

The Maine Sea Coast Mission

ANNUAL REPORT | 2009



*If you have
knowledge,
let others
light their
candles
in it.*

MARGARET FULLER

Our Mission

The Maine Sea Coast Mission provides spiritual, health, and youth development programs in coastal and island communities from mid-coast to Downeast Maine. Rooted in a history of non-denominational service, the Mission offers hope, encouragement, and help to strengthen individuals, families, and communities.



Desi Grubbs welcomes guests to her grandmother's Island Bake Shoppe on Swan's Island. BILL KUYKENDALL

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

ANNE FRANK

Cover photo: Swan's Island lobsterman, Joe Staples, showing his grandson, Shep Walker, how to pull up and bait a lobster trap. BILL KUYKENDALL



Dear Friends,

At the Mission's headquarters there is a ritual that occurs almost daily, late in the afternoon. The Executive Director picks up the phone and dials the number of first-time donors whose gifts to the Mission were received that week. They come from near and far, often coast to coast. The donors to be called, as this is being written, live in State College, Pennsylvania; Richmond, Texas; and Southington, Connecticut.

When someone says hello on the other end of the call it goes like this:

"Hello. I'm calling from the Maine Sea Coast Mission in Bar Harbor. We received your recent gift. I'm calling for no other reason than to say how much we appreciate your support for what we do."

"Who did you say is calling?"

"The Maine Sea Coast Mission, simply to say thank you for your generosity."

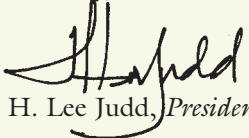
"Oh, yes. It's so nice of you to call. We love what you do. Wish it could have been more."

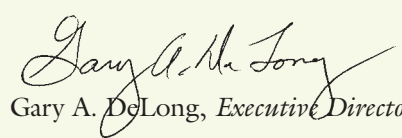
What is amazing is that in 2009 the giving was more, so much more: donations were substantially up despite the difficult economic times. When combined with the 2009 wrap-up of a successful \$12 million capital campaign, what fills you with awe is the power of this bond between a high organizational purpose, inspired staff, and donors who care. That power took many forms as you will see throughout this Annual Report. In the popular culture we have toys called "Transformers" that can change shape and function. Our donors start a similar process when they transform their hard-earned dollars into the many expanding forms of outreach that we call Mission programs. Take time to read about them in the pages of this report. Life is often harsh along this coast. What is described in these pages adds a ray of hope, a glimmer of caring.

Who did you say is calling? Maybe we should say, "One transformer is calling another because it takes one to know one: donors, volunteers, board members, and staff—working together, committed to serving others."

Thanks to all who wished it could have been more and in 2009 made wishes come true.

Sincerely,


H. Lee Judd, *President*


Gary A. DeLong, *Executive Director*

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Sharon Daley, R.N., uses telemedicine equipment to send an image to a medical provider for diagnosis. BILL KUYKENDALL

Outreach to Islands

ISLAND HEALTH SERVICES

Providing high quality health care to island residents has always been a priority for the Maine Sea Coast Mission. Sharon Daley, R.N., Director of Island Health Services, travels on the *Sunbeam V* twice a month to provide primary care, behavioral health, and diabetic specialty care through telemedicine to the islands of Frenchboro, Isle au Haut, and Matinicus. In addition, she also supports the provision of telemedicine in the new Mill Pond Health Clinic on Swan's Island.

Sharon facilitates screening clinics to test for cardiac problems, cholesterol, hypertension, high blood pressure, diabetes, thyroid disease, prostate cancer, and skin cancer. She organizes AA meetings, provides chronic care management in homes for individuals who cannot get to the *Sunbeam V*, gives flu shots, works with the WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) program to sign up clients, 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.

