



NOVEMBER 2017

Greetings!

Greetings,

November is always a time of appreciation and gratitude. We are striving each and every day to make life better for Maine children and families, and to support safer, more loving and supportive homes. We can only support the more than 3,200 infants, children and families with hundreds of volunteers, thousands of donors and a deeply caring community.

We had a wonderful benefit earlier in the month to highlight the extraordinary work that takes place at the Sharon Abrams Teen Parent School Program. We celebrated the successes of graduates earlier in the year and the current parents who are working hard to be good parents and to build a future for themselves. It was a pretty inspiring night. I have shared with a number of people what a moving night it was. We laughed with Gary Crocker, we cried and then we laughed harder. We are deeply thankful for the supporters, sponsors and friends who helped to carry on a successful fundraiser.



In sincere gratitude,

Richard Dorian, Executive Director

Agency Report Card

Maine Children's Home

Working with children and their families...
every day

How did we do?

	Program	Accomplishments
1	Adoption	Hague licensing renewal visit completed! Awaiting final report.
2	Harland Turner Counseling Center	The Counseling Center continues to be incredibly busy. We're adding staff!
3	Teen Parent School Program	5 enrolled students, 2 tours & 2 awaiting enrollment.
4	The Children's Place	63 students served through October 2017.
5	Christmas	Christmas is in full swing. Early figures show we'll exceed last year's number served. Many thanks to supporters!
6	TPSP Event	Very successful event held November 9! Great community response and support.
7	Fundraising	We were pleased to participate in the Sukeforth Family Festival of Trees. Thank you for your support!
8	Community Event	November 4 Craft Fair was held at T&B Celebration Center to benefit the Christmas Program.
9	Staff	Hired a new assistant teacher and a child & family therapist!

www.mainechildrenshome.org



Donation Spotlight: Bea's Slippers



Bea has been knitting slippers for children in the **Christmas Program** for many years. She has made more than 4,200 slippers which have been given to children all across the state of Maine.

The slippers range in size from newborn to adult sizes—she doesn't want any child left out! It's donations like these that really show us how important our community is. Thank you, Bea!

The Children's Place Shares

Creating Meaningful Family Holiday Traditions



Celebrating the holidays with children can be some of the most delightful and memorable occasions for families, but it's important to keep in mind that families often experience increased time crunches and physical/emotional demands during the holidays. With this hustle and bustle, young children's emotional well-being can easily get lost in the shuffle.

Young children experience noisy and over-stimulating television, radio, and store advertising, and sometimes adults add to the stress by talking about and preparing for the holidays weeks/months before it arrives. All this can be overwhelming to the point that young children either withdraw into their own protective shell or they act out.

When involving young children, remember to take things slow, don't start celebrating too early, and focus on some family traditions that result in caring for and helping others. Here are a few ways our families are helping others in their community during this holiday season:

- joining other families for caroling at local retirement facilities
- donating pet food to the local animal shelter
- delivering treats to the local fire station/police department
- making cards for children who are in the hospital over the holidays
- finding a Giving Tree, taking a tag and donating a new toy to The Maine Children's Home's Christmas Program

What are some traditions you have in your family?

Enjoy [this article](#), The Caring Season by Eleanor Reynolds, published in Early Childhood News.

It's National Adoption Awareness Month



November is National Adoption Awareness Month, a month designated to raise awareness about the urgent need for adoptive families for children and youth in foster care.

Adoption Awareness Month is a time to celebrate our unique family stories, as well as a time to educate the public and encourage others to consider adoption.

Tom J. and Rocio Carey, proud parents to Thomas P. (Tom 2.0), were kind enough to answer a few questions about their adoption journey!

Why did you choose international adoption?

Our family is multicultural and multilingual and we felt comfortable supporting our child's background while immersing him or her in a new environment. Furthermore, toddler adoption appealed to us as a good fit for our family. We also found a local agency (The Maine Children's Home) and an international agency (Holt) with missions we respected and who provided a lot of support through the process.

What made you most excited about adopting your child?

We love our life in Maine and couldn't wait to share activities and adventures outdoors with a child. We imagined every first would be special and memorable and we dreamed of seeing things again from a child's perspective. We were curious and excited to get to know this special little person and to cement our bond as a family.

How has adoption touched your lives?

