

Impact Report 2024

Shaping brighter futures

From the Executive Director

As we look back on 2024, we are deeply moved by the outpouring of support from our community. Your generosity has created real, lasting change in the lives of Maine's children and families. Thanks to supporters like you, Maine Children's Home (MCH) has been able to expand the reach of critical programs such as Journey Program, which helped 21% more young parents in 2024, and Christmas / Winter Essentials Program, which provided 1,415 care packages to families in need. Volunteers generously donated more than 2,100 hours, helping us pack care packages for 19% more youth than the previous year.

2024 also marked some exciting milestones. We launched our Targeted Case Management service and began renovations on our Lunder Building — two important steps forward as we continue to innovate and improve the care we offer. We also supported 30 families through adoption services and provided 244 clients with mental health counseling sessions, helping them navigate life's challenges.

The stories shared in this Impact Report — and the countless moments beyond these pages — serve as powerful reminders of the ripple effect your generosity creates. It's not just about meeting immediate needs — it's about planting seeds for brighter, stronger futures.

Thank you for your continued belief in our mission — *to build and strengthen families* — and for helping make this work possible. As you read through our 2024 Impact Report, know that you are an essential part of this incredible journey. Your support makes all the difference.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Candace A. Marriner

Candace Marriner

Executive Director, Maine Children's Home



Your financial gift of any size directly helps real children and families in Maine.

Please consider giving to our 2025 fundraising campaign today — everyone benefits! Visit MaineChildrensHome.org/BrighterFutures or mail a check to 93 Silver Street, Waterville, ME 04901.

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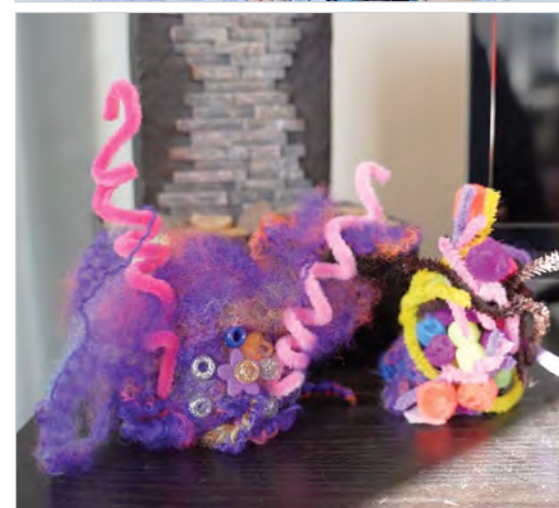
Images from top to bottom:

Top: Volunteer, Cindy Glynn, sorts through donations of children's winter hats, which will be placed into care packages for families participating in Christmas / Winter Essential Program's 2025 season.

Top-middle: Allison Grady poses with her son. Allison participated in Maine Children's Home's young parent program, Journey Program, from 2014 to 2017. In 2024, she credited the program for shaping who she is — a "successful, well-adjusted individual, partner, and parent."

Bottom-middle: 'Anger Monsters' created with a young client during a cognitive-behavioral and art therapy session at the Maine Children's Home Family Counseling Center.

Bottom: In 2024, staff of Maine Children's Home and Marden's celebrated 20 years of partnership, as well as Marden's 60th anniversary and Maine Children's Home's 125th.





199

teens ages 13 through 17 received care packages of clothing and hygiene items in 2024!



1,216

children ages infant through 12 received care packages of winter essentials and toys!



618

families across Maine were served by Christmas / Winter Essentials Program in 2024.

That is 14% more families compared to 2023!

Christmas / Winter Essentials Program

Sharing joy and winter warmth with families



Volunteers celebrated reaching 1,181 children in the 2023 season. In 2024, they organized care packages for a total of 1,415 children and teens.

Thanks to the generosity of Maine Children's Home (MCH) supporters — through financial contributions, donated items, and volunteer time — **Christmas / Winter Essentials Program** continues to bring comfort to Maine families facing financial hardship. Each year, we provide brand new and personalized clothes, winter hats, mittens, gloves, boots, jackets, toys, books, hygiene items, and games, as well as additional resources to families in need.

