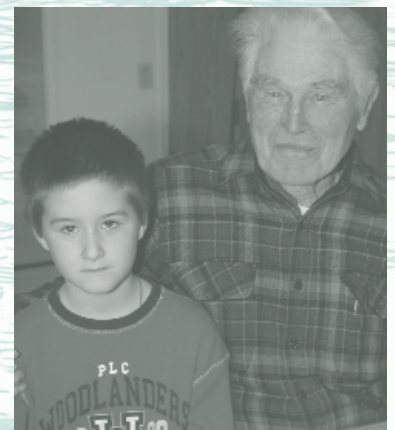


The Maine Sea Coast Mission

ANNUAL REPORT 2006



*Making
connections
for our
island and
coastal
communities.*



*Ruth
Rhoads
Lippner*

COVER ARTWORK
BY RUTH RHOADS LEPPER

COVER PHOTOS
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:

*William West at EdGE
Summer Camp.*

PHOTO BY PETER WITKOP

Sunbeam V

*Sheldon Carlson enjoying
a Christmas lunch with
Swans Island student,
Jacob LeMoine.*

PHOTO BY DONNA WIEGLE

*Nurse Sharon Daley with
patient.*

PHOTO BY MIKE JOHNSON

*Rev. Gary DeLong and
Dean Read at the Swans
Island Baptist Church.*

BELOW:

*Waiting for the
Swans Island Ferry.*

PHOTO BY BILL KUYKENDALL

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.



Dear Mission Friends,

While Yogi Berra has never been officially voted in as our official philosopher, in 2006 by our actions we followed his advice: “When you come to a fork in the road, take it.”

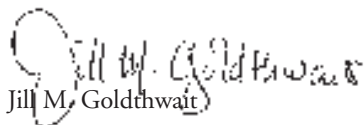
We used care choosing paths that might lead to the strongest possible connections: children to caring staff, children to ideas and opportunities that expand their world; patients to a competent and compassionate nurse and across the water via a wireless connection, patients to skilled physicians and counselors. The *Sunbeam* itself, boat and hospitable crew, is a powerful connector: a familiar haven open to all, a place “where somebody knows my name.”

Our faithful pastors make powerful connections daily: the human with the holy and faith to life, in ways that turn despair to hope. They connect pulpit to pew and often they connect with a listening ear or a caring touch delivered in a favorite coffee shop, a parking lot, a chance encounter on a wharf or boat.

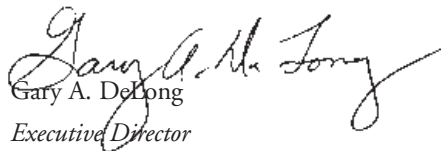
We moved the Centennial Capital Campaign into high gear in 2006 as we connected with our donors—longtime faithful friends and new, enthusiastic friends—all living along this beloved coast and across the country, each of them listening and often engaging as we tell the story. We related to them in one on one conversations that included significant sharing about what matters to them and us. Our message is simple: please give significantly, both to honor 101 years of amazing volunteer and staff service, and to open doors to the future through youth development and to our wide range of island and coastal community-based programs.

There were many wonderful events in 2006, among them the May dedication of the new Ed Greaves Center for Education in Cherryfield and the July unveiling of a beautifully etched window naming the headquarters building as the Maine Sea Coast Mission Colket Center. Named after Ruth and Tris Colket and the Colket family who have given and endowed the upkeep of this wonderful building the Mission calls home, it is dedicated to people and organizations in a wonderful web of connections.

There were other forks, other paths, but we offer this report as evidence that because of communication between constituents, donors, board and staff the Mission is connecting in ways that are faithful and effective.



Jill M. Goldthwait
President, Board of Directors



Gary A. DeLong
Executive Director

Maine Sea Coast Mission

2006 Annual Report

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OUTREACH TO ISLANDS

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Island Health Services

The Maine Sea Coast Mission has a long history of providing access to high quality, affordable health care for island residents off the coast of Maine.

Sharon Daley, RN of the telemedicine program, travels to the islands of Frenchboro, Swans, Isle au Haut and Matinicus on *Sunbeam V* twice a month, and connects via telemedicine to primary care providers. In 2006, the Sunbeam completed 54 telemedicine related island dockings with 690 medical contacts (telemedicine visits and clinic patients). Sharon completed an additional 300 individual contacts and organized 250 health related meetings and events.

Over a cup of coffee or strolling along a road, Sharon gets to know the residents on the different islands. She connects islanders to a wide range of services including: counseling, lab work, referrals to dental clinics and low cost fuel programs, applying for assistance with hospital bills, foot care, Women Infants and Children (WIC) check-ups, speech therapy, being an advocate for needed services, helping to understand medical and insurance bills, and working with medical providers.

