



THE MAINE CHILDREN'S HOME for Little Wanderers

Serving families and children since 1899

JANUARY 2018

Greetings!

We have taken time recently to celebrate our mission and many wonderful accomplishments in 2017 and to re-commit ourselves to continue the challenging work ahead. The need for our services and support continues to grow and become more urgent each day. Children and families are facing more barriers and threats each day, which requires professional guidance to encourage, teach, mentor and show children and young people how much this organization, this community and the world does care.



We have been talking about who were our mentors and teachers that guided us and changed our lives when we were young. I was reminded of one of my heroes – Mr. Rogers. Mr. Fred Rogers, in his humble, quiet and gentle way gave us a safe neighbor and a model for how we could be safe in the world. Here's one of his quotes on hope and help: *"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."*

Thank you for being a helper! Because of you and hundreds of other 'helpers' we have accomplished extraordinary things for over 3,000 children and families this past year in our six core programs. We appreciate all you do to help make life better for children and families each day.

In sincere gratitude,

Richard Dorian, Executive Director

Agency Report Card

Maine Children's Home

Working with children and their families
Everyday

How did we do?

Program	Accomplishments
1 Adoption	25 new applications, 14 placements, 22 Home studies and 12 Searches. 176 open cases. Wow!
2 Harland Turner Counseling Center	192 children and 99 adults served by a staff of dedicated counselors committed to our mission. Awesome!
3 Teen Parent School Program	8 Students currently enrolled. We celebrated the arrival of 4 new babies in 2017!
4 The Children's Place	65 children and families served resulting in 10,379 "Kid Days!" Hope to expand program to meet needs in 2018.
5 Christmas	1,850 children had a merrier Christmas in 2017 because of the thoughtfulness, kindness and generosity. Thank You.
6 Camp	110 Camp scholarships awarded in 2017 supported by individual and business sponsors. 2018 apps open soon!
7 Fundraising	\$311k in donations/over \$198k in grants. Support from our community and across the country. Amazing!
8 Volunteers	Over 200 volunteers and over 3,900 volunteer hours to keep the Development wheels turning.
9 Our Incredible Staff	Nearly 50 employees provided services to the most vulnerable in our community with empathy & compassion.

| www.mainechildrenshome.org.



Super Celebration Recap

On January 25th, we held the Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers' 118th Annual Celebration at the Waterville Elk's Lodge. We were very lucky to host many great donors, supporters, staff, and volunteers at this event. Below are some highlights from the event:



Employee of the Year

Jackie Dupont, Child & Family Therapist at the **Harland Turner Counseling Center**, routinely goes above and beyond to make sure counseling is successful for the teenagers at the **Teen Parent School Program** as well as the Waterville Alternative High School. She is flexible to their class schedules and their unexpected needs.

Jackie doesn't hesitate to walk over to the school to pick up a client, make appointments or to touch base with a student she hasn't seen or she knows is having a hard time and always makes time to introduce herself to a new client. Most importantly, when working with teenagers, Jackie is very approachable and kind. For these reasons and many more, Jackie Dupont was named MCH's Employee of the Year for 2018.

Volunteer of the Year

Sherman Carey is a quiet, unassuming, unsung hero of a man. For several years, he has arrived at MCH regularly to

move boxes, put away inventory, build shelves and keep the spirit light with his mischievous sense of humor. There is nothing he isn't willing to do and he is a delight to have around. We were truly honored to present this award to this good-hearted, generous man.



Business of the Year

For several years, Barnes & Noble of Augusta has challenged their booksellers to ask their customers if they would like to purchase a book for the Maine Children's Home's **Christmas Program**. As a result of their efforts over the course of two months during the Christmas season in 2017, Barnes & Noble collected a whopping total of more than 2,700 high quality books for ages infant through 12 years; allowing us to give each child two books at Christmas time. Thank you, Barnes & Noble for your support!

Juliese & Jennifer Padgett

In 2012, Juliese Y. Padgett wrote "The Newest Flower;" she was only seven. "Mommy, I want to sell this book and use this money to help orphans." Her mother quickly realized that this book was not just for their family's enjoyment, but instead, there was a bigger picture. Juliese and her mother shared the inspiration for the children's book as well as the hope for the book's message - *"to teach all children to love one another no matter what type of flower you are."* All proceeds from "The Newest Flower" will go towards the **Adoption Program** at Maine Children's Home. You can order a copy at [Amazon](#) or [Barnes & Noble](#).