In 2024, we expanded the program to include teens ages 13 through 17, distributing 1,415 care packages — 19% more than in 2023. We also continued offering each participating family a **Well-Being Toolkit** or **Zine** full of helpful and age appropriate health tips and activities, a project made possible by the New Balance Foundation.



Teenagers are just as deserving of childhood joy, but it feels like many programs aren't able or willing to help them . . . My son is on the autism spectrum, and his childhood wishes and dreams last longer. Imagine being 15 and believing with all your heart that Santa will bring you something special . . . Without programs like Christmas / Winter Essentials that accept teens, that magic likely would have died years ago. Thanks for helping him believe in magic a little longer.

- shared by a teen participant's parent

Family Counseling Center

Guiding toward hope, healing, and wholeness

Family Counseling Center is MCH's state-licensed outpatient mental health program that offers counseling for individuals, couples, and families. In a warm and welcoming environment, we continue to provide expert care to support mental well-being.

In 2024, our clients participated in 4,458 counseling sessions with our mental health clinicians. The Center launched a Targeted Case Management department (see below), and we began renovating the Lunder Building on campus for better client care and therapy modalities. We plan to begin welcoming clients of the Family Counseling Center into this bright, welcoming space in 2025.

My therapist has fought for me and showed me that I am worth the help I'm getting. I may have had traumatic things happen to me in my life, but I will rise above those to be a healthy version of myself once again, thanks to people like her!

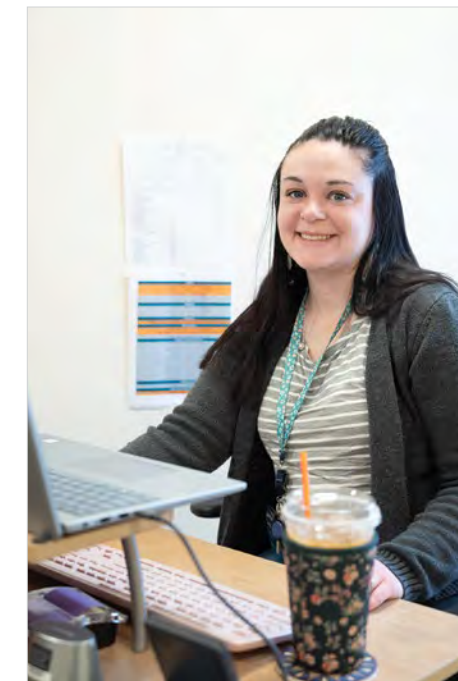
- shared by a counseling client

Navigating unique needs of children and their families

Targeted Case Management (TCM) empowers children and families by providing personalized support to meet their mental health, medical, social, housing, vocational, and financial goals.

Our team helps families access critical services like neuropsychological evaluations, therapy, vocational rehab, and more, while advocating for them with providers and schools.

We also work to reduce stress for low-income families by connecting them to financial assistance, food, clothing, and housing resources, helping prevent homelessness.



Maine Children's Home's Targeted Case Manager, Kayla Spencer, LSX, in her office.



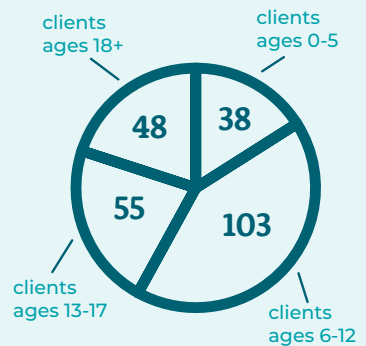
4,458

therapy sessions took place in 2024!



244

unique clients of a wide range of ages received therapy.



We introduced Targeted Case Management to help connect families with the resources they need!



32

young parents received support from Journey Program in 2024!

The number of young parents enrolled in Journey Program increased by 21% compared to 2023.



30

children whose parents participate in the program received support, ranging from childcare to care supplies.



15

young parents were referred to receive mental health support.

Journey Program

Supporting young parents on their path to self-worth and positive parenting

Through the generous support of MCH donors and supporters, Journey Program continues to empower pregnant and parenting young people by providing them with the knowledge, skills, and support they need to thrive academically, financially, and emotionally, both as individuals and as parents.

In 2024, we served 21% more young parents, strengthening families through personalized guidance and education on prenatal health, newborn care, child safety, parent-to-child bonding, child development, and more.

