

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

*Building and strengthening families and their children,  
instilling hope for the future and a better quality of life.*

Winter 2016

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



## 2016 Annual Dinner



Steve Mayberry, Development Director and Nancy Marshall.

Nancy Marshall Communications was recognized for all the new on-line donors (155) that MCH received last year.



Guest speaker Attorney General Janet Mills



Inland Hospital was recognized for continuous support on the Teen Parent summer counseling program. Pictured is Dan Booth VP Inland Hospital.



Marden's was recognized for the tremendous sales of little red stockings at all 14 stores. Pictured is John Marden and Andrew Marden.



### EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Lindsay Bragdon, Adoption Caseworker, was named Employee of the Year. Presenting her award is Richard Dorian, Executive Director.



Volunteer of the year was awarded to the Friends Organization in appreciation of their fundraising and volunteer efforts.

Visit us online at  
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# A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Richard L. Dorian**

I am honored to share my first newsletter greeting with the many friends and supporters of the Maine Children’s Home for Little Wanderers. Especially, as we share this Annual Report of the accomplishments and successes of our thriving community agency. It has been a very dynamic time to step into a leadership role here. We enjoyed wonderful celebrations in December of the extraordinary work of Sharon Abrams and all she has done to support and advance the mission of the Maine Children’s Home for Little Wanderers. The best news is that Sharon, other prior insightful leaders, and the Board of Directors, have created structures, policies and procedures to insure that

this legacy of caring will continue far into the future.

The Annual Meeting was held on January 14th at the Waterville Elks Lodge. The focus of the Annual Meeting was to thank many people and businesses that support our work, to bring in new Board Members, to focus our attention and to kickoff the Agency’s Annual Fund Drive. Our keynote speaker was Maine’s Attorney General, Janet Mills. She gave a powerful overview of the many ways children and families are at risk and challenged each of us to consider how we will respond, to advocate for, to educate and encourage the best supports and care of all the children in our circles. We were all moved by AG Mill’s encouragement for us to give children “roots and wings” to be successful throughout their lives. We ended the evening with over \$5,000 in gifts, commitments and pledges to kick off the Annual Fund Campaign.

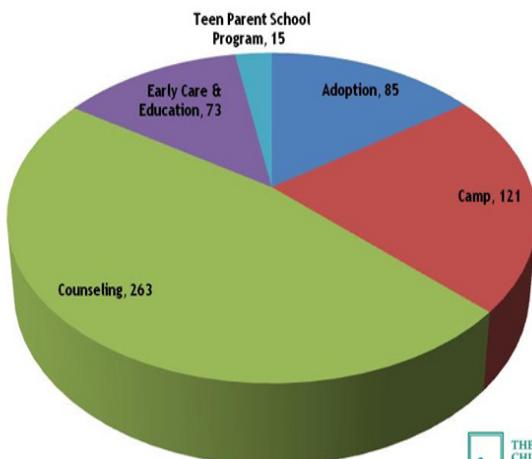
It is very exciting, and humbling, to be a part of many conversations about the powerful impact that the Maine Children’s Home for Little Wanderers has on families and children locally and across the State of Maine. Every week, I meet people who share with me

how their lives have been changed for the better because of the help they received here. We are engaged in strategic conversations about current and future activities through updates to the Agency’s Strategic Plan and the Marshall Marketing & Communications Plan. We will be engaging with many partners to insure that our efforts are focused, timely and effective. We will share many updates and good news on a regular basis.

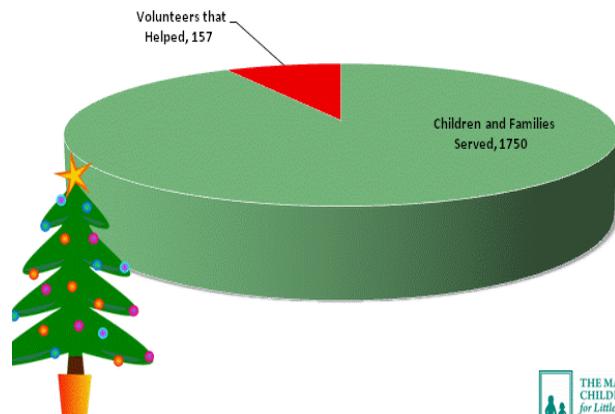
We welcome community participation in our activities. I encourage each of you to become a “Friend” to the agency via Facebook. It’s a great way to get a snapshot of what we’ve been up to lately. I also want to invite you to be in touch about taking a tour of our Dorothy ‘Bibby’ Alford Campus. We are proud of the work our staff and volunteers are carrying out every day. Lastly, we welcome invitations to go out and give presentations on our good works. We want you to see the successes that you are helping to make happen for many families and children to instill hope for the future and a better quality of life.

We are forever grateful for your continued support.

**Children & Families Impacted by Programs during 2015**



**Christmas Program 2015**



# A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

As we settle into the beginning of 2016, it promises to be busy and productive for the Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderer's and the children and families we serve.

Late 2015 left us with bittersweet memories of the retirement of Sharon Abrams as our Executive Director. For those who have missed the news, the Board of Directors has voted to re-name our Teen Parent School Program, where Sharon began her career with our agency. It is now officially known as the Sharon Abrams Teen Parent School Program. A new Giving Society, created by our Development Office, now also bears her name.