A big focus in 2009 was providing flu shots on the islands. Many people traveled on planes, boats, and in cars to transport and administer the temperature sensitive vaccine. A common belief is that islanders are isolated and that flu risk is not high. In truth, because islanders live in small, close communities, they are similar to schools and flu viruses can spread quickly to everyone. In 2009, 96 seasonal and H1N1 flu shots were given to Monhegan, Frenchboro, and Matinicus island residents. Natalie Ames, a resident of Matinicus, wrote, "Thank you so much to all involved with the telemedicine program and especially this year with the flu clinics. I have three children, one of whom has cystic fibrosis, and getting the vaccines was critical for the entire family. With the H1N1 crisis this year, getting all of the vaccines, in the right order, with shortages was difficult. Sharon Daley went above and beyond the call of duty to ensure my family's safety. She was a real hero battling the state's red tape, finding sources, and coordinating information to all of us."

During the year, Sharon worked with a variety of agencies to provide care to the islands. Husson University's School of Pharmacy provided educational talks and individualized consults to residents of the islands of Great Cranberry, Islesford, and Swan's. The

“I have three children, one of whom has cystic fibrosis, and getting the vaccines was critical for the entire family.”

NATALIE AMES, MATINICUS RESIDENT



WIC program provided good nutrition for pregnant and nursing women and children under age five. The Mission's Bread of Life Food Pantry on Swan's Island delivered food to the *Sunbeam V* which delivered it to Frenchboro and Matinicus. The Shaw Fund for Mariners' Children, which provides incapacitated fishermen and their families with short-term financial assistance, provided electric and medical assistance. Downeast Health Services provided dental care on the islands of Great Cranberry, Islesford, and Swan's. Mount Desert Island Hospital, Islands Community Medical Center on Vinalhaven, and Hallowell Family Practice provided primary care, behavioral health, and psychiatry care through telemedicine services on the *Sunbeam V* to Frenchboro, Isle au Haut, and Matinicus.

The Maine Sea Coast Mission has installed telemedicine equipment at the Mill Pond Health Clinic on Swan's Island. The equipment will become operational and be supported by a health aide in 2010. The telemedicine technology will connect island patients to land-based clinics and hospitals so they can receive primary care, behavioral health care, and specialized medical diagnosis and treatment.

Islesford residents are working with the Maine Sea Coast Mission to establish an island-based health center which will use telemedicine equipment. The clinic will be housed at the island's Neighborhood House. The Mission is also working with residents on Frenchboro on its Wellness Center which will house telemedicine equipment provided and supported by the Mission.

Ministries to Islands

OUTER ISLAND MINISTER

In 2009, Rev. Rob Benson, Pastor to the Outer Islands, was once again busy nurturing island residents and island communities on five outer islands – Great Cranberry, Frenchboro, Isle au Haut, Matinicus, and Monhegan.

Opportunities for island neighbors to gather, especially in the midst of winter, shine a beacon in what can be dark times. The *Sunbeam V* maintained its frequent telemedicine and island ministry visits, and early in January went to Isle au Haut with an intrepid group of high school steel drum players, Planet Pan from Blue Hill. They conducted a steel drum workshop and a Sunday “Pan Mass,” with special renditions of “Amazing Grace” and “We Shall Overcome,” which lifted spirits. The Sheep Island Rovers brought their enthusiastic and joyful energy to a contra dance on Monhegan. The fifth annual middle school retreat, held this year on Mount Desert Island, brought together 16 students from seven islands for a weekend of fun, community-building, and preparation for the inevitable transition to high school away from their island homes.

Later in the year, Planet Pan offered a community steel drum workshop and concert on Matinicus which attracted many residents. Some residents had already learned to play the steel drums from Planet Pan's previous visits and played for dozens of their neighbors in a concert on the wharf. Bangor's Spirited Folk musical group played to a captivated audience on Great Cranberry, bringing tuneful hope and a deep sense of joy. Two things in particular lighten the spirits and solidify the ground of community: new ways of relating with one's neighbors, and the simple gift of joy. The *Sunbeam V* was part of that through these musical events.