We also increased support for the children of participating parents by 22%, helping with childcare during classes, providing essential resources, and supplying diapers and wipes.



Journey Program participants Cam (left) and Kianna (right) playing with their 2-year-old son in the Journey Program play area.

When I became a parent at 17, I thought my whole life was going to be scrambled. Since I've joined Journey Program, I have never felt more happy and more confident in myself, because of the resources that they give and the knowledge that I can walk out the door with. I feel more confident in me as a person and as a parent.

- Cam Michaud, third year Journey Program participant

Family Adoption Program

Providing a lifetime of services for birth parents and adoptive families



Nicole Rancourt, LSW, (left) and Rikki Pease, LSW, (right) are the two social workers of Family Adoption Program.

Family Adoption Program continues to provide comprehensive services for adoptive parents, birth parents, and adoptees, including in-state, interstate, and international adoptions. As Maine's only Hague-accredited program, we uphold ethical standards to ensure children's safety and well-being in the adoption process.

In 2024, we assisted 30 clients through various stages of the adoption process, completing home studies for the state of Maine, finalizing adoptions (3 of our active clients finalized this year!), and adoption education. We also provided pre- and post-adoption counseling and support for families and birth parents, and we assisted 10 adoptive families and adoptees with search requests for biological family members.

The Experience of an Adoptive Family

When my husband and I started our adoption journey, we interviewed with a handful of adoption agencies, all of whom made us feel like it was a business transaction ... I remember walking out of a meeting with one agency completely in tears.

That night I googled agencies again and stumbled on Maine Children's Home. We attended an informational meeting a couple of weeks later and knew instantly we wanted to pursue adoption

through MCH. From that meeting on we have received continued support from our caseworkers.

They were always willing to answer questions and send a 'thinking of you' email during one of our many disruptions. When we did place with an out-of-state placement agency, our caseworker, Rikki, spent hours with us on the phone helping us navigate it.

- shared by an adoptive parent



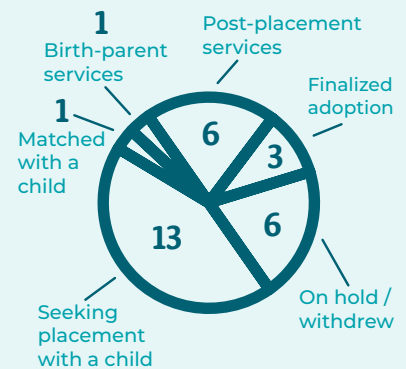
3

families finalized adoptions in 2024!

Adoption can be a long process. Each of these 3 adoption journeys lasted between 3 and 7 years.

30

adoption clients were supported in 2024.



10

searches for biological family members were conducted.

Community Support in 2024

Each of the following moments are examples of many! They are testament to the power of community in making a real difference for Maine children and families. Because of our generous supporters, we are able to continue making a lasting impact on the lives of the families we serve.



Walmart Waterville's Spark Good team spent their Earth Day in 2024 carefully raking and cleaning our campus.



The Central Masonic Lodge #113 and **State Masonic Lodge** presented us with two checks of donations collected in collaboration with Messalonskee and Waterville — one check for \$1,200 and one for \$5,504.

Maine Children's Home will inspire you to give back, it will inspire you to help others, and it will open your eyes to a community and a need that you may not otherwise be exposed to.

- 2024 volunteer of Christmas / Winter Essentials Program



U.S. Senator Angus S. King Jr.'s office presented us with a signed Certificate of Special Recognition during a celebration of our 125th anniversary.



Maine State Credit Union raised \$1,425 through their Drive for Good campaign. They also won the Champion Award for collecting the most donations during our Christmas in July drive.



Front and Main and the team at **Lockwood Hotel** raised \$1,200 for Maine Children's Home through their tamale fundraiser.



Connected Credit Union collected donations during our Christmas in July campaign, and also volunteered packing care packages for our Christmas / Winter Essentials Program.



Landry / French Construction participated in the 2024 Giving Tree Drive, providing gifts for the children and families of our Christmas / Winter Essentials Program.



Marden's customers and the Marden family raised a total of \$51,000 for Christmas / Winter Essentials Program.