Richard Dorian, our new Executive Director, has embraced his new duties and has us off to a great start for 2016. An Orientation Session for incoming Board Members has prepared them for participation in board activities. The annual update to our short-term strategic plan is well under way. And a meeting with Nancy Marshall Communications, our public relations and communications consultant, has an update to our communications strategy well under way.

Recent staff additions, to meet key needs in a couple of

our signature programs, will assure we continue to provide quality services to our clients. A recent announcement that a well-known social services agency, in southern Maine, is giving up its adoption program this spring has the potential to create added demand for our adoption services. An analysis of the potential impact and how we can position ourselves to meet it is in process.

Also, well under way are plans for our annual Wine Tasting fundraiser. It's a fun evening in a great atmosphere and an excellent opportunity to learn more about a variety of wines and help the Maine Children's Home at the same time. Our Friend's organization has also begun planning their annual Yard Sale. Whether you plan to assist us financially through one of these events, through our Annual Appeal, through the new Sharon Abrams Society, or in some other manner, please know how valued and appreciated those donations are. Without your continued support, we could not continue to serve children and their families, giving them hope for the future and a better quality of life.



*John Stanley*

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# Memorials and Honorariums

A memorial or honor gift is a loving and personal way to tell the honoree or the family of the departed that you care. It can honor a life well lived, a special birthday, anniversary or other occasion, and enhances the quality of life for future generations. A gift given in memory or in honor of someone is a wonderful way to establish a link with the past and promote a vision of the future. The Maine Children's Home gratefully acknowledges the following memorial and honor gifts from September 15, 2015 to December 31, 2015.

## Honorariums

### In Honor of: Andrew & Judith Shepard

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Knobloch

### In Honor of: Sharon Abrams

Mr. and Mrs. James Gorman  
Jean Sawyer

## Memorials

### In Memory of: Barnard Landry

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Bourassa

### In Memory of: James A. Lamb

Deborah Lamb

### In Memory of: Janie L. Coskery

Daniel J. Downing  
Dorothy Tuttle  
Jack Conner II  
Katherine and John Cunningham  
Linda Cole  
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Margaret Keith and Rebecca Swift  
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Mr. and Mrs. Roland Goss  
Mrs. Helen T. Fournier  
Susan Bronson  
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### In Memory of: Joanne Dodge

Brenda and Ralph Maietta

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# The Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers 2015 Contributors

Unfortunately, it is impossible to list every donor in the Annual Report. However, without the cumulative gifts of all, growth in income and services could not have occurred. We apologize for any errors in spelling or omission within the Level of Giving contained in this report. Please bring the errors to our attention so that future lists will be correct.

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## *\$25,000 to \$49,999*

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## *\$5,000 to \$9,999*

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*Thank you for your support.*

*Wine Tasting*  
*To benefit The Maine Children's Home*



*Thursday, April 14, 2016*  
*6-8pm*  
*T&B's Celebration Center*  
*6 Jefferson St., Waterville*  
*Tickets \$30 per person*  
*Wine Tour, Hors D'Oeuvres, Silent Auction*  
*To order tickets, please call 872-0261*

### **A Thank You Note Received From a Camper**

*Dear Ms. Sawyer,*

*Thank you for giving me a scholarship to camp. I went to camp Fairhaven. I got to use the blob and I went almost 4 feet high. I did BB guns and I almost hit the bull's eye. My favorite thing was swimming and I passed the swim test. I made a new friend. I got to sleep on a top bunk. I had a really fun week. Thanks again.*

## **The Sharon Abrams Giving Society**

In December, Executive Director Sharon Abrams retired after 41 years of service to The Maine Children's Home. In honor of Sharon, we have created a Giving Society in her honor. The Sharon Abrams Giving Society plaque will be located in the Eskelund Community Center. Because Sharon was the very first teacher in the Teen Parent School Program, all donations will go to the Teen Parent School Program.

There are four levels of giving.

Platinum: \$1,000 or more

Gold: \$500

Silver: \$250

Bronze: \$100



We have already received a silver and a bronze donation. Donors will have their name engraved on a name tag under the appropriate category. Anyone who wishes to donate should direct their donation to the Development office and state that the contribution is for the Sharon Abrams Giving Society.



## Exciting News



**The Children's Place Early Care and Education Center at The Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers has achieved accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. (NAEYC)**

**This accreditation is the gold standard for early childhood programs across the country. The goal of accreditation is to ensure the quality of children's daily experiences in early childhood programs, promote positive child outcomes, and support continuous program quality improvements. Families of young children who attend an accredited program can be confident that the program delivers the highest quality early care and education.**



## Adoption Services Update

You may have read, in the news recently, that Saint Andre's Home in Biddeford is ending its adoption program effective April 30th. Our agencies have been close collaborators for many years and they are referring many of their families to continue their adoption activities with the Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers. It's a testament to the careful planning and long history of helping families and children since 1899 that we will soon be the only Maine-based Hague Accredited Adoption Services provider in Maine. This change will lead us to grow our Adoption Services. We are already receiving a number of new inquiries and referrals. We wish to thank our Adoption Services Team: Deb Levenseller, LCSW - Supervisor, Caroline Hutchinson, LSW, Lindsay Bragdon, LSW, Sharon Abrams, LSW – Consultant and Cindy Smith, Administrative Assistant, for their creativity,