Tending to residents' spirits in more traditional ways, the *Sunbeam V* again brought its warm light of graced hospitality to the islands through all-island suppers and regular community worship services. On the *Sunbeam V*'s Easter trip, in addition to Easter services, Cristy Benson offered a Ukrainian Easter egg-dyeing workshop on Isle au Haut with help from Cranberry Island resident Barbara Myers.

Monhegan's annual Blessing of the Pets service was another fall highlight for the island worship

community, which was punctuated with moments of both deep joy and sober reflection, as those gathered celebrated and recalled the importance of companion animals in their lives.

With the retirement of long-time island minister Doug Hare, the Islesford church on Little Cranberry Island turned to the Mission to assist with finding pastoral leadership for their year-round church community. Rev. Gary DeLong, Executive Director, and Rev. Benson led worship services and have been working with the church council in their search for a new pastor.

Last summer the Maine Sea Coast Mission helped with the cat overpopulation problem on a remote island. Many families, due to the lobster crash and compounded by the expensive inconvenience of remote island life, were struggling to find adequate resources for food, fuel, medical care, and housing and could not afford pet care. Short term solutions included finding food and permanent homes for the cats, but long-term solutions seemed harder to find. When problems get overwhelming, island residents often turn to the Maine

Sea Coast Mission, not just for compassion and support, but for effective long-term solutions.

Residents raised funds to support below-cost spay and neuter operations. Margot Maloney, DVM, of Horse and Hound Veterinary Services, and her assistant came out to the island for two days and performed 31 operations, working from early morning to late evening. The Maine Sea Coast Mission covered the significant transportation costs plus an honorarium and pet owners contributed whatever they could. There was no clinical space on the island so an operating room was set up in the basement of the church. The church had running water that was installed just a few years ago and a folding table served as the operating table.

Rev. Benson was also involved with the acknowledged centers of each island community, the one-room schoolhouses. The *Sunbeam V* served as host for the fourth annual island teachers' retreat in August. Later in the year, the *Sunbeam V* brought students in grades K-8 from Matinicus, Monhegan, Isle au Haut, and Frenchboro to an inter-island event on Islesford, where

Island Middle School students make hearty, healthy soup to distribute to their island neighbors as the service project component of their annual retreat. BILL KUYKENDALL

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The Sunbeam V docked at Northeast Harbor. PAUL MUN

they were joined by students from Islesford, Great Cranberry and Monhegan. The 50 students from seven islands gathered for two days of activities and fun. The *Sunbeam V* also brought students from Isle au Haut and Islesford to Frenchboro for two exciting cross-country running meets in the fall. These partnerships with island schools bring life and spirit to these fragile island communities.

The close of the year brought the *Sunbeam V* to Vinalhaven for a ride on the boat during the Union Church Sunday School. The *Sunbeam V* and Rev. Benson have continued the long tradition of both warm hospitality and nurturing faith in these island communities.

ISLAND PARTNER CHURCHES

The Mission maintains a special partnership with four island churches on Islesboro, North Haven, Swan's, and Vinalhaven. Providing financial and administrative support, the Mission enables each congregation to have a full-time, year-round pastor whose parish is the entire island.

North Haven Baptist Church

Rev. Dave Macy serves as pastor of the North Haven Baptist Church and missionary-at-large to North Haven. He is involved in weddings, baptisms,

funerals, and graduations. In addition, he serves as the EMS chaplain and co-hosts weekly senior coffees and monthly luncheons at the Waterman's Community Center. He also leads two ecumenical services with the summer Episcopal congregation, does occasional ambulance driving, joins in Christmas caroling, and engages in conversations on the ferry, around town, and in homes.

Bob Bach, who led the congregation during Rev. Macy's sabbatical in 2007, instituted a "Blessing of the Working Fleet." It was appreciated by the community and continues with Bob, Rev. Macy, and two retired clergy participating. Each year, one captain from the fleet is chosen for special recognition. Sadly, last year's honoree lost his battle with cancer a little over a week before the day of the blessing. On July 5, before a large crowd gathered along the waterfront, each boat passed by the ferry dock and received a blessing for protection and success in the coming year. On one boat, the captain's wife, who had recently been diagnosed with breast cancer, asked for her whole family to be blessed. Another boat carried the son of the honoree who is a Marine stationed in Okinawa. When the final boat was blessed, the fishermen moved their boats into a single line and reverently filed past the honoree's boat.