Sharon also facilitates screening clinics, (blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar, skin cancer, etc), provides chronic care management in homes when individuals cannot travel to the dock, and organizes health services such as preschool screenings. In addition, Sharon serves as the nurse for the island schools of Matinicus and Frenchboro. She provides health education, vision and hearing screenings, maintains immunization and health records, and is a resource to the teachers.

Some highlights for 2006 were:

- Visited Frenchboro and Swans Island with the Veterans Affairs Administration representative to explore extending telehealth to island veterans. (According to the 1999 Census, there were 352 veterans on the nine islands the Mission serves.)

Nurse Sharon Daley, with patient on the Sunbeam V. PHOTO BY MIKE JOHNSON

- Worked with Dirigo representatives to get information about insurance to islands residents.
- Held a screening clinic with Lou Ingrisano, P.A. on Great Cranberry where he saw patients, did various lab tests for screening purposes and blood pressure checks.
- Assisted in getting hospice services to the islands of North Haven and Isle au Haut.
- Obtained exercise equipment for Frenchboro residents.
- Worked with Mary Beth Judy, Director of Community Health and Wellness and Registered Dietician at MDI Hospital, on Frenchboro and Swans Island to screen hypertension, provide nutrition consultations, and handout nutrition literature.

The Maine Sea Coast Mission began work on their Island Health Initiative which involves ten islands: Frenchboro, Great Cranberry, Islesford, Isle au Haut, Islesboro, North Haven, Matinicus, Monhegan, Swans Island, and Vinalhaven. It builds on an assessment of needs conducted in 2005 and addresses needs common to all of the islands such as improved access to health care, expanded health insurance coverage, prevention, and inter-island communications.

Ministries to Islands

OUTER ISLANDS MINISTRY

Rev. Rob Benson, Pastor to the Outer Islands, supports the island communities of Great Cranberry, Frenchboro, Isle au Haut, Matinicus, and Monhegan while the *Sunbeam V* continues its role as catalyst for bringing neighbors together for worship and fellowship.

The staples of the ministry, as always, are consistent worship, attentive pastoral care, and a keen eye for what might bring light in the darker months of a long winter. “Laugh with your neighbor” Improv Comedy nights, contra dances, a three-island softball tournament, and Betty’s famous all-island scallop stew suppers made the *Sunbeam V* a home for fun among the islands.

In the summer, Islesford’s energetic group joined with their enthusiastic Great Cranberry neighbors to head to Isle au Haut for a round-robin softball tournament, where Great Cranberry, with the help of some imported ringers, topped Islesford for the tourney crown.

In 2006 the Mission provided many enrichment opportunities for island youth. The second annual Island Middle Schoolers’ Retreat brought students together to explore the challenges and opportunities of growing up on an island. This year’s retreat led to the publication of “Take 2” – a collection of letters from island high school students to their younger island peers about their experiences, and advice about the transition from a small island school to the mainland high school. One student wrote, “The skills of island living will give you a head start... you already know how to get along with different people that are in the same small community with you. Lots of kids inshore haven’t had this experience. You have things you can teach them.”

In March, the *Sunbeam V* brought over 30 students and teachers from Matinicus, Isle au Haut, and Frenchboro to Islesford. May’s weather finally allowed the *Sunbeam V* to transport the Isle au Haut school children, teachers, and chaperones out to Matinicus for an overnight. From a walking tour of the Great Cosmic Egg, to a campfire and football game, and even a ride on the Matinicus mail plane, the students got a firsthand glimpse of life on their closest out-to-sea neighboring island.

Later in the spring, Rev. Benson was honored to speak at the Isle au Haut 8th-grade recognition. In June, children from Bar Harbor’s Congregational Church traveled aboard the *Sunbeam V* for a three-day Vacation Bible School on Frenchboro.



Island Middle School Retreat.

“Teachers from five island schools... shared their joys and challenges of being an island teacher, strengthened their sense of shared purpose, and bolstered their excitement for a new school year.”

~Rev. Rob Benson

After witnessing the success of the inter-island youth events, the island teachers wanted to get together by themselves, so teachers from five island schools convened for their first annual Teacher Retreat aboard the *Sunbeam V*. They shared their joys and challenges of being an island teacher, strengthened their sense of shared purpose, and bolstered their excitement for a new school year.

Also this year, the Mission published the first edition of the *Island Reader*. Co-editors Erica Millette and Livka Farrell of Monhegan compiled a collection of prose, poetry, artwork and photographs from island artists and writers. From younger schoolchildren to professional writers, the *Reader* presented a wide variety of original creative work.

Throughout the year, opportunities arose to engage with local communities at particularly meaningful times. The *Sunbeam V* brought a boatload of eager passengers to Frenchboro for the August Lobster Festival, and went to Isle au Haut the next weekend to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Revere Memorial Hall, which included a boat parade led by the *Sunbeam V*.

