

THE MAINE SEA COAST MISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2005



*Offering a lifeline
of support to our
island and coastal
communities.*

Our Mission

The Maine Sea Coast Mission is a non-denominational, non-profit organization that serves as a source of hope, encouragement, and strength for individuals, families, and communities from mid- to Downeast coastal Maine. Rooted in an inclusive Christian ministry of compassion and justice, the Mission delivers critical services to those most in need while striving to redress the root causes of those needs.

The Mission's ongoing outreach helps people who are struggling with dwindling educational resources, increased housing costs and lack of available housing, marginal health insurance or none at all, minimal access to medical and geriatric care, alcohol and drug abuse, and teen pregnancy and suicide. Programs and services include church and pastoral work, financial and medical assistance, a food bank, recycled clothing shop, youth programs, and ministries in the field.

PHOTOS ON COVER
AND THIS PAGE BY
BILL KUYKENDALL



Dear Friends,

As with most passages of time, the year 2005, the Mission's Centennial year, is quickly dropping out of sight over the horizon. It is good that we capture some of it in this report.

Here is a sample of why 2005 should be remembered with gratitude and a sense of accomplishment:

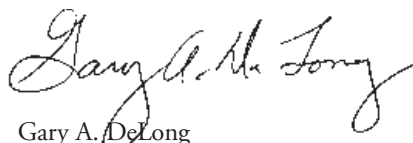
- Archives: Due to the good collaborative work of a professional and a wonderful volunteer, order and access was brought to the extensive archives of the Mission, thereby rendering all of our history transparent and available to our constituents.
- Documentary: Making use of thousands of photographs spanning one hundred years, along with miles of live footage of the Mission in action today and the past, this film enables us to look back with gratitude and awe at the dedication and vision of staff and volunteers and to look forward with hope and enthusiasm.
- Capital Campaign: The launching of a \$12 million campaign is news only to the degree that it represents this generation's commitment to "leaving the campsite even better than they found it." The boldness of recent program development is only prudent to the degree that it can be sustained. This campaign is about faithful and creative sustainability.
- Comprehensive Health Plan for the Islands: Health care for the islands is woven throughout the Mission's history. True to our intention to "deliver critical services to those most in need while striving to redress the root causes of those needs", we listened and learned what would make the islands healthier, including both prevention and access. In 2006 we are moving to act upon the findings of our study.
- EdGE Expansion: Following productive conversations with the residents of the area, summer and winter, we took the EdGE to the middle school students of Steuben where it has been met with enthusiasm and broke ground for a program center called the Ed Greaves Education Center.

Many things motivate those of us who work at the Mission. Among them are our faith in God's love for all people and the satisfaction that comes with acting it out through our work. But nothing is quite as inspiring as the desire to live up to the high expectations of our donors. Call them to mind in all their diversity: young and old, some with wealth, some not; some in churches, some not; from Maine to California. Nothing inspires more toward excellence than the trust implied in their gifts which in 2005 were most generous. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Frederick Hutchinson
President, Board of Directors



Gary A. DeLong
Executive Director

Maine Sea Coast Mission

2005 Annual Report

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OUTREACH TO ISLANDS



Island Health Services

The Maine Sea Coast Mission continues to provide access to high quality healthcare to Frenchboro, Isle au Haut, Matinicus and Swans Island. Usage has significantly increased this year. Through the technology of telemedicine, consultations were held with behavioral specialists at MDI Hospital and diabetic specialists at St. Joseph's Hospital. Alcoholics Anonymous meetings were held with one island group on the *Sunbeam* actively engaged in face to face dialogue through telemedicine technology with another island group.

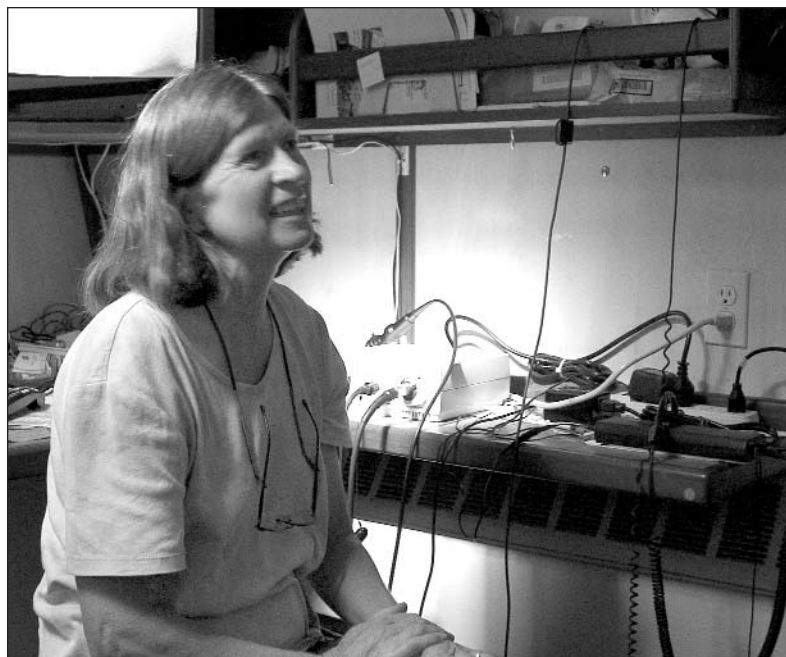
The *Sunbeam* also serves as an approved WIC (Women, Infants and Children) site and makes it possible for women and children on the islands to receive healthy food, nutrition education and appropriate medical referrals. The WIC program benefits over 30 individuals and continues to grow. Also, the *Sunbeam* Nurse, Sharon Daley, serves as the school nurse on Frenchboro and does educational training on the *Sunbeam* for the Matinicus school children.

Screening clinics for diabetes, cholesterol and prostate cancer took place on the *Sunbeam* at the four islands in the fall. These screenings were done in partnership with MDI Hospital. The flu vaccine was also provided. In addition, a dietician came to Swans Island to discuss starting an exercise and diet group and an oral health clinic was held on Matinicus.

Above: Lobstermen learn the importance of survival gear on the Sunbeam.

Educators traveled on the *Sunbeam* to provide information to islanders. Tina Tucker from New Hope for Women spoke on Domestic Violence. On another island trip, Ann Backus from the Department of Environmental Study at the Harvard School of Public Health held conferences with over 40 lobstermen on the occupational health hazards of lobstering.

The Mission's provision of health services to Frenchboro and Swans Island has recently been enhanced through its Community Care partnership with Mount Desert Island Hospital. Through a new program, called "Healthy for Life," this collaborative effort is seeking to provide innovative services to residents of these two islands, as well as the residents of Southwest Harbor and Tremont, who are at risk of developing serious chronic health conditions such as heart disease and diabetes. This program is being funded through a grant from the Maine Health Access Foundation (MeHAF).



Sharon Daley, Sunbeam nurse.
BILL KUYKENDALL

The Mission was also the recipient of another MeHAF grant in 2005 to develop a plan for improved access to high quality health service for nine islands. The planning process which included island wide surveys, meetings on each island and a conference with representatives of all nine islands is now being implemented.

Recently, an island resident wrote to the Mission telling us how important Island Health Services is to her and her family. She observed that it was difficult to schedule appointments and expensive to go off island for a doctor's appointment. She said that, since using the *Sunbeam's* telemedicine services, she has a better relationship with her doctor and her children's doctors. "When I'm too busy and involved in my work and children, she [Nurse Daley] is spending the time scheduling my appointments and making calls to figure out what I should be doing for follow up care. Sharon definitely goes above and beyond the call of duty because she cares about so many different people when they don't find the time to care for themselves. If she is doing all of these things for one family, on one island, you can only imagine the impact she has on hundreds of lives on all of the other islands. I can honestly say with this program, I can rest easy knowing my medical needs are being met by such a dedicated successful group."

Ministries to Islands

OUTER ISLANDS MINISTRY

Rev. Rob Benson, Pastor to the Outer Islands, continued his island ministry throughout 2005, with an increase of events and services dedicated to nurturing the island churches and communities of Great Cranberry, Frenchboro, Isle au Haut, Matinicus, and Monhegan.

An island pastor serves as worship leader for the community, blending traditional and non-traditional worship styles in an attempt to reach today's diverse island congregations. New this year was a community song circle where residents brought their guitars and their voices for after-

"Sharon definitely goes above and beyond the call of duty because she cares about so many different people when they don't find the time to care for themselves."

-Island Resident

noons of joyful sharing. Another was a relaxed and fun “kids’ Bible adventure” program onboard the *Sunbeam*, where youth began to explore scripture with their fresh, eager eyes. Trips bringing islanders together for worship and fellowship was another new initiative in 2005.

Coordinating the boat schedule with the availability of mainland people for special events is important. Thirteen 5th - 8th grade students and six chaperones from four islands gathered in Rockland for the first annual island middle schoolers’ retreat. Other events brought artists and musicians to the islands for fun, community-spirited events. The *Sunbeam* continued its tradition of gathering communities for times of fellowship. The Bangor-area folk quartet Generations played on Swans, Isle au Haut, and Matinicus, while renowned storyteller Jackson Gillman undertook a two-day whirlwind four-island tour. The Sheep Island Rovers played a contra dance on Isle au Haut and Monhegan.



The *Sunbeam*, serving as a vibrant link between island communities, brought North Haven students and teachers to Deer Isle’s Reach Performing Arts Center for production of the musical *Annie*, and also brought the Cranberry Island Softball Team to Isle au Haut for an August doubleheader. *Sunbeam* hospitality continued as Betty Allen, the boat’s steward, prepared two all-island scallop stew suppers.

The *Sunbeam* crew considers it a privilege to serve in times of particular importance in the lives of families and communities. With the passing of three long-time island residents, the crew sprang into action to offer assistance, including transport of the casket, and family members and friends. In the fall the *Sunbeam* led the flotilla of fishing boats whose captains had gathered to lay to rest one of their own. This year saw three weddings—one on Eagle Island, one on Monhegan and one on Frenchboro. Four new babies were also welcomed onto the islands.

Rev. Benson and family.

BILL KUYKENDALL

The boat’s availability makes it one of the most expedient ways to access Maine’s islands. A group of over 20 island librarians, from Casco Bay, to Penobscot Bay, toured the Downeast island libraries. A group of community organizers, scientists, and delegates boarded in September for a tour of some of Maine’s working harbors. The Mission is also an important partner with the Matinicus Church’s new boatbuilding workshop for young teens. These are examples of nurturing seeds of sustainability, one project at a time, one community at a time.

ISLAND PARTNER CHURCHES

The mission maintains a partnership with four island churches. Providing financial and logistical support, this enables the congregation to have a full-time pastor whose parish is the entire island.

Swans Island Baptist Church

After the tragic fire that burned down the Swan’s Island General Store in July 2005, Reverend Ken Dutille, Minister at the Swans Island Baptist Church, found that the need for the ‘Bread of Life’ food pantry doubled, especially for elderly people who found it difficult to leave the island and who relied on the general store for their food. The store was also a social meeting place and now the food pantry served that purpose, giving the islanders an opportunity to be together.

The Bread of Life food pantry, with the help of the *Sunbeam*, feeds people on Swan's Island, Frenchboro and Matinicus Island. When lobsters are scarce, the need for the food pantry increases. Recently, a truck was purchased to help transport food from the Good Shepherd Food Bank in Brewer. Once a week volunteers select over 1,000 pounds of food for the food pantry. The pantry also provides emergency items when islanders are sick.

Traditionally, Palm Sunday on Maine islands is chilly with few signs of spring. This year Palm Sunday on Swan's Island was more joyous as the *Sunbeam* was used to transport people from Mount Desert Island, Frenchboro and Great Cranberry Island churches to Swans Island for an ecumenical service and dinner.

North Haven Baptist Church

Rev. Dave Macy, Minister of the North Haven Baptist Church, reports that in the fall of 2005 he received a donation of \$1,800 from a summer couple. Given the projected high prices of oil following the Gulf hurricanes, they had decided not to heat their summer home during the coming winter. They estimated how much they thought they would have spent leaving the heat on and gave that amount to be used to assist the elderly of North Haven with heating expenses.