A week later, the community gathered for the honoree's graveside service. His son had requested military honors for his father who had served in the Air Force. Members



Island Unity Choir prepares to sing at Swans's Island Baptist Church with Director Meredith Creswell. CARLTON JOYCE

of the Air Force folded the flag and presented it to the family and Rev. Macy played "Taps" on his trumpet while the honoree's son, in full Marine dress uniform, stood and saluted, offering his own gesture of respect and farewell.

Through its partnership with the North Haven Baptist Church, the Maine Sea Coast Mission was there last July at that time of a great common loss, just as it is every month of the year, supporting, and nurturing the spiritual health of this island community. Like that moment, the Mission's work of love, justice, and mercy teach, remind, and reassure us that, in the well known words of John Donne, "No man is an island, entire of itself. Each man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind."

Second Baptist Church in Islesboro

Rev. David Runnion-Bareford began serving as the Second Baptist Church pastor in Islesboro in August 2009. His ministry has been a great adventure for him in which life-engaging encounters happen daily in a wide variety of situations across the island. Rev. Runnion-Bareford cooks breakfast for the men's group and discusses life issues with working men at Thursday lunches. He tutors high school students, provides respite care for a teenager, and once took care of a farm for Christmas week so the young couple who manage it could go home for Christmas.

At the Christmas Eve candlelight service, Rev.

Runnion-Bareford blessed a young single mom and her newborn baby, Grace. He presides over open air funerals, gatherings at the sportsman's club, and pickup games at Maddie Dodge Field. This fall he mentored a young mom who was struggling with the economic challenges of island life and encouraged her to take over the food pantry. She worked with such empathy and commitment that the church was able to provide food to more families this winter than in the previous three years.

Rev. Runnion-Bareford also had the privilege of working on the boards of the Health Center, Community Center, and the Islesboro Community Fund to understand and meet critical needs in the community. Every Sunday, he cooks the pancakes for the Sunday School and preaches the word in worship. Rev. Runnion-Bareford observed: "The purpose of being a Maine Sea Coast Mission missionary to the Island and Pastor of Second Baptist Church is to touch lives in as many points of opportunity on the island that divine appointments provide."

Swan's Island Baptist Church

Rev. Ken Dutille is heavily involved in the life of the church and various community activities, including the Bread of Life Food Pantry and the Swan's Island Library.

History was made at the Swan's Island Baptist Church

This year, the Vinalhaven Food Pantry provided fresh produce and food from the Good Shepherd Food Bank on a monthly basis.



in 2009. For the first time in the church's nearly two hundred year history, it hosted the American Baptist Church's East Association Annual Meeting, which includes Hancock and Washington Counties. This was the largest Annual Meeting in the Association's history. The Mission's vessel, *Sunbeam V*, helped to provide transportation as did the Maine State Ferry. Refreshments were served by the ladies of the church. Rev. Gary DeLong, Executive Director of the Maine Sea Coast Mission, and Rev. Dr. Alfred J. Fletcher, American Baptist Executive Minister of Maine, delivered the messages. This was a fabulous time for church members from Hancock and Washington Counties to see first hand a program of the Maine Sea Coast Mission.

This year a silent art auction took place as part of the church's annual summer lobster bake. All of the works of art were made by local artists and crafters. People were able to view the items during the week of the Ladies Aid Victorian Tea through the day of the lobster bake. Both events were very successful.

On July 24, 2008, the Swan's Island Library was completely destroyed by fire. After the fire, the library board asked Ken to serve as the President of the Board. He has been heavily involved in raising the funds necessary for the rebuilding of the Library. The Maine Community Foundation provided a grant to support the planning process. A budget of \$1.2 million was developed. Between insurance and fundraising, over \$700,000 had been raised by the end of 2009.