The *Sunbeam V* again brought Great Cranberry churchgoers to the Mission's partner church on Swan's for much-appreciated worship and a fellowship meal.

We were honored to bring home two Matinicus island residents for their final journey, a vital role for the *Sunbeam V* as the distance and expense would otherwise be too much for most relatives to bear. These special times, and the augmenting role we play in them, solidify the Maine Sea Coast Mission as a vital ministry nurturing spirited communities among the outer islands.

ISLAND PARTNER CHURCHES

The Mission maintains a special partnership with four island churches on Swans, Islesboro, North Haven, and Vinalhaven. Providing financial and logistical support, this enables the congregation to have a full-time pastor whose parish is the entire island.

North Haven Baptist Church

Rev. David Macy reports that, after 15 years as pastor of the North Haven Baptist Church, he will be taking a sabbatical leave in 2007, through a grant provided by the Lilly Endowment. The life of this small island church, which has a long affiliation with the Maine Sea Coast Mission, will be enriched and strengthened by this sabbatical.

Last year was an investment in the future of God's church on North Haven. The church continued its neighbor-relatedness by being a place for community organizations such as Girl Scouts and AA to meet, and a place where life's passages are observed in weddings, funerals, and the high school graduation.

Members of the hospitality committee organized after-funeral service luncheons for grieving families and community members. Rev. Macy and the church deacons oversaw the discretionary fund, which provided much-needed aid during the long, cold winter months. The Pulpit Harbor Foundation, a local charitable foundation, is a generous supporter of the discretionary fund enabling it to meet many critical needs.

Second Baptist Church in Islesboro

Rev. James Weathersby, Pastor of the Second Baptist Church in Islesboro, reports that in 2006, he was struck by the volume of change that has occurred within the church and on the island.



*Islesford and Great Cranberry
round-robin softball tournament.*

PHOTO BY ROB BENSON

The community experienced the loss of several men and women who could well be called “The heart and soul of the island.” These individuals made the transition between year round and summer residents smoother, more lasting and endearing.

A mother in the parish, suffering from cancer, endured four rounds of chemotherapy over the course of four years. Her family had to come to grips with the mother’s terminal cancer. Rev. Weathersby had the honor of walking with this family to the moment of her signing on Hospice Care. Healing looks like many things for various people. Healing for this family will show itself eventually and come with time.

Rev. Weathersby continues to provide island support and development by participating with the Affordable Housing Committee and the Islesboro Community Fund. He also continues to write a bimonthly column in the *Island News* entitled “Beyond the Pulpit”.

Rev. Weathersby had the honor of being asked by Representative Bob Walker to open the State House of Representative of Maine with an invocation. He also lectured for the NAMI Crisis Intervention Team of Lincoln County on the subject of diversity in Rockland earlier this year.

Swans Island Baptist Church

Rev. Ken Dutille, Minister at the Swans Island Baptist Church, delivered the opening prayer to the United States Senate on June 15, 2006. Senator Collins observed, “Pastor Dutille’s words give direction and purpose to our work. His actions inspire a vivid reminder of the commitment and compassion that exists among people of faith throughout our nation.” She also noted, “Pastor Dutille is the founder of another outstanding mission project, the Bread of Life Food Pantry on Swans Island. The food pantry is often all that stands between the pains of hunger and a healthy meal for some people.”

Potluck dinners, senior lunches, and public dinners are an enjoyable part of the church’s year. Every third Sunday of each month a pot-luck dinner is held. Islanders can always count on Sonny Sprague cooking his famous homemade macaroni and cheese, and Dorothy Stockbridge preparing a pot of homemade baked beans. Church attendance always peaks on potluck dinner Sundays.

The Maine Sea Coast Mission provided the seed money for a seniors’ luncheon program which began in October 2006. Once a month about 35 seniors enjoy lunch and a program with the 32 Swans Island School children. Programs include children reading a Micmac Indian tale, and speakers from Healthy Acadia and Island Connections.

From Memorial Weekend through Columbus Weekend, Pat Dutille chairs six to seven public dinners. They are a great opportunity for summer residents to meet other islanders, catch up on family news, and provide the church with added income. Last year there were two sittings due to the large attendance of 100 to 185 people. Homemade dinners such as lasagna, chicken barbeque, and old-fashioned New England boiled dinner were enjoyed by all.

In 2006 the church celebrated the wedding of Rev. and Mrs. Dutille’s daughter. Rev. Dutille also baptized four islanders during two baptism services. The island has a long time tradition of baptism by immersion at the Carrying Place Beach. Three other island churches participated in the baptisms and, yes, the waters were icy cold in September and October!