With what Dave describes as "guidance from above" he came up with the idea to approach some other organizations with a proposal to at least match the amount that this couple had donated. The North Haven based Pulpit Harbor Foundation responded by granting \$5,000 to be used for general fuel, electric, and/or propane assistance. At the end of the year an additional private contribution of \$500 was also received. Thanks to these existing on-island resources, the church had reached out to island residents of all ages, expending over \$5,100.

Second Baptist Church in Islesboro

Rev. James Weathersby, Pastor of the Second Baptist Church in Islesboro, reports that 2005 was a year marked by challenges, celebrations and losses. Several island residents, neighbors and friends passed away, but it was also a time of continual celebrations as the church grew in depth and numbers.

James continues to provide island support and development by participating on two committees: the Island Community Fund (our benevolent fund for island residents) and the selection arm for IAP (Islesboro Affordable Housing Project). He also continues to write a bimonthly column in the Island News entitled 'Beyond the Pulpit', serves as a volunteer Chaplain for the Islesboro Volunteer Fire Department and is a referral source for the Island Health Center.

James reports that a special highlight of the church's outreach came from an unexpected source. A part time resident's concern for our indigent residents at Christmas time took on visible expression. She asked him what the church would do for those less fortunate during the holidays. When he said the church's resources were limited, she offered to provide, cook and host a meal for those year round residents who might be alone during the holiday season. The church provided the space in its Fellowship Room for sixty people to share a home cooked meal



A youngster gets a hand on Swans island.

during a dreary Christmas afternoon. Everyone was well fed, took home food for later and received a present, all courtesy of the hostess and her family. Pastor James also delivered food baskets to residents anonymously donated by the hostess.



Relaxing on the porch. BILL KUYKENDALL

Thanks to Hope, the church has not only been able to support a vibrant young woman follow her dreams, but it has been given this most blessed gift - to help children in another country receive an education, receive medical care and have a chance in life.

-Union Church of Vinalhaven

Union Church of Vinalhaven

Rev. Michelle Wiley, Minister of the Union Church of Vinalhaven, reported an active range of services and programs throughout 2005. Michelle relates a story about a young girl: Hope Jackson has always been a girl with a big heart and a big vision. She began college in 2004 to become a nurse/mid-wife. The program she enrolled in sent students around the world to learn from rural clinics. Hope went to El Salvador and worked in a very small women's clinic for 6 months. During one of her vacation trips home, she offered the church a remarkable opportunity—to help supply the clinic where she worked with basic medical supplies, first aid items, etc. The Union Church was thrilled to be asked to help. Two special morning offerings and the Christmas offering were used to help with the project.

Not only was Hope able to purchase all the medical supplies she needed, but she started a scholarship fund to send her host family's children to school.

She returned to Vinalhaven during the summer of 2005 and shared a wonderful presentation of the work she was doing, the clinic and its work as well as the loving family that hosted her stay. After hearing “the rest of the story” the Union Church missions board decided to help support the scholarship fund Hope set up for these children. Thanks to Hope, the church has not only been able to support a vibrant young woman follow her dreams, but it has been given this most blessed gift - to help children in another country receive an education, receive medical care and have a chance in life.

Minister to Coastal Communities and Fisheries

Rev. Ted Hoskins work focuses on fisheries. Stonington Fisheries Alliance, Penobscot East Resource Center, Saltwater Network, Cobscook Bay Resource Center, Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance and the Maine State Lobster Advisory Council are all served by him. Most significant, is the Downeast Groundfish Initiative, which he co-chairs with Jim Wilson of the University of Maine. This initiative is a serious attempt to bring real change to fishery management in the North Atlantic Ocean. They seek an ecosystem approach to area management for groundfish using community-based governance structures in new paradigms of co-management with state, regional and federal entities.

Ted has been successful in developing effective collaborative partnerships with The Nature Conservancy, The Island Institute, and Coastal Enterprises Incorporated. At the same time he has worked to assure that a single voice is carried forward toward the New England Fisheries Management Council from varied perspectives of the State (inshore/offshore) NAMA (North Atlantic Marine Alliance) and our own Downeast Groundfish Initiative (a pilot project in community-based governance) so that there are no competing plans and visions.