Adoption allowed us to fulfill our dream of parenthood by giving us a pathway to bring our sweet, funny, kind son home. It's nothing short of a miracle and a privilege to be his parents. We are blown away by how fulfilling and joyful our new routines are and the ways our son has changed everything for the better. We are big advocates for adoption and the adoption process as a primer for parenthood.

What advice would you give future families considering adoption?

Be flexible but committed and find people and agencies you can work with and who can guide you in the right direction when questions arise. Learn as much as you can about children and normal development and then talk to real parents who will debunk a lot of the expectations. Keep a sense of humor and a healthy perspective. Ask questions and visit people and build a sense of community. Trust that the end result is worth it and that the waiting is an opportunity to really get ready for your little one.

Tom and Rocio are not originally from Maine but intend to spend the rest of their lives making up for that mistake. They are both from big cities but feel most comfortable in the woods and on skis. Tom 2.0 (T2) was born in Thailand but you would never know it by the way he pines for snow and begs to go outside in any weather to play with his toy horses and trucks. At home, Rocio and T2 speak Spanish and T2 translates selectively for his dad. The whole family works and plays in western Maine with a dog, a cat, and too many toy horses to count.



[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ADOPTION PROGRAM](#)

Celebrating Resilience Event

On November 9, we held a benefit fundraiser for the **Sharon Abrams Teen Parent School Program** at the Waterville Elks Lodge. The night consisted of silent and live auctions, stories from Teen Parent School alumni Tiffany Glidden, and current Teen Parent School student Cheyenne Storm. Our board president, Linette Gamache, who was a Teen Parent School Program graduate, also shared a few words. Gary Crocker was our emcee for the night and we had a live performance from The Sunday Project swing band. This was a very successful night in raising money for our Teen Parent School Program and it is all thanks to our sponsors, donors, volunteers, staff, and attendees.

Special thank you to: Christopher Hastings Confections, Gary Crocker, Johnny's Selected Seeds, The Sunday Project, Golden Pond Wealth Management, Century 21 Nason Realty, Zimba Company, SAPPI, Skowhegan Savings Bank, Central Maine Motors, and all the local businesses that donated items for our auctions. Thank you for your support of our Teen Parent School Program!



Upcoming Toy Drive at Parsonsfield Concert



On December 14, Parsonsfield, a Massachusetts-based folk-rock band, will perform at the Strand Theater in Rockland and host a toy drive to benefit The Maine Children's Home's **Christmas Program**. The event will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The toy drive at the concert will support the Christmas Program. A list of the most urgent Christmas Program needs can be found [here](#).

Parsonsfield, a 5-piece folk-rock band based in western Massachusetts, focuses on blending traditional roots with rock attitude. The band seamlessly moves from Appalachian anthems and handcrafted ballads to jubilant and danceable indie roots music. The New York Times hailed the band as "boisterously youthful yet deftly sentimental." The band is made up of Chris Freeman (vocals, banjo), Antonio Alcorn (mandolin), Max Shakun (vocals, pump organ, guitar), Harrison "Whale" Goodale (bass) and Erik Hirschmann (drums).

Tickets for the concert are on sale now on [The Strand's website](#). Advance tickets are \$15, \$18 at the door.

To learn more about Parsonsfield, visit parsonsfield.com.

Recent Grant from The Community Foundation

The Maine Children's Home has received a grant from The Community Foundation's **S.L. Gimbel Foundation** in support of the nonprofit's TRUTH Project. The project's goal is to provide evidence-based treatment to children who have experienced abuse, neglect or other traumatic experiences, including training and support to parents, providers, school staff and the community as a whole. As part of The TRUTH Project, the grant totaling more than \$23,600 will help train eight Maine Children's Home counselors to become certified in various treatment methods.

The grant was made possible by The Community Foundation, strengthening inland southern California through philanthropy.

Pictured below: Debra Levenseller, Diana Rafuse and Rick Dorian of The Maine Children's Home with the S.L. Gimbel Foundation grant.



Thank You to Our Volunteers

Thank you to our recent volunteers including:

Students from the JMG program at KVCC; Emily, Nicareece, Stefani, Sarah, and Jessica held an open mic night with all proceeds to MCH AND volunteered to pack boxes for the Christmas Program.

Brittinae, Jeff and Reilly, members of KV Connect's steering committee, deliver a check to us from a Waterville GreenDrinks event at Pizza Degree in October.

Members of Maine's Finest rode up from Portland on their Charity Cruise to donate toys for the Christmas Program.



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

Serving families and children since 1899

DONATE

www.mainechildrenshome.org