During the summer months, the Unity Choir was formed on Swan's Island. Choir Director Meredith Creswell said, "The choir was founded to unite older with younger, music readers with those who sing or play by ear, full-time island residents with summer residents, and singers from all four churches with those who have yet to find a church home. There is so much talent on Swan's Island and so much heart, spirit, and dedication, that working with this group is a joy!" The Baptist Church was filled and people were

standing on the front porch looking in when they performed their summer concert. During the winter months Kimberly Heller, Music Director of the Bar Harbor Congregational Church, leads the group.

Union Church of Vinalhaven

The Union Church of Vinalhaven and Rev. Joan Smith support many specific island outreach programs such as the Community Lunchbox, Jingle Bells Fund, Vinalhaven Food Pantry, Pet Pantry, Pleasant River Grange Fuel Fund, Vinalhaven Community Outreach, and Meals on Wheels. These programs ensure that islanders receive adequate food and heat as well as help in responding to medical emergencies. It also creates a sense of community.

This year, the Vinalhaven Food Pantry provided fresh produce and food from the Good Shepherd Food Bank on a monthly basis. The number of December households receiving food, which included a turkey, increased by 45 percent. Volunteers picked up, unloaded, sorted, and delivered the food. Any excess food was used for church activities. Extra apples were used to make apple pies, apple crisps, and Waldorf salad for both the Community Lunchbox and Sunday School.

The Jingle Bells Fund provided coats, boots, mittens, hats, pajamas, and personal hygiene supplies for 43 children from 20 families. Volunteers secured donations, purchased gifts, and managed gift requests. There were six elves in the vestry on the Sunday before Christmas wrapping all the various presents which made this a very special Christmas for the gift recipients. Fifty Sunshine Christmas Fruit Baskets with fresh fruit and cookies were distributed in December. The baskets were beautifully wrapped and hand delivered by church volunteers.

The Community Lunchbox, which is open from November through February, was very well attended in 2009. Community members of all ages gather for good food and fellowship and sometimes stay for puzzles or games. Many volunteers made this free event possible.

Sunday School was available for children ages four to



Community members of all ages gather for food and good fellowship and sometimes stay for puzzles or games.

eleven. Rev. Smith and volunteers taught together every Sunday. Beginning with a prayer of thanksgiving and a retelling of the Bible story from morning worship, each class has a question for the children to consider and discuss. In December, the *Sunbeam V* took children for a boat ride and they decorated cookies in the galley. The following Sunday, after they performed in a skit and helped with the worship service, the children baked apples and apple crisp which they served to the adults during coffee hour.

The church's monthly Global Mission offerings provided over \$8,000 for Vinalhaven community outreach toward assistance with medical or household emergencies, a local scholarship for summer camp, and global programs including Habitat for Humanity, Church World Service, the Heifer Project, and relief for Haiti.

MINISTER TO COASTAL COMMUNITIES AND FISHERIES

Rev. Ted Hoskins retired as the Minister to Coastal

Communities and Fisheries at the Mission's Annual Meeting on July 16, 2009, where he was recognized for his years of service to island and coastal communities. Beginning in 1993, Ted served for nine years as the Minister to the Outer Islands. In 2002, Ted became the part-time Minister to Coastal Communities and Fisheries where he worked in a variety of ways to address sustainable fishing issues along coastal Maine.

During 2009, Ted continued to work with the Penobscot East Resource Center in its effort to have a pilot project in community-based area management with the New England Fishery Management Council. He also continued his work with the Collaborative Lobster Enhancement Evaluation Workshop, the Stonington Lobster Working Group which has been seeking ideas and solutions to the lobster crisis, and the Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance. Ted was also active with Coastal Access, the Island Coalition, the Working Waterfront Coalition, and the Maine Department of Marine Resources' Lobster Advisory Council.

