



# THE MAINE CHILDREN'S HOME for Little Wanderers

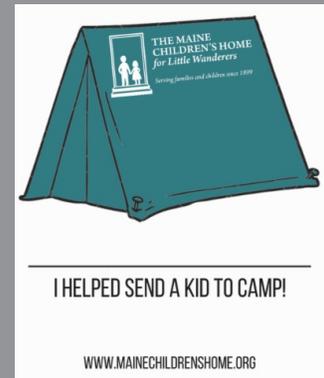
Serving families and children since 1899

JUNE 2018

## Greetings!

We are so happy to welcome summer. We are reminded of long sunny days, the end of school for the year and new transitions for some. A great time to reflect back on much growth, success and learning across all of our programs and services.

It has been wonderful to receive many gifts in support of our Summer Camp Program. We are thrilled with the new partnership with Damon's Beverage stores to help raise new support with selling tent pinups (pictured right) at its locations in Augusta, Bangor, Fairfield, Skowhegan, and Waterville. It's not too late to help send a kid to camp this year!



You will notice a special message describing many ways that we welcome community support from individuals, businesses, work teams, clubs and school teams and every kind of donor you can imagine. It takes every bit of support and kindness to continue to meet the growing needs that we tackle every month. We raise funds to meet more than half of our program needs each year. We are so thankful for every gift to help us to meet our mission to *"build and strengthen families and their children, instilling hope for the future and a better quality of life."*

We welcome you to come for a tour of the Dorothy 'Bibby' Alford main campus in Waterville or our new Portland office at 527 Ocean Avenue. Thank you for being part of the solution to making life better for Maine children and families.

In sincere gratitude,

Richard Dorian, Executive Director

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## Agency Report Card

June, 2018

## Maine Children's Home

Working with children and their families ....  
Everyday

*What have we been up to?*

	Program	Accomplishments
1	Adoption	Our in-state adoption placement is going very well and the new family of three are thriving! 178 current open cases!
2	Harland Turner Counseling Center	Renovation work underway for our expanded office space to open in the fall of 2018!
3	Teen Parent School Program	4 teen parents graduated! These young women all have plans to continue their education. We wish them well.
4	The Children's Place	A successful Family Fun Day held June 10! Many thanks to families and supporters who made this day possible.
5	Summer Camp	Camp scholarship fundraising continues to be successful. There is still time to help ☺ Our campers thank you.
6	Friends Group	Friends had their best yard sale ever! Thank you for making this a huge success! Proceeds benefit summer camp!
7	Grants	Received \$1,000 from the French Foundation and \$2,500 from Oak-Grove Coburn Foundation for TPSP! Thank you!
8	June 27, 2018	Employee Recognition Day to recognize the amazing work of all our employees and their commitment to our mission.
9	June 28, 2018	Open House for the new MCHLW Portland Office at 527 Ocean Avenue, Portland from 4:30 – 6:30PM.

| [www.mainechildrenshome.org](http://www.mainechildrenshome.org).



Charity Navigator Awards MCH Our Third  
Four-Star Rating



Charity Navigator has awarded The Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers our third consecutive four-star rating!

Charity Navigator bases its ratings on nonprofits' financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency. We now have the # rating of children & family support services in Maine and are in the top # nationwide.

We couldn't have received this top rating without you. Thank you for trusting us with your donations, your volunteer time, and your good will. Your trust and support mean so much to us and the children and families we serve!

[FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR RATING ON CHARITY NAVIGATOR](#)

## Summer Camp Program: Yard Sale



*Photo courtesy of Sturdy Productions*

On Saturday, June 9th, Friends of the Maine Children's Home held their Annual Yard Sale on our campus. Throughout the year, we receive donations of used items such as furniture, baby clothes, household items, toys, games, and more which we sell at this yard sale.

This year's Yard Sale raised over \$3,000 to benefit our Summer Camp Scholarship Program. This was the most we have raised through the Yard Sale and will help send eight children to camp!

## Teen Parent School Program: Graduation

The Sharon Abrams Teen Parent School Program is excited to announce the graduation of four teen parents on June 7th from Waterville Senior High School. These four amazing moms overcame many obstacles to finish their high school education while parenting their children or being pregnant. We could not be more proud of these girls and we look forward to seeing all that they accomplish in the years ahead and how their children grow, learn and become successful youth.



Cheyenne Storm, of Belgrade, has been accepted to Kennebec Valley Community College in Fairfield. Cheyenne will be entering the Precision Machine Technology program with her eye set on also entering into the Welding program next year. Cheyenne is also planning to obtain her Class B drivers license certification this summer. Cheyenne and her daughter, Braelynn, are looking forward to spending time together as a family this summer to make up for the days (and nights) that she spent studying this school year.