Potluck dinner at Swans Island Church.
PHOTO BY DONNA WIEGLE

“Pastor Dutille’s... actions inspire a vivid reminder of the commitment and compassion that exists among people of faith throughout our nation.”

~Senator Collins

Union Church of Vinalhaven

The Union Church of Vinalhaven had a very active year with winter attendance averaging 48 people which increased to 75-80 people in the summer. With an active Sunday School with 18 children involved, the Union church also had a year round choir of 18 members, a significant percentage of the total congregation.

Rev. Michelle Wiley baptized three children, married two couples and conducted nine funerals in 2006. The Union church also had several successful bean suppers and a highly acclaimed concert series.

The Union Church was able to contribute to the Vinalhaven Community through its Outreach Program. It assisted three families with medical emergencies needs. One family had a series of serious financial and medical challenges which the Union Church was able to help address. This particular situation is outlined below.

The extremely high utility costs on Vinalhaven would place any working family at risk of not keeping up with the bills and the lobster industry was also having a bad winter. The husband/father in this family was laid off and began the process of applying for state assistance. Just two days later, his wife went into labor. Mother and newborn needed a Life-Flight ambulance helicopter to Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor. With no room on the helicopter, the father had to catch a ride off-island on a lobster boat, then borrow a car to drive to Bangor so he could be with his wife and new son.

The baby was diagnosed with a heart condition requiring surgery at a later date. Before he could come home, the doctors had to make sure he was stable which took three more weeks. Union Church was able to help this family pay for expenses while in Bangor. The church also helped cover their utility bills at home where the two older brothers were staying with their grandmother.

Now the miracle of Christmas and God's grace enters the picture. Mom and baby were home and the father had part-time work. Then their middle son decided he wanted to be baptized with his baby brother on Christmas Eve. There wasn't a dry eye at the service. Where are they now? Dad has a full-time job as a sternman on a lobster boat. Mom is working at a restaurant and the baby will be undergoing heart surgery the end of June. Their middle son is an active Sunday School member.



Island children.

PHOTO BY BILL KUYKENDALL

Minister to Coastal Communities and Fisheries

Rev. Ted Hoskins work focuses on fisheries. He is a resource for the Stonington Fisheries Alliance, Penobscot East Resource Center, Saltwater Network, Cobscook Bay Resource Center, Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance and the Maine State Lobster Advisory Council. Most significant, he co-chairs the Downeast Groundfish Initiative 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 worked tirelessly to ensure that a single voice is carried forward toward the New England Fisheries Management Council from varied perspectives of the State (inshore/offshore), NAMA (Gulf of Maine Conservation and Stewardship Plan), and our own Downeast Groundfish Initiative (a pilot project in community-based governance) so that there are no competing plans and visions. He has also been quite successful in developing effective collaborative partnerships with the Nature Conservancy, the Island Institute, and Coastal Enterprises Incorporated.



EDGE – AFTER SCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

In 2002, the Maine Sea Coast Mission launched the EdGE, an innovative program to address the lack of educational, cultural and social resources for children in Washington County, one of the poorest counties in Maine and in the United States. As a measure of the degree of poverty in this area, 86% of all 5th through 8th grade students, who are eligible for free and reduced lunch prices, attend EdGE and receive free snacks after school.

The EdGE provides supplementary programs and activities for children in six communities covering a land area roughly half the size of Rhode Island where there are no enrichment resources for children—no YMCAs or Boys and Girls Clubs and no public transportation.

The EdGE program is designed to help students become more engaged in their education and to stay in school. It helps students build character, increase their self-confidence, and improve their academic performance. The EdGE program components include an in-school tutoring program, an after school enrichment program, summer camps, and a high-school mentoring program, and now serves 90% of students in the six communities.

The Ed Greaves Education Center had its grand opening on June 15, 2006. It served as home to twelve summer camps for children in grades 5-9. In addition, all 7th and 8th grade students began attending their after school activities at the Ed Greaves Education Center in September 2006. The EdGE also expanded its program to include students in the 4th grade in September 2006. It is now offered to students in grades four through eight.

EdGE summer camp students Maureen Trundy, from Addison, and Blair Hudson, from Columbia Falls, designing their mosaic stepping stones. PHOTO BY PETER WITKOP

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

"I love seeing my child's education and self-esteem and self-confidence soar thanks to the activities that EdGE offers him."

- Mother of an EdGE participant

The development of strong, nurturing, family relationships is a cornerstone of the EdGE. Every month EdGE holds a family event that is educational, enriching and/or recreational. More than 80% of all EdGE families' students and their parents attended one or more events in 2006. The EdGE also makes extensive use of volunteers. In 2006, 125 individuals volunteered over 1,700 hours to the EdGE. In addition, the EdGE expanded its local advisory council to include more community members and more parents from Steuben.