Wintertime sanctuary where worship services are sometimes held in the Great Cranberry parsonage. ROB BENSON



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Hannah Bennett, Alexis Martin, Summer Lovejoy, and Courtney Willey, in the shelter they built at wilderness survival camp. BILL KUYKENDALL

Youth Development

EdGE – AFTER SCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

In its seventh year, the EdGE Program has continued to grow and strengthen despite seen and unforeseen obstacles. Nearly doubling in size in 2009, the EdGE service area stretches from Jonesport to the Sullivan Bridge, spanning a region geographically larger than the state of Rhode Island. As our service area increased, so did the number of student participants. Over 500 students in grades four through twelve participated in afterschool and summer programming, and staff met the challenge of the expansion head on.

The EdGE has always strived to create safe, enriching spaces for youth where they can experience positive relationships with peers and adults alike. A main goal of the EdGE is to help build a child's resiliency. Resilient individuals have the tools to bounce back and recover from difficult situations and challenges. By creating avenues for children to be successful and tackle new

and different experiences positively, the EdGE is helping to foster resilience education.

The EdGE has a positive impact on not only academic learning, but social learning and development, as well. When fourth-grade student Faye first came to her EdGE afterschool program, she was introverted and a loner. Slowly, throughout the year, she started participating in group activities and by mid-year was reaching out to others. At year's end, she had built friendships with her peers and had bonded with staff. Faye's mother said that the EdGE program is one of the best things that has happened for her daughter, writing that, "Developing friendships was a challenge for Faye. We are grateful for the program as EdGE has finally accomplished what we have been trying so hard to affect with Faye, connectedness and belonging. EdGE gave her a higher sense of confidence and accomplishment, and its role models and mentors continue to be invaluable."

School day teachers have always helped the EdGE connect students' in-school learning with afterschool learning. Over 20 teachers were employed by the EdGE's afterschool program, and they too have witnessed the positive benefits the program provides. As the pressures of teaching to the test and combined classrooms are becoming the norm, many teachers say working with the EdGE gives them a place to really get to know their students. Speaking of Anne, a student in her homeroom, an EdGE team member and upper-grade teacher has said that, "Anne disappears in the classroom. It is hard to draw her out. If you really want to get to know her, you have to see her at EdGE. It's where she comes alive."

New experiences continue for EdGE students as they transition to high school. In the spring of 2009, fourteen high school student staff members and program volunteers traveled to our nation's capitol in Washington, D.C. For many students, this was their first time in a major metropolitan city. This marked the first trip where students representing all three high schools in the newly

expanded service area were represented on the high school EdGE trip. One student on the trip, Briana West, has evolved from an EdGE participant to a valued team member. EdGE staff have watched Briana grow from a helpful, but shy, seventh- and eighth-grade student. She has become a strong high school staff member who has developed her voice and can work with students in challenging situations. Briana is a dependable member of the EdGE team at the Ella Lewis School and the program is stronger because of her involvement.

Briana became involved with the EdGE as a high school staff member because, "EdGE has helped so many students, including myself and my cousin. In our little community, it's a really good thing for students to do. It keeps them safe and involved. I was so shy when the program first came to my school, and the EdGE has helped me be more independent and shown me what I can do. It's helped me bring out more of myself and what I can be. I hope the EdGE program is around for a long time because it's a great thing for kids, and I would like to come back and help it in the future."

2008-2009 EdGE Facts

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Kyle Shoppee, from Harrington Elementary School, playing ball at EdGE Camp.

