



THE MAINE CHILDREN'S HOME *for Little Wanderers*

Serving families and children since 1899

Annual Celebration

We recently held our 118th Annual Celebration with over 130 friends, Staff and their families, Volunteers, Board Members, Donors and many Community Supporters. We were thrilled to be together to celebrate a year of tremendous progress, growth and shared commitment. As with every gathering, we began by reciting our Mission: ***“to build and strengthen families and their children, instilling hope for the future and a better quality of life.”*** We enjoyed a wonderful meal, competed for many wonderful silent auction items, recognized outgoing Board Members, greeted our new Board of Directors, kicked off the Annual Fund Drive, and heard an encouraging message from Yellow Light Breen, President and CEO of the Maine Development Foundation, celebrated several outstanding supporters and looked back over this very exciting past year.

We are deeply thankful for the incredible support we have received to accomplish our goals and to serve over 3,000 children, youth and families across our programs. You are helping us to create more loving and healthy homes all across the state of Maine every day.



Two of the beautiful gift baskets offered as Silent Auction items at our Annual Celebration.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Message from Rick Dorian2
- Message from Linette Gamache.....3
- Memorials.....4
- Income Sources Chart.....17



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Easter Egg Hunt.....4/15
- Wine Tasting.....4/20





Rick Dorian, Executive Director
rdorian@mainechildrenshome.org

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One of the great joys I have is to spend a good deal of my time sharing stories about the incredible work of the Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers. I could not be more proud of our staff, our board and our volunteers for their extraordinary gifts and

contributions. We have a great partnership with our community to grow support to meet urgent needs for children, youth and families. At a recent workshop on Friendraising & Fundraising I was challenged to briefly talk about why our work is so

“You are helping us make life better for Maine children every day.”

Special Recognition

The Low Riders XII Chapter of the Widow's Sons Motorcycle Club of Maine:



We were honored to have four members from the Low Riders XII Chapter of the Window's Sons Motorcycle Club of Maine join us for the celebration. They are all Masons first and are involved in a number of fraternal and charitable activities, largely focused on helping children in need. Over the past several months they have raised funds for us, made donations, helped with the pick-ups of donations, delivered Christmas boxes, and more. They have committed to help with our remodeling of the second floor of the Parks Building to add three new classrooms this spring and are planning a 'Ride-In' with other clubs from across the state. We are deeply thankful for their service.

CONTINUED...

important. One of the driving questions for me is always “*what happens if we can't provide the services to children & families in need?*” That inspires me in many ways to invite more people to be part of the team that responds with great love and care. I had to come up with 3 brief “why” statements to speak to the urgency of our program needs:

- Because children need safe and loving homes every day.
- Because children can thrive when their parents & families have the right tools.
- Because children are waiting and watching to see where help comes from.

It is heartening to know that hundreds of individuals, clubs, schools, businesses, foundations and many partners have responded to our requests for support this past year. We can only carry out our mission with your vital support. We invite you to continue to support our programs through a gift to our Annual Fund or to one of the specific services we provide. You are helping us to make life better for Maine Children every day.



*Linette Gamache
Board President*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I am honored to serve as the Board President. Although I have served in this capacity twice before, this term will be a brand new experience. The Home has seen significant growth over the past several years. We are anticipating continued growth in the areas of Counseling, Early Care & Education and Adoption. We will work to preserve the past and continue to celebrate our very long and proud history of successful supports and resources, while meeting evolving needs in our community, which spreads to the four corners of Maine.

We were blessed with a smooth transition to Rick as our new Executive Director. We look forward to working with Rick, guiding The Home in continued growth with sustainability of our many programs at the forefront.

The Home has a strong base of dedicated and skilled staff, supportive volunteers, active board members, generous donors and grant partners. I want to take this opportunity to give thanks to them all for their commitment to our mission, "To build and strengthen families and their children, instilling hope for the future and a better quality of life."

My history with The Home is very personal and reaches back to the mid 1970's as a graduate of the Sharon Abrams Teen Parent School Program. The 2015 40th anniversary celebration of that program spoke to my heart. The many wonderful donations given to help sustain that program brought tears of joy to my eyes.