David Pride

We were pleased to have a thoughtful and dynamic speaker at this year's Annual Celebration. David Pride is a professional speaker whose motivational seminars have taken him across the country and around the world. After 6 months of chemotherapy and 8 weeks of radiation, David won a battle with Hodgkin's Disease Lymphoma at the age of 19. It was during this period of time that David learned many of the lessons he teaches involving the purpose of pain and there can be value found in setbacks. David shared his belief that the purpose of suffering is so we can help others struggling with the same challenges that we once did. It was

a very encouraging presentation for all attendees and we were very lucky to have him join us!

Thank you to all of our supporters and attendees for making this a great event!

Party with a Purpose Update



Debbie Plummer held a Party with a Purpose for her 64th birthday, which was a great success! With the generosity of many family and friends, and Friends group member, Ronda Ducret, she was able to collect 79 pairs of mittens/gloves, 3 hat and mitten sets and 9 individual hats. Her goal was 64 for each year of her life. This past Christmas season, the **Christmas Program** at The Maine Children's Home ran out of mittens. Debbie felt this was a good cause and has donated all of these to the 2018 season.

Exciting Addition to our Counseling Center: On-Site Play Therapy Training!



Photo credit Lucélia Ribeiro

One of the special features of counseling at the **Harland Turner Family Counseling Center** is that we have several counselors who provide play therapy. This is the treatment approach most appropriate for young children and is the most requested treatment we offer: *“Play therapy is a way of being with a child that honors their unique developmental level and looks for ways of helping in the ‘language’ of the child- play. Licensed mental health professionals therapeutically use play to help their clients...to better express themselves and resolve problems.”* (www.a4pt.org)

In addition to offering Play Therapy as treatment, we are also an Approved Provider of Play Therapy Continuing Education through the Association for Play Therapy! *(We are one of only two such Approved Training Sites in Maine listed on the Association for Play Therapy website).*

We were able to recruit a highly skilled Registered Play Therapy Supervisor, who has taught two Play Therapy courses to our staff (May & December 2017) with plans to continue with more trainings (2 per year).

This is extremely important as counselors interested in providing play therapy either have to

The Children's Place News: Pretend Play

Pretend play is very important in a child's development. Children develop social-emotional, physical, cognitive and language skills when they imitate and pretend. These skills develop positive lifelong attitudes towards learning and promote school readiness.

Social-Emotional

Through relationships with responsive caregivers - imitating facial expressions, language sounds they hear and immediate actions of others - young infants are learning about themselves and others. Playing peek-a-boo, learning to wave bye-bye and remembering these actions and reproducing them later evolves into a toddler's coordinated play and friendships with peers. In dramatic play, preschoolers learn to negotiate, cooperate, control impulses, regulate their emotions and empathize with others.

Physical

Dramatic play strengthens large-muscle development and refines small-muscle skills. Children practice eye-hand coordination and visual discrimination skills.

Cognitive

Dramatic play uses all 5 senses as infants, toddlers and preschoolers learn about their world. Planning experiences and providing materials that encourage children to explore math, science, social studies and visual arts through pretend play deepens their understanding of the world they live in.

Language

For infants, the response and imitation of what they see and hear from others and things around them becomes the beginning of a two-way conversation of sorts that evolves into the development of the toddler's single word, two-word phrase and simple sentence. Preschoolers begin to understand the power of language, the connection between spoken and written language and the necessity of language in developing relationships with peers.

Here's a visual "peek" of Dramatic Play at [The Children's Place](#):



Two young infants checking out each other's facial expressions in a mirror.



Mobile infants mimicking their parents as they take care of their baby dolls.



A group of toddlers dancing together under a shower of bubbles.



Preschool pals getting their eyes checked at their pretend Optometrist's office.

The basics for young children are wonder, discovery and experience. If it hasn't been in the hand, the body and the heart; it can't be in the brain!

-Bev Bos



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