On October 12, 2006, the EdGE was awarded the most outstanding afterschool program out of the 37 programs receiving state funding. It received the Maine Afterschool Network Award for the Exemplary 21st Century Learning Community Learning Center for 2006 from Susan Gendron, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Education, at the State Capital in Augusta, Maine.

During 2006, the EdGE also added a portfolio project for students in grades four through six. Students write, draw, and place photographs in a portfolio to document their skills, their dreams,

and their accomplishments. A sense of the future and aspirations are very important to instill in the children.

The EdGE has also worked to continue the involvement of EdGE alumnae after they move on to high school. They are recruited to serve as mentors for the EdGE students and to support the EdGE program in a variety of ways. In addition, Charlie Harrington meets with them once a week over lunch in high school to discuss challenges and opportunities with them. In the spring of 2006, high school students who have continued their involvement in the EdGE by working at least 30 hours during the 2005-2006 school year, visited New York City with the EdGE where they toured New York



EdGE summer camp students William West, Taylor Stanwood and Jesse Stanwood laying tiles for mosaic stepping stones.

PHOTO BY PETER WITKOP

University, the Museum of Modern Art, Times Square, attended a Mets baseball game, and did a city search using public transportation to learn more about New York City.

Joan Martay, Maine 21st Century Community Learning Center lead consultant observed:

"I know that all of you deeply care about the youth that you serve and that's reflected in the relationships you have established with young people, families, school staff and other members of your community. The EdGE is a program that generates excitement, creativity and a joy of learning, whether in a classroom or a kayak out on the ocean."

SCHOLARSHIP FOR DOWNEAST STUDENTS

For almost 90 years the Maine Sea Coast Mission has been supporting the educational efforts of students of coastal Downeast Maine, through its scholarship program. This program is one of the few that will permit students to reapply for all four years of college as long as they meet needs criteria and demonstrate success in their studies.

The Mission awarded 72 scholarships in 2006 to high school seniors in Washington and Hancock Counties and coastal islands. In June 2006, a reception was held at the Colket Center to honor scholarship recipients and to provide them with the opportunity to discuss their concerns about college. Over 100 people attended, which included both scholarship recipients and parents.

Mission scholarship recipients often face challenges in seeking to further their education. One such example is Hannah* from Eastport, a child of low income, divorced parents. She applied and received a scholarship from the Mission. The first person in her family to attend college, she decided to attend Central Maine Community College instead of obtaining a paying job. Her father was so angry with her that he didn't speak to her for six months and stopped helping her financially.

Her 18-year-old brother, Sam*, told her that "school is for losers". He told her that she was wasting her time in school and could make more money without schooling. (Sam, who has a long criminal history, has just been indicted by a grand jury for grand theft might spend three to seven years in prison.)

Despite the lack of family support, Hannah has excelled at college. She seeks out extra help in class and has been doing extra credit work in her Marine biology class. Her favorite course is Art History. The Mission asked Hannah what we could do in addition to the scholarship. She asked us to check in with her from time to time, for emotional and moral support.

The Maine Sea Coast Mission's Scholarship program continues to make a difference to many young lives.

*Names changed for confidentiality



Brooke Burton smiles after receiving her Mission scholarship at Mount Desert Island High School in May 2006.

PHOTO BY TOM BURTON



MEETING IMMEDIATE NEEDS

FOOD PANTRY

The Mission's Food Pantry in Cherryfield is an emergency food pantry serving the towns of Steuben, Milbridge, Cherryfield, Harrington, Columbia, Columbia Falls, Beddington and Deblois. The Food Pantry, which is one of the larger food pantries in Downeast Maine, assisted 3,247 individuals with 48,705 meals in 2006.

Occasionally, the Food Pantry receives referrals from other food pantries if a family cannot be adequately served. Such was the case with Jim who lives in a town further down the coast. He is unable to work because of daily medical treatments in Bangor for lung cancer. He and his wife still care for their 120 chickens, but need more help with food than the local pantry can provide. The Maine Sea Coast Mission agreed to help Jim. On the day that he arrived at the Food Pantry, he was not empty-handed! Jim and his wife brought the Food Pantry 12 dozen organic eggs and have continued to donate eggs. Our Food Pantry clients are very happy to receive the fresh eggs.

The Mission is always looking for ways to partner with other organizations so that the people in Washington County may be better served. Family-to-Family, a national non-profit community outreach program that links wealthy communities and families with struggling communities across the United States, contacted the Mission regarding a partnership. Through this program, Cherryfield is now linked with the community of Edgewood, Kentucky. Each month a family in Edgewood sends a box containing a variety of non-perishable food items, personal letters, and pictures drawn by their children to Cherryfield where it is picked up by the receiving family. These families maintain an ongoing correspondence with the families in Edgewood, sharing news and comparing how life is different in their different communities. Neil Wilson, Weald

Donna Wilson, Food Pantry Assistant, helping a volunteer. PHOTO BY NEIL WILSON

Bethel Program Director, tells about how heartwarming it is to see the boxes, which are often decorated by children, arrive. In 2006 eight families were involved and more will be added in 2007.

Making connections and expanding horizons for the families of Downeast Maine is a significant part of the ministry of the Maine Sea Coast Mission in Washington County.

THRIFT SHOP

Located in Cherryfield, the Maine Sea Coast Mission Thrift Shop provides essential clothing, furniture, and household goods to families in need. In 2006, over 45,000 items were provided at modest cost.

In 2005 the Thrift Shop developed a color tag rotation system that ensures that there is always something on sale for bargain hunters. On Friday and Saturday after the color tags have been changed and the items are marked down, the number of customers increases substantially. In 2006 a system was developed for keeping track of special requests, such as hard to find sizes, and notifying the customers when they arrive. This new system was appreciated by many customers.

The Thrift Shop works closely with Neil Wilson, Weald Bethel Program Director, on crisis relief. This year the Thrift Shop provided clothing and household items to over ten individuals who endured hardship due to household fire, or starting over in a new home due to adversity.

The Thrift Shop occasionally provides the EdGE program with classroom materials and an opportunity to teach their students the importance of recycling. The EdGE program used large-sized t-shirts to make smaller sized shirts for girls. They also transformed t-shirts into pillows, bags, dresses, costumes, and baby outfits. Art supplies such as yarn, paint were utilized in craft projects, and old puzzle pieces were used to decorate picture frames. Pictures from magazines were used for collages and decorating student's journals for their portfolio projects. Books from the Thrift Shop were used to create a library at the EdGE. A supply of children's winter coats, mittens, and hats were loaned to the EdGE so that the students would have warm clothing in the winter during outdoor events.

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

In 2006, the Mission assisted 270 households in Hancock and Washington Counties with emergency financial assistance. These funds are usually for rent, heating oil, electricity, food and occasionally a donated car. The Mission seeks to connect appropriate programs to those seeking assistance. One example of this is described below.

A 23-year-old divorced young mother, Carla*, with two children, ages two and five, asked for assistance. She was without a job, car, money, or family to offer her support, and was sleeping on the couch at a friend's home. Her ex in-laws told her that she wasn't going to be able to take care of these children and that she should assign custody to them.

*Name changed for confidentiality



Marilyn Nickson, Thrift Shop Manager, at Thrift Shop.

PHOTO BY SCOTT SHAW

“Thank you for
believing in me
when I didn’t
believe in myself.”

~ Carla, recipient of
Emergency Financial
Assistance

At first, it seemed her situation was far more than the Mission could handle. We started with the immediate need, which was providing her and the children some warm winter clothing. Over the next several days we located an apartment for her to rent, then provided rent and the security deposit.

Carla now had an apartment with nothing in it. We contacted our Mission Thrift Shop and by the day’s end we had delivered furnishings to her new apartment. A local island resident graciously donated a car to the Mission and we were pleased to pass this good fortune on to Carla and the children.

A month later Carla came to the Mission to say thanks. It was obvious that she just needed to talk. Carla informed us that her ex-husband had been molesting their two-year old daughter. She had contacted the local authorities and been assigned full custody of the children. By having full custody she now was eligible for state assistance enabling her to get the services she so desperately needs for herself and her children.

Carla has continued to stay in touch with the Mission to give thanks and update us on her progress. Her life and the lives of numerous others have been changed through the Emergency Financial Assistance program.

THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The 2006 holiday season was a busy one for the Christmas Program at the Maine Sea Coast Mission. 3,125 individuals in Downeast Maine received personalized packages, nearly 350 more than in 2005. Over 15,000 presents were provided to these 3,125 individuals. Many hands were needed to complete this enormous job. Among the 150 volunteers who assisted were Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, bank employees, local business owners, nurses, retirees, students, and teachers.

The work that each person completed during their service was as varied as their backgrounds. Tasks that were frequently performed by the volunteers, or elves, as we like to call them, included sorting donations, matching hat and mitten sets, selecting individualized gifts, and, of course, wrapping presents in the Mission’s signature white butcher paper and red string. The work of the many volunteers and staff involved in the Christmas program actually begins long before the holiday season as much organizing and preparatory work must be done beginning in September to ensure that appropriate presents are delivered in a timely way.

This particular tradition of wrapping has continued for 96 years and its origin is one of simple economics. In 1911, when the Christmas Program was first instituted, no monies were allocated for supplies. Butcher paper was affordable, available, and of good proportion. The red string that was utilized possessed similar characteristics in addition to its festive color.