EDGE – AFTER SCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

The EdGE (Ed Greaves Education) had another exciting year in 2005. It continued to build a comprehensive in-school, after-school and summer program for middle school students and their families by providing academic support and enrichment activities after school, on weekends and for five weeks in the summer. Three highlights this year include the groundbreaking for the Ed Greaves Education Center at Weald Bethel in Cherryfield, the EdGE program expanding to its sixth school (Ella Lewis Elementary School in Steuben) and EdGE receiving national recognition as one of 15 best practice programs in the country.

After school, the EdGE began offering a mentoring program because some of the students have challenging home situations that create poor social and friendship skills. Sometimes, the student just needs an adult to call their friend.

EdGE community courses continue to grow and bring members of the community to the EdGE to teach a course or take students out into the community. One of the most successful community courses this year was the LEGO Robotics team, the EdGEbots. This experience provides hands-on opportunities in engineering, computer programming, math, goal setting and problem solving. The team is comprised of students from five neighboring schools. They competed in two statewide competitions of the FIRST LEGO League which requires students to build and program robots to compete in predetermined challenges. They must also develop a solution to a problem in the environment or the world. During the competition the team is scored on all aspects of their work

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Above: EdGE Ropes Course—working together.

One camper told
Charlie Harrington he
felt like a tourist,
something he had
never been before
that moment.

-EdGE participant

including teamwork. One member of the team is especially gifted in programming. This was his third year in EdGE and he has grown from a very quiet boy, who worked best on his own, to a leader on the team. Where as in the past he did not socialize much with the others, today he has many friends and is one of the spokespeople at the meets.

In 2005 ten summer camps including hiking, biking, kayaking, film making, photography, robotics, drama and visual arts were offered over a 5-week period. Approximately 70% of the EdGE students attend an EdGE summer camp. Most of the students would not attend any summer enrichment program if it were not for the EdGE. Hiking, biking and kayaking in Acadia National Park is an experience our students experience only with the EdGE. One camper told Charlie Harrington he felt like a tourist, something he had never been before that moment.

To increase the ability of EdGE to provide a comprehensive program for children, relationships with local agencies and organizations have been nurtured. This year EdGE partnered with over 20 organizations including Communities for Children and Youth, Common Good Ventures, School Administrative District #37, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Child and Family Opportunities and the Regional Medical Center at Lubec.



EdGE lego robotics team in action.

In addition to linking with the surrounding communities, this year EdGE created opportunities beyond Washington County. One group attended the gallery opening of a work of art they created with artist, Tim Rollins and The Maine College of Art faculty and students. Most of the children had never visited a museum or art gallery. None had ever attended a gallery opening. The EdGE students arrived in their best clothes which ranged from Sunday best to camouflage sweatshirts. As they entered the Maine Center for Contemporary Art, each child received a sticker that said, 'Artist'. Tim Rollins and the EdGE artists gave a gallery talk about the process of creating our work called The

Creation. Charlie Harrington said, it was one of his most memorable moments as an educator to see these young people wearing their 'artist' stickers and speaking to adults about their work at an elegant artist's reception. Since March, 2005, the show has been in Cherryfield, Bar Harbor and the Maine College of Art. It is now on its way to New York City and Tim Rollins' gallery.

In addition to the smiles and the positive feedback we receive from children and families, EdGE also has shown measurable success.

- Over 270 students, 87% of all 5th - 8th graders are enrolled.
- 30% of attendees increased their math scores by half a grade
- 40% of attendees increased their language arts scores by half a grade
- Over 40% attend regularly
- Over 90% of all parents attended one or more family event
- Over 60 volunteers donated over 1500 hours to the EdGE

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR DOWNEAST STUDENTS

The Maine Sea Coast Mission's commitment to Youth Development began almost 100 years ago in 1908 when the Mission placed five teachers on islands that had no schools for its young people. The scholarship program began in 1918 when \$919 was provided for scholarships. Without any adjustment for inflation, well over \$1 million dollars in scholarships has been provided by the Mission since 1918.

