



**THE MAINE
CHILDREN'S HOME**
for Little Wanderers
Serving families and children since 1899



Open Arms

June 2, 2017

Greetings!



Heroes don't always wear capes. I heard this expression recently and it made me think of many people who do so many great and important things to inspire and sustain our work here at The Maine Children's Home. Most of the time these acts are done quietly and discretely to make life better for children and families in need. We are so grateful.

We began the month of May with an exciting welcome reception at the new adoption satellite office at the

HopeGateWay Church on Forest Avenue in Portland. It was wonderful to invite a number of families we have worked with through the [Adoption Program](#), local social service providers, board members and other guests to see this space and to hear about the expansion of the program to reach the southern region of the state. We were honored that Mary Mayhew, Maine's DHHS Commissioner, was able to take time out of her busy schedule to join us to note this expanding program and the good work being carried out by our adoption social workers.

We are thrilled to share some exciting news this month on ways we are reaching out with essential supports and services to assist children, youth and families to be healthier, happier and more successful. We thank every supporter and partner who believes in our work and sees the best investment to make is in children and families.

In sincere gratitude,

Richard Dorian, Executive Director

Agency Report Card

IN THIS ISSUE...

Agency Report Card

Teen Parent Student
Summer Supports

Upcoming Events

Healthy Northern
Kennebec Garden Project

Summer Camp Appeal

Recent Big E Concert

Donate Online



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



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April 2017

Maine Children's Home

Working with children and their families... Every day

How did we do?

Program	Accomplishments
1 Adoption	Adoption staff is busy with Hague Accreditation renewal! 18 new inquiries in April.
2 Harland Turner Counseling Center	459 open cases with 21 new referrals.
3 Teen Parent School Program	8 enrolled students & one birth during April!
4 Fundraising	More than \$47,000 in donations, gifts & memorials from supportive donors.
5 The Children's Place	15 new inquiries! We plan to offer space for up to 26 additional children this fall. Stay tuned!
6 Friends Group	Save the date: Saturday, June 3 at 9 a.m. Friends of Maine Children's Home annual yard sale supporting Summer Camp Scholarships!
7 Summer Camp	Send a kid to camp! More than 90 children signed up. Your donations are appreciated. 
8 Volunteers	81 volunteer hours in April. Thank you!
9 Website	Watch for our new, mobile-friendly website to be launched soon!

www.mainechildrenshome.org



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Teen Parent School News

Wing-Benjamin Trust Grant for the Transportation Fund

The [Sharon Abrams Teen Parent School Program](#) runs during the school year with all students commuting. As an alternative school, the local schools are not required to provide transportation. The program has been in existence since 1974 and is open to pregnant and parenting teens statewide with most students living within 40 miles of Waterville. It provides prenatal and parenting instruction along with academic and life skills courses. All students are registered as Waterville High School students and work toward earning a Waterville High School diploma.

Achieving financial and emotional independence is a goal for all participants. Early parenthood can make the journey more challenging, but the guidance and support the program provides makes a world of difference. The aim is to remove as many barriers as possible and build on the strengths of each young parent. Beyond that, our goal is to help teen parents understand the concept of positive parenting, to support and assist them as they learn to deal with challenging issues, and to provide a high-quality and relevant education so they can acquire the knowledge

and skills to move forward in a healthy lifestyle.



Why a transportation fund? We have the capacity each year to serve up to 15-20 pregnant or parenting teens and their children. We have supported more than 1,000 teens since 1974. A long-standing common barrier is transportation to get to and from our campus, as teens must bring car seats, their children, clothing, books and other supplies they will need for the day, something that's not easy to navigate in the best of situations.

The majority of teens we support do not have licenses or vehicles and family transportation is often unreliable. There are few public transportation options for teens to get from their homes to our campus, or schedules that don't fit with the school hours. These barriers have caused a number of teens to back out of our program or to miss school days. We know that the teens are resourceful, but need a little extra support. There isn't one answer that will solve every student's transportation needs so we are committed to developing a fund and will challenge students to be creative. We will invite students to request funding for prepaid gas cards, stipends to reimburse family and friends for cab fares, buses or the Kennebec Explorer, small vehicle repairs or even for support to take driver's education courses. All will foster independence and creativity in developing their own plans. Two goals we plan to track are attendance and new program participants.

Teen Parent Student Summer Support

For the past seven years, Inland Hospital's Community Benefits Program has been sponsoring the Summer Counseling Program for our [Teen Parent School](#) students. The summer program was requested by the girls because they felt they had no support system during vacation.

The counseling program runs for five weeks, every Wednesday for three hours. The teen parents are encouraged to bring their children. There is outdoor play for the mothers and their children, lunch, a craft, and a chance for the director of the Teen Parent School Program to help any of the girls who may be experiencing a challenge.

At the end of the session, most of the girls visit the Development Office to pick up diapers and wipes, clothing, and food that has been donated by the community.

We are very grateful for Inland Hospital's continuing support of this program.

Upcoming Events

Hannaford Helps Bags Starting today, June 1

Starting today, each Hannaford Helps bag sold at the Hannaford located at 140 Elm Plaza in Waterville will be supporting The Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers!



Friends Group Annual Yard Sale Saturday, June 3

Please join us for the [Friends Group](#) annual yard sale on Saturday, June 3 at The Maine Children's Home campus at 93 Silver Street in Waterville from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. They will have a variety of household items, toys, clothes, books and many useful items.

Call 207-872-0261 with any questions. We are deeply grateful for the many generous donations that have come in from all over the community. Special thanks to the Friends who have worked very hard to make this event be successful. All proceeds from this sale will benefit the [Summer Camp Scholarship Fund](#) for local youth.

Low XII Chapter of the Widow's Son Motorcycle Club Ride-In Saturday, June 10

The Low XII Riders Chapter of the Widow's Son will be holding a Motorcycle Ride-In to The Maine Children's Home campus at noon on Saturday, June 10. The Low XII Riders is a charitable and benevolent group of Freemasons who work to contribute to the relief of widows, orphans and children in need locally and across the country. Although they have a goal to raise awareness in the world of sport motorcycling, they also work to support their Blue Lodges through regular attendance and assisting at lodge events.

Each rider will be donating a new toy for the [Christmas Program](#). There will be tours of the campus, a barbecue and an ice-cream social for local children and families. For more information please call 207-872-0261.

Healthy Northern Kennebec Garden Project Growth

The [Sharon Abrams Teen Parent School Program](#) has been steadily working on the Gardening Collaboration Project. High school students from the Teen Parent School and the Waterville Alternative School have been working with the preschoolers from [The Children's Place](#) to plant seeds, care for seedlings and prepare the raised garden beds for planting. Students will be growing vegetables, herbs and flowers to provide fresh produce for our students and preschoolers. This project is also focused on increasing the students' environmental stewardship through recycling and composting food waste from the cafeteria. The students have also planted flowers and tended the flowerbeds on the grounds of The Maine Children's Home campus. The teen parents will continue to care for the gardens throughout the summer months and assist in harvesting the vegetables. We look forward to working with more community volunteers to learn about preserving our harvest in the fall.

These preserved vegetables will be added to our small food pantry.

This project is possible through a Healthy Waterville Mini Grant provided by Healthy Northern Kennebec, a collaboration with staff from Johnny's Selected Seeds, generous donations from McCormick Building Supplies, supplies purchased through the Albert S. Hall School and Campbell's True Value in Winslow. We are always looking for more volunteers with "green thumbs" to help us expand our knowledge. A huge thank you to all of our community partners.





Summer Camp Appeal

The Maine Children's Home's [Summer Camp Scholarship Program](#) is well underway with 70 scholarships offered to children so far. Campers will soon be packing their bags and backpacks to attend The Friend's Camp, Camp Fairhaven, Camp Mechwana, Camp Susan Curtis or Camp Tracy.

We hope to offer at least 120 scholarships in all as the school year ends and more funding becomes available. We are very grateful that the Summer Camp Scholarship campaign appeal has resulted in many generous donations, but many more are needed with more than 50 applicants still on the waiting list.

The average cost to fund a child attending summer camp is \$250 and can be more depending on the camp. We rely entirely on donations to fund this program. You can support our Summer Camp Scholarship Program by donating today, or by shopping at the Friends of The Maine Children's Home yard sale on June 3rd from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on our Silver Street campus in Waterville.



Recent Event Fun

On Saturday, May 13, Big E Live Entertainment, Eric Lunt, and Steve Fötter provided a concert to benefit The Maine Children's Home at the Waterville campus. There was great music, and fun was had by all!

Thanks to Eric Lunt, Steve Fötter, Elizabeth Holden and Abbie Watson for sharing their talents, and to the concert attendees. All proceeds will go towards camperships, raising enough funds to send three more youth to camp.