BILL KUYKENDALL

- 73% of regularly attending students improved or remained the same on Math scores
- 68% of regularly attending students improved or remained the same on Language Arts scores
- 91% of regularly attending students showed improvement turning in homework on time, while 34% of these students showed significant improvement
- 92% of regularly attending students improved at completing homework to a teacher's satisfaction, while 32% of these students showed significant improvement
- 97% of regularly attending students improved in class participation, while 30% of these students showed significant improvement
- 100% of all students participated in academic improvement and enrichment activities
- 100% of all elementary students participated in activities that promoted health and wellness
- 78% of all elementary students participated in cultural enrichment activities
- 69% of regularly attending elementary students had a parent attend an EdGE family event



Kymry Brooks receives a scholarship from Rev. Gary DeLong at Mount Desert Island High School's award ceremony. KAREN ZIMMERMANN

Besides helping to support positive growth and resiliency in the youth they work with, the EdGE staff had its own lesson in being resilient this past year. In early January of 2009, Charlie Harrington, Director of EdGE, fell while ice-skating and sustained an injury that took him away from the EdGE for seven months. Staff had to quickly learn to navigate without him, his energy, and his leadership. The team successfully found new ways of responding to daily and future needs, becoming more self-reliant in the process, and without missing a step programmatically. This experience underlined to everyone the strength of the program and the team's ability to rally. Staff took pride in the fact that they were able to sustain a healthy and strong program. Their constant goal was to achieve the quality of events and offerings that Charlie would have wanted, and they were excited to welcome him back in early August.

As this year ends and another begins, the staff and

volunteers at the EdGE are excited about what the future holds and are grateful for the lessons of this past year that was filled with both stimulating and sobering experiences. We are reminded that sometimes the most valuable learning comes not from the end product alone, but from the process that got us there.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR DOWNEAST STUDENTS

In 2009, the Maine Sea Coast Mission awarded \$97,000 in scholarships to the youth of Downeast Maine. The scholarship committee, led by its new Chair, Nancy Ho, and assisted by Terri Rodick, Scholarship Coordinator, reviewed over 170 applications and selected 94 recipients. All together, 45 students were from Hancock County, 45 were from Washington County, and four were from the islands that the Mission serves. Out of the 94 students, 29 are freshmen and 65 students were upper classmen. The Mission's scholarship is renewable up to four years as

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“I feel that the call on my life is to bring healing and encouragement to the poor and marginalized along the coast of Maine. I am indebted and extremely grateful to the Mission.”

EVAN DODGE, UNIVERSITY OF MAINE MACHIAS GRADUATE 2009



Lee Judd, Mission Board President, congratulates Harry Seavy, recipient of a Mission scholarship. MOLLY BRYAN

Mission Scholar Facts

- 29 freshman from 10 area high schools received scholarships. 14 were from Hancock County and 15 were from Washington County. 17 are attending colleges in the State of Maine.
- 65 scholarship recipients were renewal applicants receiving scholarships for their sophomore, junior and senior years of college.
- 49 of these students are attending colleges in the State of Maine and most students are attending a school in New England.
- 17 will graduate in 2010. The Mission supported each of these students with scholarships for the full four years.

long as the student is in good standing with their college. For the third year, the Mission awarded a \$2,000 Mission EdGE Scholarship to a student that completed the EdGE program. The 2009 Mission EdGE Scholar was Harry Seavey from Narraguagus High School. Allison Ouellet, EdGE Assistant Program Director, observed: "From the time I have spent with Harry I

know that he is a hard worker who completes what he sets out to do. I have been impressed with his leadership, his maturity, and the pride he takes in all that he does."

The Mission Scholars picnic was held on July 19, 2009. Over 70 students and parents attended. Several upper classmen shared key advice about what worked for them in college.

Gabriel Wonski, UMO student, discussed the challenges and opportunities that he has encountered in college with Jill Goldthwait, Mission Board member. MOLLY BRYAN

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Food Pantry. BILL KUYKENDALL

Meeting Immediate Needs

Downeast Campus Programs

The Mission received the 2009 Goodwill Spirit Award from Goodwill Industries of Northern New England. This award is given annually to an organization that exemplifies the philosophy of Edgar Helms, their founder, which was to give a hand up instead of a hand out.

