



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



# Open Arms

October 2016

## Greetings!



We are once again becoming very close friends with the UPS and Fedex delivery drivers. Each day we are greeted with warm smiles and packages from near and far to help with the [Christmas Program](#). It takes hundreds of donations to meet the needs of more than 1,700 children from across the state of Maine. The great news is that many businesses, clubs and donors are stepping forward to make Christmas a bit brighter for many children in need.

As we enter the last few months of this year, I want to say a few words about the importance of the donations and gifts that we so gratefully receive.

The [counseling](#), [early care and education](#) and [adoption](#) services bring in fees for services provided, but all are subsidized to some extent from private gifts. The [Christmas Program](#), the [Teen Parent School Program](#) and the [Summer Camp Scholarship Program](#) are heavily reliant on private gifts to be able to meet the ongoing needs. Although we've received more gifts, hosted more successful events and are having success with grants, we ask that you please consider our vital needs in your end-of-year giving. Thank you for all your help and support. Our success is your success.

In sincere gratitude,

Richard Dorian, Executive Director

## November is National Adoption Awareness Month

November is National Adoption Awareness Month and, since our inception in 1899, The Maine Children's Home has been ethically placing children in loving homes. To celebrate the awareness month and

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



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[Visit our website](#)

highlight the importance of [adoption](#), we want to share the facts below:

## Did You Know...?

- The Maine Children's "Home" closed its orphanage in the 1930s due to a new model of foster care and home adoption placements. Since then, the agency no longer served as an actual "home" for children. The children you see on our campus today are those enjoying the daily activities at the on-site early care and education center, called [The Children's Place](#).
- A social worker in our adoption program typically works with a family for an average of two years. Our connection to the adoptive families we serve is years in the making and one that is rich and supportive throughout the many aspects of an adoptive family and adoptee's life.
- The Maine Children's Home's adoption program is the only Maine-based agency that is Hague Accredited through the Council on Accreditation to provide international adoption services. A Hague Certification ensures there are safeguards in place to protect children and their adoptive families in the international adoption process in an ethical manner and decreases the chances a child is victim to child buying and/or child trafficking.
- The Maine Children's Home has helped with adoptions of children from seven different countries around the world and seven different states in the United States, including Maine.
- The adoption program team, made up of nine staff members and social workers, is currently working with 68 adoptive families, all at varying stages in the adoption process.
- The Maine Children's Home has been involved in 31 adoptions in the last year and expects to be involved in several more by the end of 2016.



[Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter](#)

## Please Join Us!

The adoption program staff will be showcasing their new space at an open house on **Wednesday, November 16**, at our 93 Silver Street campus in Waterville from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. The staff will provide tours, honor the people who have made the new space possible, and provide light refreshments. Come for a bit or stay a while!

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## Online Christmas Program Application Now Available

The [Christmas Program's](#) online application is now officially live. You can access the form [here](#).

Please consider donating new clothing and toys that will serve more than 1,700 Maine children this holiday season. Click [here](#) for a list of Christmas Program needs. We truly appreciate your support!

If you'd like to volunteer to pack boxes, please sign up [here](#).



## If you love Amazon!

We've updated our [Amazon Wish List](#) with items needed for the [Christmas Program](#) to make shopping fun and easy! If you'd like to send a package from Amazon, please ship your packages to:

The Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers, Building 3  
93 Silver Street, Waterville, ME 04901  
Attention: Cristen Sawyer

If you wish to receive written acknowledgement, please include a gift message with your full name and address in the body of the message. Or, email Cristen with your information and an itemized list of what you have ordered at [csawyer@mainechildrenshome.org](mailto:csawyer@mainechildrenshome.org).

## Please Remember:

At [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) you can shop just like you always do on Amazon, but for every purchase you make, they will give to a charity of your choice. Please select The Maine Children's Home as your charity of choice!



**We greatly appreciate your kindness and support!**

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## Agency Report Card

October 2016

## Maine Children's Home

Working with children and their families...  
Everyday

*How did we do?*

Program	Accomplishments
1 Volunteers	We have 65% of the 552 volunteers needed for the Christmas Program. Join us!
2 Harland Turner Counseling Center	301 adults, children and families served
3 Friends Group	Friends organization Lobster Roll Lunch – we estimate 900 Rolls. Proceeds help Christmas Program.
4 Grants	\$15,000 grant from Bill & Joan Alford Foundation and \$2,000 from the Brooks Family Foundation. Thank you.
5 Adoption	20 home studies in process.
6 Fundraising	Nearly \$10,000 in donations. Thank you.
7 The Children's Place	604 "kid days" provided to 34 families
8 Teen Parent School Program	1 Scholarship provided; 2 new inquiries
9 Christmas	We're ready! On October 31, the online application will be available.

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



## Recent Community Support

### Police Officers Visit The Children's Place

The students from [The Children's Place](#) are still talking about the recent visit from ten cadets from the Maine Police Academy in Vassalboro. The cadets explored our campus that used to house the Maine Police Academy, and read to the children in the early care and education center. We look forward to another visit from the cadets!



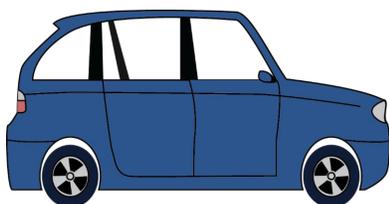
## Kennebec Valley Chapter of Credit Unions' Christmas Donation

A big thank you to the Kennebec Valley Chapter of Credit Unions that planned ahead and donated early to the Christmas Program. Look at all these great gifts! We truly appreciate your support.



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## Teen Parent School Program Needs a Vehicle



The [Sharon Abrams Teen Parent School Program](#) is in need of a large passenger vehicle, such as a minivan. One of the ongoing challenges for nearly every pregnant or parenting teen is figuring out how to get to and from our Waterville campus each day. We draw youth from a 55-mile radius of our campus. Some students drive or need rides to get to

school and back home, while others spend nearly two hours each day riding to and from the program. The transportation is not a covered service and many students are forced to miss days of school and make up work later due to this barrier. A safe vehicle would help with safety and participation, allowing us to install proper car seats and transport students (and their children) to and from school and appointments. Presently, we are piecing together options on an ad-hoc basis, which makes planning very difficult. The Maine Children's Home is a tax-exempt organization and your gift of a vehicle may be tax deductible. The vehicle does not have to be new, but inspected, safe and in good operating condition. Ideally, we'd like to find a minivan that could hold up to six people. Please let us know if you can help in any way with this. Call 207-873-4253.

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## Mark Your Calendar

### **Holiday Craft Fair**

Sunday, November 20, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
The Vintage Manor, 54 College Avenue, Waterville

We still have room for crafters to sign up!

Come get in the holiday spirit and help raise money to support the programs of The Maine Children's Home. There will be a wide selection of handmade crafts on sale.

To sign up as a crafter or for more information, please contact Amy Harrington at 207-659-6595.