



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

Serving families and children since 1899



Open Arms



May 2, 2017

Greetings!



Spring has finally sprung and we are thrilled to plant some new seeds and to be good stewards of our campus and of the gifts we have received, and to keep offering the best supports and services possible.

It is difficult to see the rising rates of child abuse, neglect and mistreatment that are occurring in our region, but we know there are many partners and supporters to help make a positive difference.

My hope is that more will realize some of the ways that our programs and services are educating, empowering and supporting parents to be more successful each and every day. We are challenging and supporting parents to gain new tools and to try a different way. At the same time, our other programs and services are looking after vulnerable children to be loved and nurtured, guided and encouraged to dream big dreams.

We hope you will be inspired by some of the extraordinary activities taking place on our campus, through our partners, through our staff and most importantly, in the lives of the children and families we are supporting. We can't offer our supports without you.

In sincere gratitude,

Richard Dorian, Executive Director

Agency Report Card

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Agency Report Card

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



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[Visit our website](#)

March 2017



Open Arms

Maine Children's Home

Working with children and their families...
every day

How did we do?

Program	Accomplishments
1 Adoption	May 1 – Open house at our new Portland location! ★
2 Harland Turner Counseling Center	428 open cases with 22 new referrals.
3 Teen Parent School Program	Spring garden planning underway with The Children's Place! Grant funded by Healthy Northern Kennebec. 🥕
4 Fundraising	More than \$123,000 in donations, gifts & memorials from supportive donors & community.
5 The Children's Place	13 new inquiries. Our classrooms are full, but stay tuned for expansion news coming soon!
6 Events	Wine tasting event was sold out! Join us next year for this wonderful event.
7 Summer Camp	Camp appeal in May – send a kid to camp! Last year, 120 children experienced summer camp. ☀️
8 Volunteers	79 volunteer hours in March!
9 Friends Group	Friends are planning the annual yard sale for Saturday, June 3, to benefit the Summer Camp Program.

www.mainechildrenshome.org



A Gardening Collaboration

With a mini-grant from Healthy Northern Kennebec, [The Children's Place](#) preschoolers and [Sharon Abrams Teen Parent School Program](#)/Waterville Alternative Ed teens are collaborating on a gardening project. Grant funds were used to purchase indoor greenhouses, gardening supplies, and materials to build four raised beds to add to our existing four.

Several weeks ago, the teens visited the preschoolers to read the book *The Dandelion Seed* by Joseph Anthony, and work together on an arts-and-crafts project about seeds.

For preschoolers, gardening is a wonderful way to use their scientific investigation skills with their five senses to explore, observe, classify, predict and communicate the life cycle of plants, as well as pick and taste the vegetables they grow.

For the teens, mentoring the younger children is a gift to everyone involved. And, as well as learning about gardening and sharing responsibility for the care of the plants, the teens will be able to harvest and utilize the produce with their families.



On April 27, staff from Johnny's Selected Seeds brought soil, seeds and plant pots, and joined both groups for some early planting for the indoor greenhouses.

The raised beds are being built by the teens (with preschool oversight, of course) and outdoor planting is expected later in May.

We are anticipating the continuation of this collaboration between The Children's Place and Sharon Abrams Teen Parent School Program/Waterville Alternative Education beyond this year's growing season. Next year, we hope to expand with an outdoor greenhouse, an arrangement for the teens to work with Cooperative Extension to learn about preserving the harvested crop, cooking classes and continued interaction between the preschoolers and teens.



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

Partnership with the Harold Alfond Scholarship Foundation

Colleen Quint, president and CEO of the [Alfond Scholarship Foundation](#) (ASF), recently met with leadership from The Maine Children's Home to review several opportunities for partnership.

There are tremendous benefits available through the Alfond Scholarship Foundation for children attending [The Children's Place Early Care and Education Center](#), children connected to the [Sharon Abrams Teen Parents School](#), and Maine Children's Home staff and their children.

The Alfond Scholarship Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a goal of increasing Maine's educational attainment through increased college savings. ASF is a supporting organization of the following Maine educational and nonprofit entities: Educate Maine, Maine Community College system, University of Maine system, Maine Community Foundation, the Mitchell Institute and the Finance Authority of Maine.

The Alford Scholarship Foundation was created in 2008, when the Harold Alford Foundation made a commitment to provide \$500 to every Maine resident baby for college. As of April of 2016, more than \$35 million has been invested for more than 70,000 Maine children.



Rick Dorian, Maine Children's Home executive director; Colleen Quint, executive director of the Alford Scholarship Foundation; Mandi Howard, The Children's Place director; Becky Judd, Teen Parent School director; and Lindsay Bragdon, Adoption Program director.

Recent Event Fun

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

On Saturday, April 15, more than 130 children participated in the annual Easter Egg Hunt at our Waterville campus. We are so thankful for the incredible help and support of New Balance and many employee volunteers who contributed time and assistance to help make a lot of children smile. Every child left with a prize and goodies to take home.



Wine Tasting Event

On Thursday, April 20, more than 190 Maine Children's supporters enjoyed a wine tasting in support of the agency's programs at T&B Event Center in Waterville. It was an evening filled with great company, food and wine, and impressive silent auction items. Fun was had by all.

Thank you to our sponsors that made the event possible, including Bangor Savings Bank for the Riedel wine glasses and to Golden Pond

Wealth Management for the wine!

A special thanks to Bob Roy for leading the wine tasting and sharing his knowledge with us once again, and the lovely live music from The Sunday Project Jazz Band.





Ann Moran-Ambassador, Boston Red Sox, with Rick Dorian and Steve Mayberry of The Maine Children's Home



We are thankful for the volunteers that came to help set up and pour wine. Special thanks to CGI volunteers Lindsey Hoopingarner, Derek Myska, Dale Foster, David Catino and Thomas Monge.



The Maine Children's Home's Executive Director Rick Dorian



The Sunday Project Jazz Band



Bob Roy of Pine State

Upcoming Events

Friends Group Dining for Dollars at Mainely Brews
Wednesday, May 10, 6 - 9 p.m.

Big E--Live Entertainment Concert with Steve Fotter
Saturday, May 13, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

May 13, 2017 at 6pm

The Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers welcome's

Big Entertainment Live & On The Rock Music Instruction

For a benefit concert in

Winkin Auditorium - Lunder Hall, MCHLW Campus

My Student, My Mentor

Featuring

Eric "Big E" Lunt & Steve Fotter



With special guests

**Elizabeth Holden
&
Abbie Watson**

**Tickets are \$10 pp.
Call 872-0261 to reserve your tickets**

All Proceeds to benefit the Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers