



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



# Open Arms

September 2016

## Greetings!



September is always my favorite month. I love the brisk mornings and the warm days. It always feels like a productive time, especially as children return to school and the summer vacation days have come to a close. Time to start a new chapter!

It is so exciting to see the teen parents and the alternative students return to the Lunder Building with their fresh energy for another successful year. New students are finding their way and discovering mentors. We are also welcoming a number of new children to the preschool classrooms at [The Children's Place Early Care & Education Center](#).

We are very thankful that devoted supporters from New Balance, the [Friends group](#) and many others are heeding our call for donations for the [Christmas Program](#). We are becoming good friends with UPS and FedEx drivers as they are bringing boxes of cheer to support these efforts. It is a joy to see this program come to fruition.

We wish to extend a special thank you to the Passion for Fashion planning committee, for donating hundreds of hours planning and executing a wonderful event, which supports the [Sharon Abrams Teen Parent School Program](#). Erica Russell, Jill Huard, Jennifer Bergeron, Cristen Sawyer and Steve Mayberry, we appreciate your every effort. It was a fun, lively and jam-packed evening for a great cause. Allison Grady gave a meaningful speech on how the Teen Parent Program has been so helpful to her and her son. Special thanks to Eric Lunt - aka Big E Live Entertainment - who stepped up to lead the live auction. He was entertaining and helped to raise donations. Eric even received a number smiles from his mother-in-law, Sharon Abrams. It was a really fantastic event!

In sincere gratitude,

Richard Dorian, Executive Director

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



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[Visit our website](#)

# Getting Ready for Christmas!

The calendar may not have yet reached Halloween, but we already have Christmas on our minds! This is the time of year we start to kick our [Christmas Program](#) into high gear in preparation for packing boxes. Please consider donating [new items](#) as soon as possible to help us serve more than 1,700 children this holiday season. 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



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

September 2016

## Maine Children's Home

Working with children and their families...  
Every day

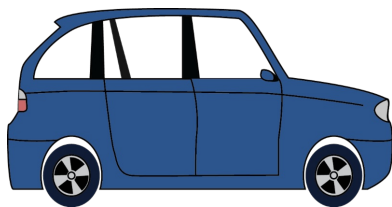
How did we do?

Program	Accomplishments
1 Community	MCH staff supported the United Way kick-off at Sappi by participating as a supported agency!
2 Harland Turner Counseling Center	287 adults, children and families served.
3 Volunteers	7 Cadets from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy helped with maintenance projects and read to kids. Wow!
4 Grants	\$500 grant from Healthy Northern Kennebec for establishing food gardens for kids and teens. \$5,000 from the Thomas H. Maren Foundation for TPSP.
5 Adoption	25 inquiries and 4 consultations! A busy, growing program.
6 Events	Successful Passion for Fashion, September 22! Proceeds to benefit the Sharon Abrams Teen Parent School Program.
7 The Children's Place	14 inquiries for early care and education slots.
8 Teen Parent School Program	School has started with 9 students enrolled!
9 Christmas Program	We have approximately 40% of the volunteers we will need to provide for 1,700 kids this season. Call us!

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



## 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.

## Recent Community Support

### Colby Cares

As part of [Colby Cares](#), we had a great group of college students helping us around campus on September 1!





## United Way of Mid-Maine

[United Way of Mid-Maine](#)'s recent "Stuff the Bus" school supply drive collected the supplies below that will help the Teen Parent School Program students.



## Volunteer Cadets from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy

We were very fortunate to have seven cadets from the Maine Criminal

Justice Academy, located in Vassalboro, visit The Maine Children's Home for a day. They worked well together as they painted a large classroom on the second floor of the Parks Building and spent a few hours reading and playing with children from The Children's Place. We were very pleased to have these eager mentors join us!



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## September Events

### Passion for Fashion

On September 22, we hosted our annual Passion for Fashion event at The Vintage Manor in Waterville, raising more than \$5,000 to benefit the [Teen Parent School Program](#).

More than 195 attendees enjoyed dinner, a fun game, a live and silent auction, and a fashion show with items provided by Divine Consigns. The owner, Erica Russell, was a former Teen Parent School Program student, and continues to be a strong supporter of The Maine Children's Home.

There were plenty of laughs, and fun was had by all. Thank you to all those who attended! **A special thank you to the following corporate sponsors, and the generous auction donors!**

Sponsors:

- Bangor Savings Bank
- Skowhegan Savings Bank
- Johnny's Selected Seeds
- PFBF
- Century 21 Surette
- Century 21 Nason
- Nancy Marshall Communications

- Sappi Fine Paper
- Central Maine Newspapers
- Residential Mortgage Services
- Divine Consigns





## Staff Retreat

On September 16, The Maine Children's Home staff took time out of their busy schedules to spend a day off-campus to learn, plan and get to know each other at Camp Tracy in Oakland.

There were breakout sessions in the morning for the adoption, counseling, The Children's Place and administration teams. They came back together for important conversations on sexual harassment and positive communication.

Staff also enjoyed a great lunch served by volunteers from the [Friends](#) group, and ended the day with team building activities, including a fun game of Maine Children's Home trivia, Jeopardy style! Special thanks to the planning team from the People, Policies and Programs Committee.

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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.