What speaks to your heart? Is it the joyful squeals from children getting a healthy start at The Children's Place? Or the radiant smiles of families created through adoption? Or perhaps the understanding of renewed trust and a sense of hope developed through healing words from counselors and teachers? Maybe it's the lifelong memories made for children able to attend a Summer Camp. Or watching your child on Christmas knowing that another child in need will have the same opportunity to receive that one special toy and warm clothes. Please know that your donations are supporting the real needs of children and their families and they are an investment in their future well being.

Sincerely,
Linette Ellen Gamache, Board President

Victoria and John Veilleux

Volunteers of The Year



John and Victoria have given their time and talent on many occasions at the Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers. Whether refurbishing rooms, packing Christmas boxes or offering kind words, they have become invaluable assets to MCHLW. Many days, John would be here early to make sure that our Christmas clients had generously packed boxes. Victoria would often arrive with dinner in hand after her own long day of work to help him. They have become deeply involved through the Friends organization as well, and provide inspiration to others of what a volunteer should be. John had served briefly on the Board of Directors until they were approved to be Adoption Home Host Providers.

Memorials and Honorariums

A memorial or honor gift is a loving and personal way to tell the family of the deceased or the honoree 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 for 2016.

Honorariums

In Honor of: Andrew & Judith Shepard

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Knobloch

In The Name of: Jana Burgoyne

Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. Don Abrams
Don and Cristen Sawyer
Mr. Richard Dorian
Mr. Stephen Mayberry

In The Name of: Jane Bolduc

Mr. and Mrs. Earle Bessey

In The Name of: Callie

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Ms. Deborah Karter

In Honor of: Larry Lamarre

Ms. Rita N Lamarre

In Honor of: Dorothy J. Smith

Smith Family and Grandchildren

In Honor of: Pat and Bart Stevens

Century 21

In The Name of: Randy and Vonda Garms

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Memorials

In Memory of: Arlette J. Hatt

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Memorials and Honorariums

Continued...

In Memory of: Corinne Noyes

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In Memory of: Shirley Bernier, continued...

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In Memory of: Thomas Hill, Sr.

Marlee V. Hill

The Sharon Abrams Giving Society

In honor of Sharon Abrams more than 41 years of service to the Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers, we have created the Sharon Abrams Giving Society to provide ongoing support to The Sharon Abrams Teen Parent School Program. The plaque is located in the Eskelund Community Center, where it will serve as a reminder of Sharon's dedication and service , for years to come.

There are four levels of giving:

- Platinum: \$1,000
- Gold: \$500
- Silver: \$250
- Bronze: \$100



Donors will have their name engraved on a name tag under the appropriate category. Anyone who wishes to donate should direct their gift to the Development office and state that their contribution is for the Sharon Abrams Giving Society. We are happy to make arrangements with you for a payment plan that meets your needs.

Employee of the Year



Cindy Smith. Employee of the Year

Although this recognition has taken place for many years, we invited the Staff People, Policies & Procedures Committee to develop a new process that engages all staff and reflects their input. These nominees were brought forward from across our campus to recognize the common themes of teamwork, diligence, customer service as well as commitment to the Agency and Our Mission. We recognized the following Nominees: Rachel Cummings (The Children's Place), Cindy Smith (Adoption Unit), Pat Tobey (Turner Counseling Center), Jared Wolman (Maintenance Program) & Angie Woodhead (Adoption Unit). They were identified by their peers for excellence in your work. Congratulations all!

"Cindy Smith has taken on so many new roles in various areas at the Maine Children's Home. She helps in any way she can and is the ultimate Team Player. Her work ethic is top notch and she is truly passionate about her work."

"Cindy's workload has more than doubled in the past year and she continues to complete all work without issue and rarely complains. There's nothing she is not willing to do."

"Cindy has given more than 2 decades of her life to be a part of The Maine Children's Home."

Here's a recent note we received from one of our adopting families: *"From the moment we met Cindy in the office she was diligent and courteous. She was clear on helping us understand the ins and outs of what would be needed by the agency for our application and process to proceed without delay. She returned calls and emails expediently. She was quick to relay information to the parties involved. She was a calming presence in the midst of insecurity and fear. (My Partner) and I saw and see Cindy as more than an administrative assistant.... we saw the first welcoming glimpse of hope that the reality of our growing family was more than just a possibility. I will never forget the words she said after our first visit as we were leaving the building.... "You are going to make a great mom!" At the time she did not know my family history or the hidden fears that lay in my heart, yet the assuredness in her tone calmed me and helped me to move forward with more assurance than I ever realized that I needed."*

Congratulations to Cindy Smith, Employee of the Year for 2016.