Cianbro Institute gave \$1,000 to our Christmas / Winter Essentials Program as part of their 12 Days of Giving campaign.



Elm City Crossfit organized a fun ornament auction and raised \$700 for Christmas / Winter Essentials Program.



Young American Dance Center's Dance Team volunteered to help us pack care packages for children and teens in need.



Waterville Rotary Club and **The Friends of Maine Children's Home** helped put together therapy kits for our young counseling clients.

Thank You to Our Board of Directors

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Daniel Santos

Sean Wallace

Want to join the board?

Apply to join this devoted group of leaders on our website:

MaineChildrensHome.org/Board

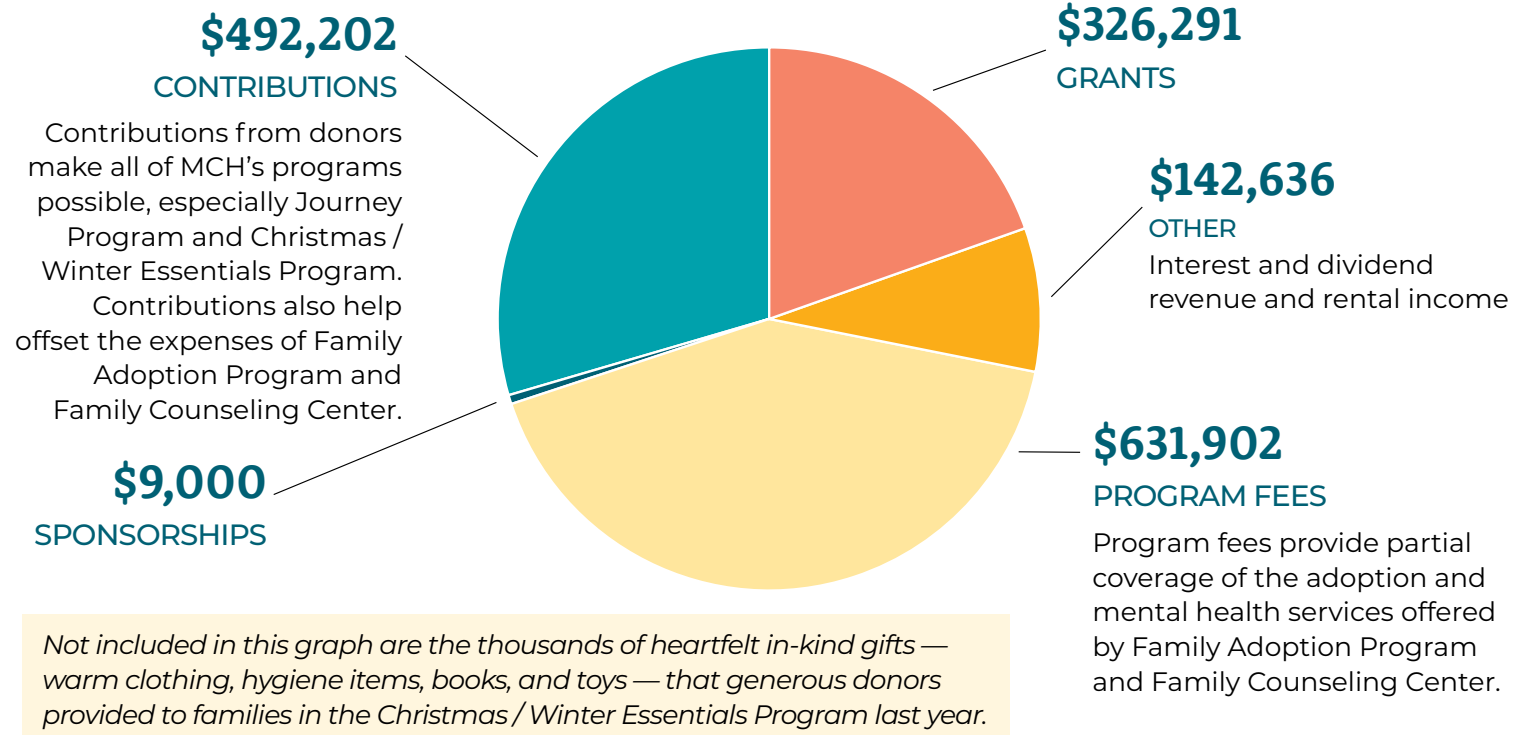
Thank You to Our 2024 Volunteers

Christmas / Winter Essentials Program wouldn't be possible without our volunteers. In 2024, the following generous volunteers gave a total of 2,117 hours of their time. Thank you!