Emily Michaud, of Winslow, has been accepted to Kennebec Valley Community College in Fairfield. Emily will be entering into the General Studies program in January. Emily is anxiously awaiting the arrival of baby Lincoln in late August. Emily is spending her summer working at Dairy Queen and preparing for her new little bundle of joy.



Sabian Badillo, of Vassalboro, has been accepted into Kennebec Valley Community College in Fairfield. Sabian will be entering into the Sustainable Construction program in the fall. Sabian is looking forward to utilizing all of the skills that she learn at Mid Maine Technical Center in college and beyond. Sabian is looking forward to spending time with her daughter, Luna, over the summer and working to prepare for her independence.

Danielle Aldrich, of Waterville, is excited to enter the workforce directly after graduation and already has some options in the Waterville community. Danielle is interested in possibly returning to school in the future for Veterinary Technician. Danielle is looking forward to spending time with her daughter, Kiara, and other family members over the summer. Danielle came to the Teen Parent School Program from Vermont, so we are sure that there will be some road trips back to Vermont over the summer.



# Congratulations!

## Staff Recognition Day



We held a Staff Recognition Day on June 27th to celebrate all of the hard work our employees do every day. We enjoyed breakfast provided by Board members, lunch from The Parsonage House, and treats from Wicked Whoopies! Our employees do amazing work for the community and throughout the state of Maine and we are so grateful for the 315 years of service we have on staff!



### *We also celebrated employee milestones!*



Cristen Sawyer, our Development Associate, celebrated 15 years of service at MCH!



Mandi Howard, our Children's Place Director, celebrated 10 years of service at MCH!



Debra Levenseller, our Clinical Director, celebrated 5 years of service at MCH!

## The Children's Place News: Gardening

The Children's Place Early Care & Education Center's raised bed gardens have been planted and things are growing!

The children are checking each day to see if the plants need water and are learning which things are weeds and which are vegetable plants.

For young children, gardening is a wonderful way to use their *scientific investigation* skills with their five senses to observe, explore, classify, predict and communicate the life cycle of plants, as well as pick and taste the vegetables they grow. Children are more likely to try vegetables they have grown themselves; therefore, gardening can effectively transform attitudes about food choices. Moreover, when these young gardeners take their *new* food preferences home, they can improve their family's food options, leading to healthier lifestyle habits.



Along with scientific investigation, the gardens can be used as a springboard for math skills like charting, mapping, counting and graphing; language and literacy; social studies like food from other cultures and helping those who are food insecure; socialization by working together and caring for each other; and creative arts like creating collages and interpretive movement about plants.

*Why try to explain miracles to your kids when you can just have them plant a garden. -Robert Brault*

For more information about gardening with kids, check out this article from [NAEYC for Families](#).

## Christmas Program: Christmas in July

ONLY 185 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS!

We are very thankful for the support of the Kennebec Valley Chapter of Credit Unions that has been helping to collect gifts for The Maine Children's Home's **Christmas Program**. This is a great boost toward the thousands of items needed for this year. Each child typically receives:

- Mittens, scarves, Thinsulate gloves, and a

- hat
- A reading book
- A coloring/activity book
- Crayons or markers
- A large and small toy
- A family board game
- A warm outfit

Cash donations are also welcome. If you do not have time to do the shopping, we can do it for you! After Christmas in July, the Development Office at The Maine Children's Home accepts donations at any time! Here is a full [list of needs](#).



Thank you to the participating credit unions!

## Ways to Give

### Make a Donation

Our organization relies heavily on annual private donations to meet operating costs. In giving to The Maine Children's Home, you help us to continue providing high-quality services and programs to Maine's most needy children and families.

Your dollars can:

- Ensure Maine children and youth in need have warm clothing to protect them during our harsh winters
- Enable young mothers to provide basic needs to their infants such as diapers, formula and bottles
- Give a pregnant or parenting teen the opportunity to earn their high school diploma and the guidance they need to become a more responsible parent
- Give the experience of summer camp to a disadvantaged child
- Help make sure financially disadvantaged children throughout Maine have something under the tree on Christmas morning



### Other Ways to Donate

While we need and welcome your individual financial support, there are many other ways you can support our programs and services:

- Become a **volunteer**
- Join the **Friends of the Maine Children's Home** organization
- **Contribute in-kind items**
- Attend events and fundraisers
- Support business sponsorship
- **Planned giving**
- Contribute to the **Christmas Program**

For more information, visit our [website!](#)



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**DONATE**

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