In 2005, a total of \$65,754 was provided in scholarships. A total of 62 college scholarships were provided with 28 going to Washington County residents, 33 to Hancock County residents and 1 to a Waldo County resident. In addition, 10 scholarships were provided for non-traditional courses of study. College scholarships were provided to students going to 27 different colleges ranging from Oklahoma University to Syracuse University to Maine Maritime Academy and to five University of Maine affiliated colleges.

Sea Coast Mission Scholars, as the recipients of these financial awards are called, are entitled to be considered for a scholarship for all four years of college as long as they continue to meet the financial need requirements and their grades continue to be satisfactory. In 2005, 44% of all of the scholarships went to previous recipients entering their sophomore, junior or senior years in college.

The Mission has also begun to track how Sea Coast Mission Scholars fare once they enter college. We want to know how many successfully complete their freshman year of college. For those not successfully completing their first year, we want to understand the reason for the lack of success in order to determine how we can help future Sea Coast Mission Scholars have a successful college experience. We believe that our commitment to Sea Coast Mission Scholars does not end with the provision of the scholarship.



Gary DeLong congratulates a scholarship recipient at Jonesport Beals High School.

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our commitment
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*-Maine Sea
Coast Mission*



MEETING IMMEDIATE NEEDS

FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry at Weald Bethel is an emergency food pantry serving the towns of Steuben, Milbridge, Cherryfield, Harrington, Columbia, Columbia Falls, Beddington and Deblois. People in other nearby towns can also, in special circumstances, receive food assistance. The pantry provides the most nutritious food available, including fresh produce whenever possible. It also caters to special diets such as diabetics. The pantry served an average of 140 households a month in 2005.

Clients call on the day they wish to come for food and they pick up the food themselves. In an emergency or if the person is severely handicapped, a client's worker (senior companion, home health aide, etc), is allowed to pick up the food box.

The Food Pantry prides itself on its personal service. It gets to know its clients and their needs. It is then able to refer them to other services provided by the Maine Sea Coast Mission.

Recently, a regular client came into the Food Pantry. He seemed more down than usual. Normally, when he comes in, he tells a funny story about his daughter. This time, after some conversation, it was discovered that along with his usual life challenges such as extreme poverty, poor health, a mentally ill wife, and parenting a small daughter, he had run out of fuel and his daughter had to sleep in his bed because she was cold! The Mission, through its Emergency Financial Assistance program, was able to pay for some heating oil. In addition, the Food Pantry was able to find several quilts to use on their beds! He only asked for food, but the Mission was able to give him so much more.

Above: Food Pantry manager, Gena Norgaard, prepares food boxes for delivery.

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is about a lot more than just selling clothes and dishes. Many donated items are used for other Maine Sea Coast Mission programs. The EdGE program used donated tools for gardening projects and making hiking and biking trails. They also got most of their 'Haunted Trails' Halloween outfits and props from the shop. The Community Summer Housing Ministry used many donated tools for their building projects and the Food Pantry reused donated appliances. The Christmas program received new donated items for their gift giving program. The EdGE and Emergency Financial Assistance programs send families that need assistance to get furniture or clothing.

Many changes took place at the Thrift Shop in 2005. There was a major reorganization to streamline the way rummage was handled and improve the quality of the items in the shop. A four color tagging system is now used. A different color is used each week and at the end of each week items that are marked with one particular color are discounted 50% to 75%. The Thrift Shop is neater and better organized as a result of the reorganization.

The Thrift Shop staff is sometimes called upon to put together clothing and household packages for people in a crisis situation. Nicer items are provided in these situations to let these special families know someone cares about what happens to them. A lady who was a victim of domestic violence and starting over in a new apartment with her two little girls came into the Thrift Shop. She was provided with furniture and some toys. The Christmas program also donated some toys and soft blankets. These items made a big difference in her adjustment to a new life and she was most grateful.

The Thrift Shop depends upon generous donors of clothing, furniture and household items. In 2005, in addition to providing clothing and household items to many families in need, the Thrift Shop sold over 35,000 items generating revenue to help reduce the cost of this much needed program.