Kerri Abbott	Debbie French	Caleb Lombard	Alissa Robbins
Erica Austin	Miles Gadwah	Thomas R. Longstaff	Linda M. Rodrigue
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Mary Bixby	Kelsey Glynn	Desiree Marin	Jaelynn Spear
Bethany Blakly	Penelope M. Glynn	Missie Marks	Angel Spencer
Annalee Bloom	Kshanti Greene	Kaylee Marks	Trish Spencer
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Lynn Boothby	Brittney Grover	Ann McCormick	Lucie Stewart
Johnna Bowen	Morey Hallett	Liam McCoy	Cadence Stewart
Wendy Brochu	Angela Hamlin	Juanita McJaphet	Steven Stout
Patty Brown	Angie Herrick	Jolene McPhetres	Taylor Sullivan
Nyla Bryan	Isabella Herrick	Nancy Merrill	Phoebe Taylor
Rene Burdet	Jean Hood	Sarah Merrill	Janine Taylor
Kaelyn Buxton	Aimee Houde	Frankie Merrill	Bryan-Keith Taylor
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Ana Campos	Mary Hughes	Olyvia Mitchell	Pamela Thompson
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Zach Ciolino	Alisa M. Johnson	Erin Niehoff	Annie Veilleux
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Shannon Courtois	Cherish Johnson	Karen Normandin	Stephanie Vigue
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Kris Croteau-Turcotte	Aubrey Jolicoeur	Tara Oxley	Stephanie Watson
Jacqueline F. Dalton	Adam Kavanagh	Molly Oxley	Cynthia White
John D. Dalton	Payton-Dawn Laliberte	Maddie Oxley	Keagan White
Kianna Dionne	Katie Laliberte	Angel Parsons	Becky White
Jeff Douglas	April Le	Andrea Pasco	Sophia Willigar
Kimberly Douin	Erika LeClair	Joy Perry	Katie Worcester
Eleanor Fairfield	Tyler LeClair	Jennifer Pickett	Maia Worden
Michael Farris	Bailey Levesque	Susan Porter	Amber Worthley
Meghan Faulkner	Mallory Levesque	Beth Poulin	Jodi A. Youngs
Mary Denise Ferguson	Wrenley Levesque	Michele A. Prince	Mikaela Ziobro
Noah Flynn	Justin Libby	Jeffrey B. Rafuse	
Yvette Fontaine	Lisa Linnell	Francis Reese	

A special "thank you!" to our 2024 Volunteer Sponsor, Bangor Savings Bank!


Funding Sources, Grants, and Sponsorship Support



2024 Foundation & Grant Support

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Bill and Joan Alford Foundation | Francis T. and Louise T. Nichols Foundation | New Balance Foundation |
| Harold Alford Foundation | French Foundation | PayPal Charitable Giving Fund |
| American Online Giving Foundation | Give Lively Foundation | Portside Foundation |
| Anonymous | Groundswell Charitable Foundation | Raymond James Charitable |
| Bangor Savings Bank Foundation | The William J. J. Gordon Family Foundation | Renaissance Charitable Foundation |
| Bank of America Charitable Foundation | John T. Gorman Foundation | Schwab Charitable |
| The Blackburn Giving Fund | Libra Foundation | Sukeforth Charitable Foundation |
| Brooks Family Foundation | Lunder Foundation | The Reny Charitable Foundation |
| Charities Aid Foundation of America | Maine Community Foundation | UK Online Giving Foundation |
| City of Waterville | Mid-State Foundation | United Way of Kennebec Valley |
| Fidelity Charitable | | Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program |

2024 Corporate Sponsors


Construction Consulting of Maine, LLC

Annual Celebration Sponsor
Rick and Judy MacKenzie
Construction Consulting of Maine, LLC


sappi

GivingTuesday Sponsor
Sappi

Volunteer Sponsor: Christmas/Winter Essentials Program
Bangor Savings Bank



The Bangor Savings Bank Foundation awarded Christmas / Winter Essentials Program with a \$7,500 grant in 2024. Bangor Savings Bank was also our 2024 Volunteer Sponsor, and members of their team generously volunteered to assemble care packages for families of the program.