Older members of Downeast Maine frequently recall receiving packages wrapped in this manner as children. Some will even happily recount what the packages contained and how long they kept the contents. While we certainly hope that the gifts will leave a lasting impression, it is far more important that each of the items distributed meet the recipient’s immediate needs and become a source of hope and encouragement for the year to come.



*Traditionally wrapped Christmas
program present with stuffed animal.*
PHOTO BY JULIE PATTON

COMMUNITY SUMMER HOUSING PROGRAM

The Community Summer Housing Program, based in Cherryfield, had seven church groups participate in 2006 which was the largest number in the history of the program. The groups came from as far away as Florida, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. Each group also varied in size, ranging from six in one group to forty-seven in another, with a total of 143 volunteers in all.

Each group, with one exception, had young adults and teenagers with them, to teach the young people different skills that they could put to use in their future. The diversity of their skills was as widely varied as the groups themselves. We match each group's skills with the corresponding work requests that we receive.

One of our challenges in 2006 was to manage two groups in the same week. The amount of work that was performed this year was phenomenal, and the people they helped were very appreciative of everything these amazing groups had done for them.

Two sisters, both widows who live down the road from each other, were particularly appreciative of the help rendered. The amount of work and unconditional compassion provided to these two sisters surprised them and revitalized their outlook on the human spirit. Some of the jobs requested and accomplished were not basic handyman specials, but involved significant construction projects, such as; tearing off a roof, removing rotted wood, restoring a good solid roofline, and laying down new shingles.

The volunteers of one church group built two bridges to provide the community and the EdGE children with safe stream crossings and trails to explore. This project was much appreciated by the volunteers, staff children and Cherryfield community who increasingly utilize the trails and grounds of the 60-acre Weald Bethel campus.



SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM

The Maine Sea Coast Mission, through its Weald Bethel Office in Cherryfield, 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 assist 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. The Senior Companions often coordinate with Maine Sea Coast Mission's Food Pantry to help transport their client's food.

In 2006, the Mission supervised six Senior Companions serving 44 clients in Washington County. They spent more time in 2006 with each client to give them the personal attention that they need and deserve.

Learning the proper installation of water shield on a roof edge by Byfield United Methodist Church and All Saints Episcopal Church in West Newburyport, MA summer housing volunteers.

PHOTO BY SCOTT SHAW

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2006	2005
Investments	\$30,594,771	\$27,433,911
Contributions Receivable	\$804,789	\$1,299,528
Other Current Assets	\$69,186	\$70,858
Fixed Assets	\$2,841,448	\$2,412,189
Total Assets	\$34,310,194	\$31,216,486

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Deferred Revenue	\$644,749	\$1,916,998
Other Liabilities	\$98,466	\$173,327
Net Assets	\$33,566,979	\$29,126,161
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$34,310,194	\$31,216,486

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

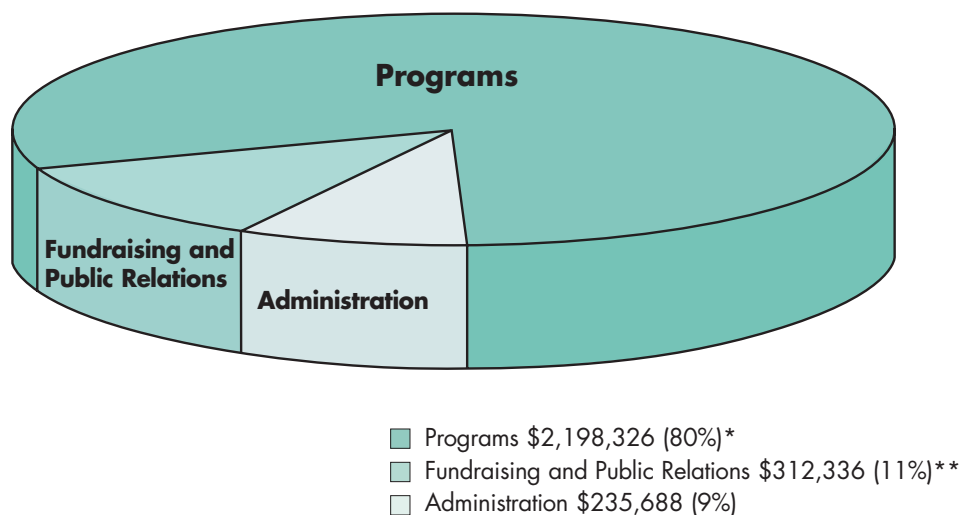
Total Income	\$4,268,035	\$4,114,160
Investment Gains (Losses)	\$2,919,133	\$2,206,286
Total Expenses	\$2,746,350	\$2,648,011
Increase (Decrease) in Total Net Assets	\$4,440,818	\$3,672,435



Mike Johnson, Engineer, tying up the Sunbeam.

