credit unions "Christmas in July" campaign resulted in an amazing contribution to the program. Many thanks!
8	Mission in Motion	Currently serving more than 730 children, families & young adults. In July, we had 45 new requests.
9	Volunteers	More than 300 volunteer hours this summer. Thank you!

www.mainechildrenshome.org



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News from The Children's Place

As the summer winds down, the children are making the most of the opportunities in our outdoor play yards - water play, nature walks, picnics, fresh air play and gardening. The children enjoyed checking the garden every day, tracking the growth and development of the vegetables and sampling the carrots, snap peas, tomatoes, beans, zucchini and lettuce. The preschoolers compared the green and purple beans and decided that the only difference between them was the color. And, surprisingly, the beets were a big hit with the toddlers.

Special thanks to Pam and Rick Armour who volunteered to assemble our new 6' x 8' greenhouse.



The greenhouse was purchased through a Healthy Northern Kennebec mini-grant for the Gardening Project collaboration between [The Children's Place](#) preschoolers, the teens attending the [Sharon Abrams Teen Parent School Program](#) and Waterville Alternative Ed.

This autumn, the preschoolers are looking forward to working with the high school students to harvest the gardens, prep the raised beds for winter dormancy, carry out plans to utilize the new greenhouse to extend the growing season, and plan curriculum activities to do together that will help us learn more about gardening, composting, recycling and environmental stewardship.

And, there's something else happening in our front yard...
Can you guess what it is by looking at this picture?



Here are a couple of hints:

- the children and teachers will LOVE it
- the children can use it with their whole bodies, wheels and chalk

Stay tuned to next month's e-newsletter for the BIG reveal...

Christmas Program Support

Paint Party to Benefit The Maine Children's Home

We wish to give special recognition to Savanna Veilleux of Topsham for holding a recent Paint Party in Winslow to gather donations and toys for the [Christmas Program](#) at The Maine Children's Home.

Savanna had a birthday on August 11 and decided to invite friends and family to celebrate with her by helping the Christmas Program in lieu of gifts. Savanna has been a volunteer in the Christmas Program for years, along with her family. It was a great way to educate people about the needs of the children and families served by The Maine Children's Home's programs and to gather support.

The party was a great success with more than \$200 raised and more than \$750 in toy donations. Savanna is going to help purchase needed toys, clothes, electronic games, puzzles, boots, boots and more boots, etc. for the program. Many guests asked how to sign up to volunteer to help pack some of the 1,700+ boxes for children across the state of Maine this holiday season. Thank you, Savanna, for making such a positive difference!



Christmas in July

We were so excited to welcome the Kennebec Valley Chapter of Credit Unions with Christmas in July donations collected throughout the month from 11 credit unions. The Christmas in July campaign encouraged credit union members to donate toys, clothing, or money to help build the Christmas Program inventory in preparation for the coming holiday season. The results were spectacular! See the WABI coverage [here](#).



A Lot of Boxes!

Many thanks to Huhtamaki, Cianbro and Victory Packaging for their collective effort in donating and delivering 2,000 boxes for our [Christmas Program](#).



Summer Camp Scholarship Success

Thank you to those who helped support our [Summer Camp Scholarship Program](#). This year, we were able to send 110 children to summer camp! As you can tell from the thank you note below, there were some 'happy campers!'

Dear Ms. Sawyer,
Thank you for sending me to Camp. It was great to be back again. I was in cabin 2 this year and I really liked my cabin leaders. On Wednesday we camped out and I had a lot of fun roasting marshmallows and making s'mores. I had a really fun week. Thanks again!
Your friend,

Thank You!

This summer, we have been very fortunate to have incredible volunteer support from missions volunteers from across the United States who were staying at Camp Mechuwana in Winthrop. These hardworking people devoted hundreds of hours to making improvements on our campus and we will be forever grateful.