The Generosity Circle

Nurturing Hope and Creating Paths to Brighter Futures

When you give financially to the Maine Children's Home (MCH), you join the **Generosity Circle**. The Generosity Circle recognizes your annual generosity as truly making a difference in the lives of the children and families we serve, strengthening our community in the process. Every gift in the Generosity Circle — no matter the size — creates widening ripples of hope that reverberate through the lives of families and children across our region. Thank you.

The following individuals and organizations gave \$100+ in annual campaign support between January 1 – December 31, 2024.

We appreciate your grace should listing errors or omissions occur. Please contact Giving@MaineChildrensHome.org with questions or corrections.

VISIONARY CIRCLE

\$20,000+

Lee Edward Fitzgerald Living Trust
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Francis T. and Louise T. Nichols Foundation

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Lockwood Hotel: Front and Main
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Laura E. Carleton Charitable Trust
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Maurice and Lelia Forster Fund

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\$1,000 – \$2,499

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The William J.J. Gordon Family Foundation
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United Insurance Group
Wal-Mart
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\$250 – \$499

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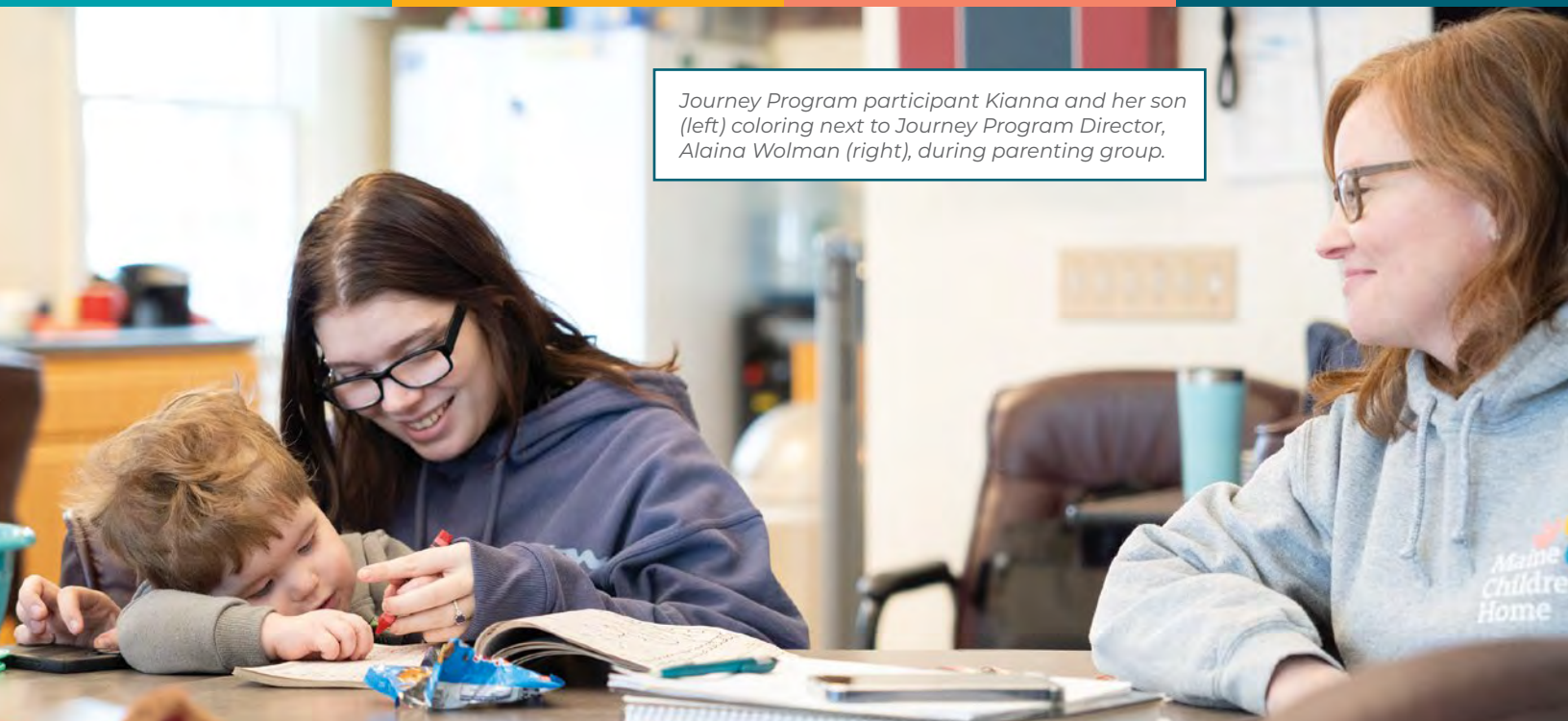
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 Edwin and Barbara Nicholson
 Mary Lou and Peter Ogden

