

Kindness Comes Full Circle

The Maine Children’s Home Newsletter | October 2025

Dear Friends,

Every day at Maine Children’s Home (MCH), we see how one act of kindness ripples outward — transforming not just one life, but many.

People like you make that transformation possible.

In this newsletter, you’ll meet **Amy***, a single mom facing chronic health challenges, who calls our *Christmas / Winter Essentials Program* a “ray of light.” Her story shows how your generosity provided critical support when it’s needed most.

You’ll also see **full-circle support** in action, like young parents in our *Journey Program* who once received care packages and are now giving back as volunteers.

Local businesses are stepping up too, collecting essentials for children and teens through our **Giving Tree Campaign**.

You’ll also read about young parents getting one-on-one guidance toward **secondary education and career goals**, building more stable futures.

And, a recent adoptive family shares some of their personal story of connection and growth through Maine Children’s Home.

Your gifts of time and treasure are more than donations — they’re seeds of hope that grow into connection, resilience, and care.

Thank you for being part of this full circle!

Candace A. Marriner

Candace Marriner
Executive Director

*Amy gave permission for MCH to share her story. Thank you, Amy!



Candace moves inventory of boys’ clothing in our *Christmas / Winter Essentials Program*.

Bringing Light in the Darkest Season of the Year

When a Maine mom faced the challenges of disability, single parenthood, and financial hardship, *Maine Children’s Home* brought warmth, joy, and hope into her home.

From cozy coats to fun simple family games, *Christmas / Winter Essentials* care packages help Maine families get through the toughest season.

Keep reading to learn how Maine Children’s Home shone light in dark times for Amy and her daughter, and how generous people like you keep that light shining.



**Thank You to 2025 MCH News Partner Sponsor
United Insurance!**

Maine Children’s Home
93 Silver Street
Waterville, ME 04901

Support that Shaped Our Family Journey

“Going through adoption was overwhelming at times, but the warmth, wisdom, and steady support of our adoption social worker, Nicole, brought comfort and clarity,” shared a new adoptive mom. “The support we received from Maine Children’s Home made a lasting impact on our adoption experience.”

Thanks to you, our caring donors and volunteers, all MCH programs offer meaningful support to the children and families we serve.

Stay Connected



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JOURNEY PROGRAM

Building Stronger Futures and Giving Back



Case Manager Kayla (left) meets with Journey Program participant Kianna (right) as part of an education and economic mobility initiative.

Want to learn more about Journey Program?
Visit MaineChildrensHome.org/YoungParents

This fall, *Journey Program*’s 20 participants are building essential life skills through a community partnership series on **healthy relationships**, led by Maegan Bell of the *Sexual Assault Crisis & Support Center*. Through these sessions, Journey moms and dads explore communication, boundaries, and emotional safety, key topics that support both personal development and strong parenting.

At the same time, these young people are exploring secondary and post-secondary education and career paths with **individual guidance** — part of year two in a pilot initiative to help identify and remove barriers to economic mobility for young parents, funded by a two-year grant from the **John T. Gorman Foundation**.

Journey is offered at no cost to participants and empowers young parents to build more stable futures. This is only possible through grants and generous financial support from people like you.

A Way to Pay it Forward

Journey parents are also volunteering with *Christmas / Winter Essentials Program* this year — a program they have benefited from themselves.

One young parent, who asked to remain anonymous, shared:

“It feels good to give back. I’ve received a box from the program before, and it was really helpful for me and my boys. Volunteering makes me feel like a caring person.”

Your generosity doesn’t just meet urgent needs today — it inspires kindness, connection, and community in the future.



A Journey participant volunteers by counting socks for Christmas / Winter Essentials Program.

Volunteers are the heart of our programs. Weekly opportunities are available for individuals and groups — visit MaineChildrensHome.org/Volunteer to learn how you can get involved.

Thank You to 2025 Volunteer Bronze Sponsor Bangor Savings Bank and everyone who is volunteering this year!

“A Ray of Hope,” Thanks to You

After escaping an abusive relationship, Amy, a single mom, spent the past six years raising her daughter alone while living with a disability and chronic health issues.

“I have a bachelor’s and a master’s,” she shared. “I wanted to work and do amazing things, but my health just doesn’t allow it.”

Meeting her daughter’s growing needs is a constant challenge on a fixed income. That’s why *Christmas / Winter Essentials Program* has meant so much:

“There’s always some obstacle . . . boots that don’t fit, a winter coat we can’t afford. These care packages help fill the gaps that are hard to manage on my own. And there’s always a little fun inside, too — toys, coloring books, and a family game.”

“In difficult times, this program is a ray of light — **a ray of hope.**”

Thanks to you, our donors and volunteers, that light keeps shining. This season, *Christmas / Winter Essentials Program* expects to distribute at least 1,500 care packages to children and teens across the state, with a 49% increase in teens receiving packages compared to 2024.



The package that Amy (left) and her daughter received in 2024 brought joy and relief.

Thank You to 2025 Care Package Distribution Bronze Sponsor Prime Financial, LLC, and the generous people like you who make Christmas / Winter Essentials possible!



How to Help Families like Amy’s This Season

Our annual Giving Tree campaign fuels *Christmas / Winter Essentials Program*, providing warm clothing, hygiene items, books, toys, and more for Maine children and teens facing hardship.

Want to get involved?
Host a gift drive, contribute Giving Tree items, or spread the word.

Register or learn more at: MaineChildrensHome.org/GivingTree

Thank You to 2025 Giving Tree Partner Sponsor Winthrop Federal Credit Union and everyone who has already registered to help!

Ways to Give

Give Securely Online
MaineChildrensHome.org/Give



Give by Mail
93 Silver Street
Waterville, ME 04901

Give from an IRA or DAF
Maine Children’s Home
Tax ID 01-0267392
93 Silver Street
Waterville, ME 04901

Plan ahead: IRA distributions must clear the bank by Dec. 31, 2025, if intended for 2025 tax reasons.

Give from Your Assets
MaineChildrensHome.org/PlannedGiving

Give Specific Items for Children and Teens
MaineChildrensHome.org/Needs

See Our Generosity Circle
MaineChildrensHome.org/GenerosityCircle