



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



Open Arms

July 2016

Greetings!



This week I had the joy to be part of a small team that spent time with Dr. Erin Oldham from the Cutler Institute at the Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine (USM). Dr. Oldham and USM have started a project to explore ways for Maine nonprofits to demonstrate mission impact through data innovation, and The Maine Children's Home is excited to be a pilot agency for the project.

In particular, we want to gain insight on The Maine Children's Home's [Sharon Abrams' Teen Parent School Program](#). We know we have supported close to a thousand pregnant or parenting teens over the past 41 years. Can we go beyond that simple (but impressive) number and quantify all the effects of this program and our other services? That's what we hope the USM project will help with.

Meanwhile, we shared the unique supports The Maine Children's Home offers, and I was struck by the extraordinary ripple effect of our work: for the teen parents, their babies, parents, siblings, friends, and other peers. We are changing lives in multiple layers and for multiple generations. This concept is true across all the services we provide: [counseling](#), [The Children's Place Early Care and Education Center](#), [adoptions](#), [summer camp scholarships](#), and in the [Christmas Program](#). We're changing the realities and futures for hundreds of children and families each and every month. The support, encouragement, information, advocacy and tools The Maine Children's Home provides are empowering every family to be stronger, and more independent and confident in raising healthier Maine children.

You will see in this month's agency report card that we are making a difference with your help and support. If you haven't visited us in a while I invite you to come by and see the ripple effect at work.

As always, we are humbled and grateful for the incredible support we receive each day to strengthen all the supports we are able to offer. Thank you!

Richard Dorian, Executive Director

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



Agency Report Card




July 2016

Maine Children's Home

Working with children and their families
... every day

How did we do?

| Program | Accomplishments |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Christmas | \$30,000 grant from How Balance Foundation |
| 2 Harland Turner Counseling Center | 474 face-to-face client visits |
| 3 Fundraising | \$8,000+ in donations |
| 4 Camperships | Approximately 120 children going to summer camp  |
| 5 Adoption | 7 Waiting couples matched |
| 6 Events | Passion For Fashion in early planning for September |
| 7 The Children's Place | Grant received to create small raised gardens for children to care for and learn from |
| 8 Toon Parent School Program | 7 graduates this past June |
| 9 Organization | Received 4-Star Recognition – Charity Navigator |

www.mainechildrenshome.org



[Visit our website](#)



[Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter](#)

More Than 155 Years of Professional Social Work Experience in Our Adoption Program

The Maine Children's Home's [Adoption Program](#) has ethically placed children in loving adoptive homes since 1899. We are a comprehensive adoption agency, offering professional services and support to all members of the adoption triad, which includes adoptive parents, birth parents, and adoptees.

As the only Maine-based adoption agency that meets the Council on Accreditation's Hague International Standards, all families can be

assured that we operate with the best interests of the children being adopted as the primary concern.



Recently, the program has expanded and is now welcoming referrals. If you're interested in learning more about adoption, please attend an informational meeting the last Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. at The Maine Children's Home campus (93 Silver Street, Waterville). For more information please contact Lindsay Bragdon, adoption program coordinator at 207-873-4253 ext. 210, or via e-mail at lbragdon@mainechildrenshome.org.

Openings & Options for the Sharon

Abrams' Teen Parent School Program

This is the time of year when [Teen Parent School](#) staff provides information, outreach and tours for local area guidance counselors, social workers, case managers and pregnant or parenting teens that are seeking the right combination of support to finish their high school education requirements.

Becky Judd is right in the center of this work as the new Teen Parent School Program director. We are thankful for her years of experience with this program in her continuing role as the case manager for many students.

If you would like information about the application process or availability, please contact Becky Judd at 207-873-4253 ext. 213, or write rjudd@mainechildrenshome.org.



The [Sharon Abrams' Teen Parent School Program](#) at The Maine Children's Home is an alternative high school program for pregnant and parenting teens. Our school program has been in existence since 1974. Open to pregnant and parenting teens statewide, it provides prenatal and parenting instruction along with academic and life skill courses. All students are registered as Waterville High School students and work toward earning a Waterville High School diploma.

The program is located in Lunder Hall on The Maine Children's Home Dorothy "Bibby" Alford campus. There are five certified teachers on location, and other teachers from Waterville High School teach specific courses. A full-time clinician is available to support students with individual counseling. On-campus childcare is also available, free of cost, to students while enrolled in our program.

Achieving financial and emotional independence is a tremendous feat in anyone's life. Early parenthood can make the journey more challenging, but not hopeless. Our aim is to remove as many deterrents as possible, and then to build on the strengths of each young parent. We also strive to help teen parents understand positive parenting, to support and assist them as they learn to deal with troublesome issues, and to provide a high quality education so they can acquire the knowledge and skills to move forward in a healthy lifestyle.

Education Options

- High school completion
- Prenatal classes
- Parenting classes
- Independent living education and support

Additional Support

- Individual counseling
- Psycho-educational groups
- On-site childcare at The Children's Place
- College and career support
- Referrals for vital supports for health, well-being and family security

We know from more than 41 years of supporting, learning and follow-up that this program is a powerful example of the ripple effect across generations of families.

Save the Date

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, September 22**, for fashion, food and fun at our annual Passion for Fashion event. Call to reserve your ticket today!

Please note the new location: The Vintage Manor Event Center (the old John Martin's Manor) on College Avenue in Waterville.



Passion for Fashion

Thursday, September 22, 2016

6pm

**Hosted by Divine Consigns at
The Vintage Manor Event Center**

54 College Ave.

Waterville, Maine

Dinner, Fashion Show, Auction

Tickets \$30 per person on sale beginning September 1st.

Call 872-0261 for information or sponsorship.

Christmas in July

Throughout the month of July, the [Winslow Community Federal Credit Union](#) celebrated Christmas in July by collecting items for the [Christmas](#)

Program.

Thank you to the credit union, and all those who helped by donating items during the Christmas in July celebration. Remember, it's never too early to donate!



Summer Camp Scholarship Program Success

Since 1967 The Maine Children's Home has conducted an annual special fundraising campaign to provide either a day at camp or an overnight camping experience for children who could not afford to attend otherwise. The activities, friendships, and positive role models they experience at camp can shape a child's character in enduring ways.

This year's support helped send 120 children to one of the six Maine summer camps that partner with us on the [Summer Camp Scholarship Program](#).

We are deeply grateful to the many private donors, clubs, businesses and foundations that made this possible. We are especially grateful for the continued support of the George Keller Campership Fund, sending many children to camp. We are grateful for partnerships with the Julia Clukey Camp for Girls at the Kennebec Valley YMCA, Camp Tracy in Oakland, Camp Fairhaven in Brooks, The Friends Camp in China, Camp Susan Curtis in Stoneham and Camp Mechuwana in Winthrop. We were thrilled that this year several of the camps shared their own scholarship funds to make several camp dreams a reality.

We are deeply appreciative of the support that allowed us to provide this once-in-a-lifetime experience to 120 children. Thank you.