Special Recognition



Whitney Moreau accepts recognition on behalf of Nancy Marshall Communications.

Twice in the past six years, the Nancy Marshall Communications Team has done extra targeted outreach to local media when Christmas supplies were getting very low. This led to new articles in the Morning Sentinel, the Kennebec Journal and the Portland Press Herald. TV stations started calling to arrange for interviews. This led to a number of significant local gifts of more than \$43,000. There were 111 new on-line donations totaling \$15,197. The toys, clothing and books began pouring through the front door. We ended up serving 1,768 Maine children, our biggest year ever. Major thanks to the Nancy Marshall Communications Team!

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\$60,000 to \$1,000,000

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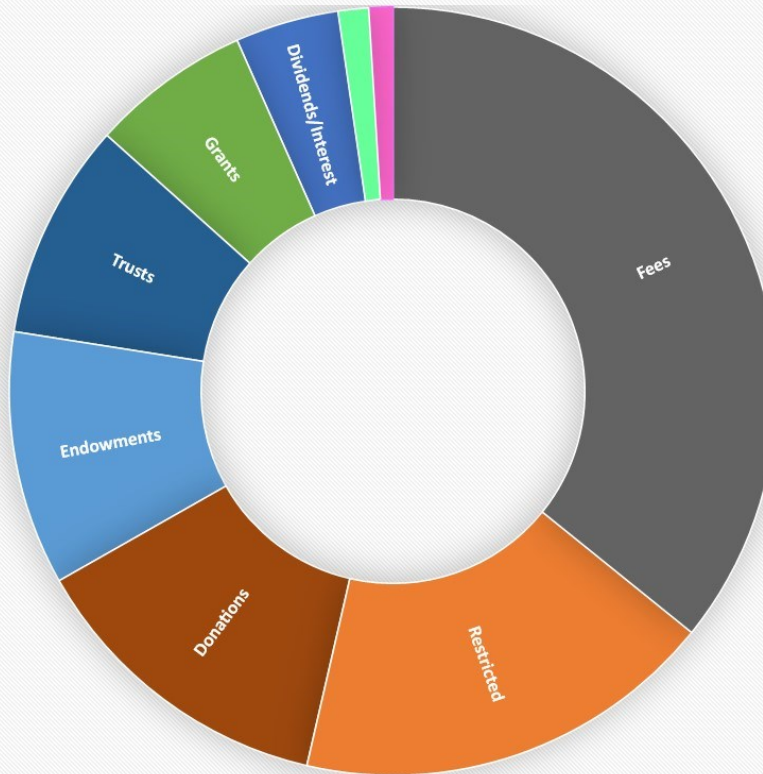
We could not be more pleased with the outstanding support from Amy & Bruce Harrington for organizing and carrying out a very successful Craft Fair to benefit our programs last November. They approached us with the idea of how to make this event happen successfully and we are very much looking forward to another very successful event. this fall. Thank you, Amy and Bruce for sharing your time, talents and interests with

Special Recognition of Amy & Bruce Harrington:

us to be more present in the community and to gain very valuable support. We are very excited about the upcoming Craft Fair at T&B's on November 4th.



Income Sources - Maine Children's Home - 2016



The **Restricted** Income is designated for specific programs, specific projects or for specific endowments. This is not used for general operations. If restricted income becomes part of an endowment, the organization may only use the interest and dividends from investments.

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Mark Your Calendar

March:

Big E and Friends Concert, TBA

April:

Easter Egg Hunt, 4/15

Wine Tasting Event, 4/20

May:

Friends Dining for Dollars, TBA

June:

Friends Yard sale, 6/3

Low XII Widows Sons Motorcycle Ride
in and Cookout, 6/10

Children's Place Family Fun Day, TBA

September:

Passion for Fashion benefit auction and
fashion show, TBA

October:

Friends Lobster Roll Bag Lunch, TBA

November:

Craft Fair, 11/4

Thank you also to all our in-kind donors who donate diapers, baby wipes, food, new toys and clothing, books, games, mitten, toiletries and more throughout the year in support of our programs. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.