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Through the guidance of Reverend Neil Wilson in Washington County and Terri Rodick in Hancock County, the Emergency Financial Assistance Program impacted many lives in 2005.

A story from Terri begins: In December, I received a call from Amanda, an 18-year-old girl who was seven months pregnant, in an abusive relationship, and working at a local fast food restaurant. Her boyfriend, who doesn't work and takes her money to buy alcohol and drugs, would not allow her to have heat or a mattress. I referred her to an organization and that said they couldn't help her until her boyfriend was removed from the home. I spoke to Amanda at work (I called her at work because she was afraid that her boyfriend would overhear our conversation if she spoke at home.), pleading with her to leave the relationship and to save herself and her unborn child that was due to arrive in two months. I asked her if this was the life that she wanted to give her child.



Halloween outfits from Thrift Shop finds used for EdGE Haunted trails.

She made the call to the police department and they removed him from her home. After praising her for her bravery and telling her that I thought everything would work out, I worked with

the Thrift Shop, Food Pantry, Christmas Program and Financial Assistance Program to provide her with a bed, pillow, blanket, newborn items, food, presents and fuel oil. Amanda and her unborn infant were able to get the help they needed.

Another story from Neil begins: The voice on the other end of the phone was tentative. "I've never done this before, pastor, ask for help." His voice told me that not only was his propane tank empty but so was he, physically, emotionally and spiritually. Battling cancer, the little bit of "extra" money they had available to them had long been exhausted by the expenses incurred in the numerous trips to the doctors and hospital for chemotherapy. Even with the help of family and volunteer transportation his tank was still empty. The Maine Sea Coast Mission was able to assist them with propane for heat and food from our Emergency Food Pantry. A couple

of months later still battling cancer, but grateful for all the response of the Maine Sea Coast Mission, he brought into the Food Pantry six dozen eggs from the small flock of laying hens that he and his wife raise.

Throughout 2005 the Emergency Financial Assistance Program assisted 93 households in Washington County, 100 households in Hancock County and, through the generosity of four Mount Desert Island churches, provided additional support to 51 households.

THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Christmas Program strives to meet the needs of people throughout Hancock and Washington Counties and island communities. It provides needed Christmas gifts and has maintained this service as an honored and valued mission tradition throughout the Downeast area.

Individuals, who wish to receive gifts, become involved in the Christmas Program by directly contacting the Mission or by a referral. The referral can come from an agency but is usually obtained through a volunteer "elf". There is an "elf" in each of the communities served by the Mission who is an individual that donates time and energy to gather the names of people who would benefit from this program. Without the aid of these volunteers, the Christmas program would not be capable of reaching the Downeast population.

This year, approximately 15,000 items were donated and personalized gifts provided to 2,800 individuals. These gifts, which ranged from books and toys to winter clothing and gift certificates, were wrapped by over 50 volunteers with the traditional white butcher paper and red string.



*Holiday House Tour and Silent Auction
raise money for the Christmas program.*
DONNA JUST

One small child
wrote, "...I love my
new Pooh Bear best.
He is just the right
size for hugging."

*- Recipient of gift from
Christmas program*

The significance of each present, however, can only be measured by the recipient. One small child wrote, "...I love my new Pooh Bear best. He is just the right size for hugging." Expressions of gratitude such as these illustrate the importance of the Christmas Program to those it serves. Although the ultimate goal may be to supply needed goods, the program inadvertently becomes a source of hope and encouragement year after year.

COMMUNITY SUMMER HOUSING PROGRAM

The Community Summer Housing Program at Weald Bethel was very busy in 2005. Building repairs were provided for 13 households and two local churches by four church groups. Almost 100 volunteers from the church groups helped area households from Steuben to Jonesport/Beals Island. The church groups traveled great distances from Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Massachusetts, to be able to help those unable to afford critical maintenance and necessary repairs to their homes.

The work performed to the area households varied considerably. While a few smaller jobs were performed, most of the work performed was of considerable magnitude. It ranged from roofing a house and renovating a home to be used as a duplex, to building a deck and wheel chair ramp for a woman who could not leave her home unless she was carried out.