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE WHITNER

Mission Expenses



The financial information presented on this page is derived from the Maine Sea Coast Mission's financial statements, audited by Foster, Carpenter, Black & Co., LLP, Certified Public Accountants, of Bangor, Maine. Copies of the full report may be obtained by contacting the Mission at 207.288.5097.

*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 2006, The Maine Sea Coast Mission continued the \$12 million Centennial Capital Campaign to expand and sustain its essential services to the children and families of Downeast Maine. A significant portion, \$99,204, of the total fundraising expenses incurred in 2006 are attributable to the capital campaign.



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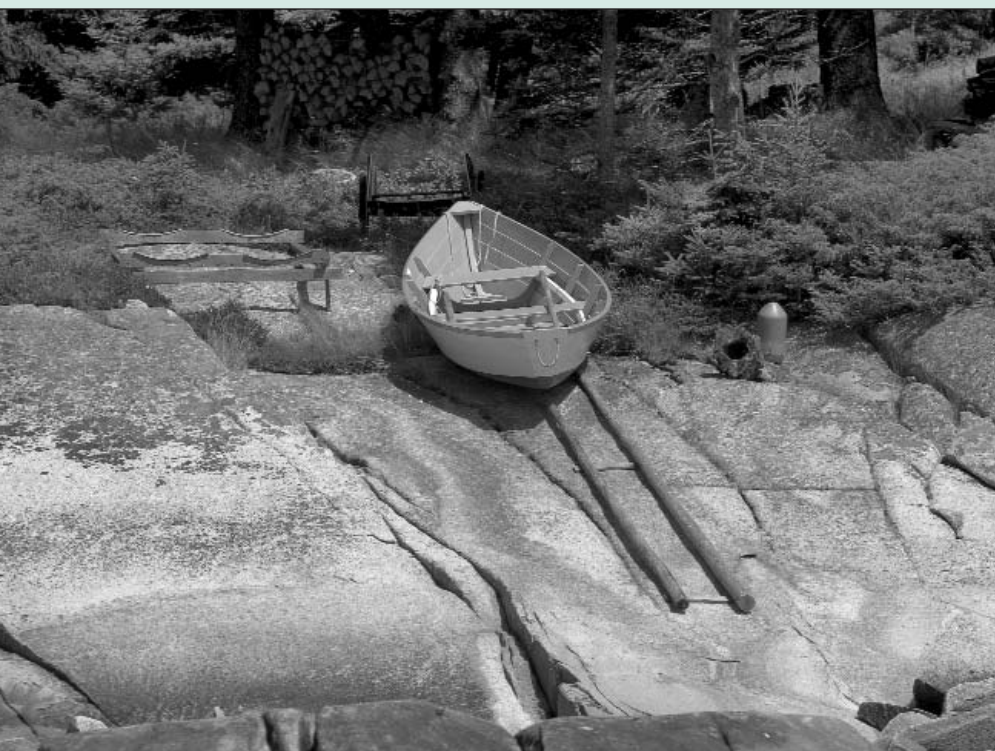
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PLANNED GIVING OPPORTUNITIES: Planned gifts prolong your support of the Mission's work ensuring that ever increasing numbers of Maine's coastal and island residents will know the Mission as their partner in weathering life's challenges. Through planned giving, members and supporters of the Mission have the opportunity to reduce the taxable amount of their estates and to help secure the Mission's future at the same time.

THE MISSION AS BENEFICIARY: Naming the Maine Sea Coast Mission as beneficiary of an IRA, life insurance policy or investment account is as easy as notifying your account or policy manager of your wishes. Some individuals establish life insurance policies with the intent of leaving the Mission a larger sum at the end of their lives than they would be able to contribute during their lifetime.

NAMING THE MISSION IN YOUR WILL: Adding a sentence to your will instructing that a specified dollar amount or percentage of your residuary estate be given as a charitable contribution to the Maine Sea Coast Mission will result in a gift that will both reduce estate taxes and help the Mission to extend its future outreach. Real estate and investment securities also can be designated as gifts to the Mission through your will.

PLEASE VISIT THE SECTION OF OUR WEB SITE ON PLANNED GIVING WHICH PROVIDES USEFUL INFORMATION ON A WIDE VARIETY OF DIFFERENT PLANNED GIVING OPTIONS. The Mission's web site is: www.seacoastmission.org. When you reach the Mission's web site, just click on “Support the Mission” and then click on “Planned Giving” to find a wealth of information about planned giving options which provide a wide range of benefits to you and to the Maine Sea Coast Mission. This section of our web site also has the latest information on new types of planned gifts as well as articles on the benefits of different types of planned gifts.

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*We use care choosing
paths that lead to
the strongest possible
connections: children
to opportunities;
patients to nurse ...
the human with
the holy.*

~FROM MESSAGE TO FRIENDS



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