Old South Congregational
 Church UCC, Hallowell
 M. Kathleen O'Halloran
 Dennis and Janet O'Neil
 Daniel and Jeanne Ouellette
 Deborah Ouellette
 David and Barbara Page
 Amanda Pelletier
 John and Martha Pelletier
 Jackie Penney
 Laurence Perkins
 Jim Perkins
 Sandra and Brent Phinney
 Jean and Scott Pillsbury
 Robert Poulin
 Sharon Pray and Bill Regan
 David and Janet Preston
 Julie and David Projansky
 Michael Quartucci
 James and Joan Radziewicz
 Pauline Y. and William J.
 Rancourt
 Dennis and Roberta Ratner
 Robert and Linda Ray
 Dean and Penny Read
 Lawrence Record
 Red Hat Society - Ruby's Cuties
 Megan Robinson
 David and Linda Rosenberg
 Jinja Rosendahl
 Steven Rossi
 James and Melissa Routhier
 Christina Rusnov and Robert
 Hayes
 Karen Sheive Salter
 Esther Varney
 Woodside Farm
 Carole and Michael Sanders
 Steve and Carolyn Sanders
 Diane Sanko
 Frances Sawtelle
 Elizabeth Schiller
 Mark and Louanne Schoninger
 Roger and Lori Scott, Scott
 Ranch Canvas and
 Upholstery
 Steve and Wendy Scribner
 Sarah Seder
 George and Becky Seel
 David C. Shaw
 Mary Shea

Dr. Brian Shea
 Edward and Barbara
 Shiembob
 Stephen Siket
 Richard Small and Linda
 Shapleigh
 Skowhegan Savings Bank
 Paula and John Smiley
 Karen Smith
 Linda and Carl Smith
 Warren and Marlene
 Spaulding
 Cheryl A. and David G. Stauffer
 Terry Stein
 Strictly Roofing
 John Sutton
 Kristin G. Sweeney
 Barbara and Amanda Szala
 Kathleen Decker Szakas
 Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Taddeo
 Robert Talbot
 Cole Teague
 Ronald and Christine Theriault
 Eben and Susan Thomas
 Stuart and Roiann Twitchell
 Universalist Unitarian Church,
 Waterville
 Nicole Vachon
 Garth Vdoviak
 VFW MacCrillis-Rousseau
 #8835
 Larry and Margaret Veilleux
 Cecile Vigue
 Henry and Joanne Vigue
 Glen Virgin
 Richard Wade
 Waterville Education
 Association
 Dace and Jonathan Weiss
 Deborah Jackson Weiss
 Debra Wenrich
 Gregory T. and Nora H. West
 Harold G. White
 Marie White
 Widows Sons - Mountain
 Chapter
 Hilary Wieczorek
 Nicole A. Williams
 Elizabeth and Wayne Wiltshire
 Lorna and Lee Woodward
 Margaret Zephier

See YOUR
2024 impact
inside!



Journey Program participant Kianna and her son (left) coloring next to Journey Program Director, Alaina Wolman (right), during parenting group.

As we reflect on 2024, we're grateful for the support from our community, which has made a lasting impact on Maine's children and families. Thanks to your generosity, we've expanded key programs like the Journey Program for young parents and the Christmas/Winter Essentials Program, while continuing the vital work of the Family Adoption Program and Family Counseling Center.