The impact this program had on lives has been overwhelming. A woman, who could not leave her own home because of a health condition, was ecstatic when the job was complete. The group that built her ramp tore off the existing stairs and built a platform and ramp so the woman could use her walker to go outside. Previously she could never get down the stairs unless carried. The group even planted a flower bed along side the ramp. The woman was brought to tears as she took her first steps out the door to a new life of independence.



Church Youth Group Repairs Housing.

SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM

Weald Bethel serves as a station for the Senior Companion Program of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. This program provides a helpful stipend to individuals 60 years of age or older, particularly those on limited incomes who are hired to be a companion to others.

Senior Companions touch the lives of adults who need extra assistance to live independently in their own homes or communities. They serve frail older adults, adults with disabilities, those with terminal illnesses, and offer respite for caregivers. They assist their adult clients in basic but essential ways by offering companionship and friendship, assisting with simple chores, providing transportation, and adding richness to their clients' lives.

Weald Bethel has eleven Senior Companions serving over 140 clients in Washington County. The Companions often coordinate with the Weald Bethel Food Pantry for the transportation of food to the clients that they are serving.

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Rev. Theodore Hoskins

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

| ASSETS | 2005 | 2004 |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Investments | \$27,433,911 | \$23,803,469 |
| Contributions Receivable | 1,299,528 | 53,178 |
| Other Current Assets | 70,858 | 32,659 |
| Fixed Assets | 2,412,189 | 2,216,570 |
| Total Assets | \$31,216,486 | \$26,105,876 |

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

| | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Deferred Revenue | \$1,916,998 | \$503,906 |
| Other Liabilities | 173,327 | 148,244 |
| Net Assets | 29,126,161 | 25,453,726 |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | \$31,216,486 | \$26,105,876 |

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

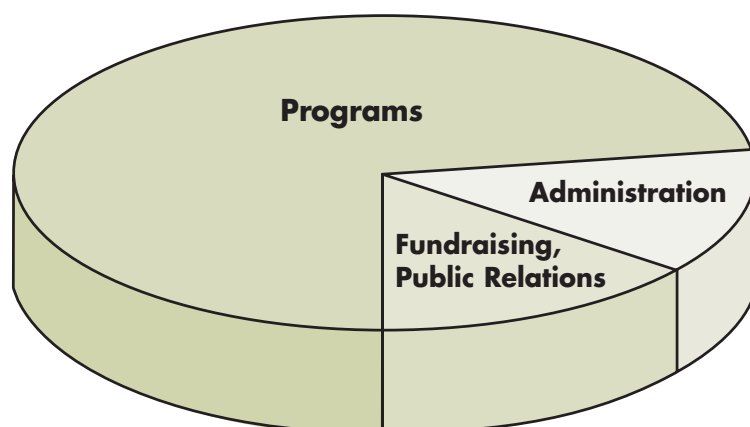
| | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Total Income | \$4,114,160 | \$5,221,357 |
| Investment Gains (Losses) | 2,206,286 | 1,227,736 |
| Total Expenses | 2,648,011 | 2,359,755 |
| Increase (Decrease) in Total Net Assets | \$3,672,435 | \$4,089,338 |



Boats on Matinicus Island.

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Mission Expenses



- Programs \$1,929,608 (73%)*
- Fundraising and Public Relations \$393,723 (15%)**
- Administration \$324,680 (12%)

*100% of all contributions go to support Maine Sea Coast Mission programs. Administration and fundraising expenses are funded by income from the Mission endowment.

**During 2005, The Maine Sea Coast Mission announced a \$12 million Centennial Capital Campaign to expand and sustain its essential services to the children and families of Downeast Maine. A significant portion, \$157,835, of the total fundraising expenses incurred in 2005 are attributable to the capital campaign.



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Editor

Stephen H. Richards

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BILL KUYKENDALL



*“Many things motivate
those of us who work at
the Mission. Among them
are our faith in God’s love
for all people and the
satisfaction that comes
with acting it out
through our work.”*

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