In 2009, requests for help with immediate needs increased each month as the economy in Downeast Maine worsened. Downeast men and women are hard-working and resilient and they ask for help reluctantly. Yet, conditions left many with no other choice. Both lobstering and clam digging had difficult seasons with record low lobster prices and with the red tide closing clam flats. Also, area businesses laid off workers or, in some cases, closed completely. In addition, unemployment benefits began to run out for some people. All of these factors led to an increase in the number of people asking for assistance. In 2009, requests for emergency heating assistance doubled and the need for food increased by 20 percent when compared to 2008. The need was great and the Mission was able to respond with the help of many people who shared their talent, treasure, and time.

Changes at the Downeast Campus in Cherryfield were implemented to increase the impact of the Mission's

programs. The Thrift Shop was closed and replaced by a new program, Clothes for ME. Through this program, the Mission provides vouchers for new clothing at local stores. It focuses on clothing for school or work, winter coats, and footwear. The Thrift Shop building was remodeled into the Downeast Campus Center and became home to a bigger and better food pantry, community space for the public, and office space for the program staff.

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Mission provided emergency financial assistance to people in need in Washington and Hancock Counties. The priority in 2009, as in the two previous years, was heating assistance. Fuel prices were high, many people were out of work, and federal fuel assistance funds didn't go as far as they had in 2008.

Requests for assistance in 2009 were nearly double those received in 2008. The Mission provided assistance to 399 low-income households in Washington and Hancock Counties. In addition, the Mission, working with the Mount Desert Island Campfire Coalition, provided heating assistance to 96 low income households on Mount Desert Island. Of these households, 381 received assistance with heating fuel, 94 with electricity, and 20 with other emergencies. Priority was



Downeast men and women are hard-working and resilient and they ask for help reluctantly. Yet, conditions left many with no other choice.

given to low-income families with children and elderly in the home.

The elderly are often the last to ask for help. We often hear, “Others need the help more than I do.” Elsie, an 82-year-old woman called one afternoon. She explained that she tried to get by, but really needed our help that day. Her husband was being released from the hospital and the temperature in the house was below 60 degrees. She could put on a few more layers and live with that, but her husband could not because he was recovering from heart surgery. We were able to help with enough fuel to heat their home to a more comfortable temperature until her WHCA fuel assistance application was approved. She called when the fuel arrived and simply said, “Thank you. Thank you very much.”

CHERRYFIELD FOOD PANTRY

Serving Western Washington County

The Mission’s Food Pantry in Cherryfield serves people in ten western Washington County communities from Steuben to Columbia. The pantry is stocked with meat, fresh or canned vegetables and fruit, pasta, rice, beans, cereal, bread, and baked goods. A unique aspect of the Food Pantry is our organic garden that provides fresh produce every week during the growing season. In 2009, the pantry provided over 60,000 meals to 3,980 people in 1,465 households. This represented a 20 percent increase over 2008.

As a result of moving to a bigger space in the Downeast Campus Center, people are able to shop for their food. The room is set up like an old general store and people choose from the selection of food on the shelves. With this change, people are taking only what they need and will eat. The pantry comes alive with chatter when people start shopping. If you were to visit, you might hear one person sharing a recipe, another talking about their life, and perhaps another person getting information about other Mission programs. Dedicated staff and volunteers have created

a warm, welcoming, and cheerful environment in the pantry.

One family that lives in the area had never needed help putting food on the table. The father made a good living cutting and selling wood. This industry, like many others based on natural resources has seen a sharp decline in recent years. The demand for wood was down and his income was nearly gone. They were grateful that the Mission was there to help when they needed it most.

According to a study conducted in 2008 for Feeding America, the national food bank, families with children are twice as likely to experience hunger. The EdGE and the Food Pantry are working together to address the issue of hunger among the young. Children who receive free or reduced lunch at school are invited to participate. Research tells us that many of these children are not eating regular meals and go hungry when they are not in school. The Food Pantry fills a backpack with enough food to feed a child through the weekend. Every week, fifty children pick up their backpacks as they leave school on Friday.

Hunger is a growing issue in Washington County. The Downeast Campus Food Pantry, with the help of many volunteers and generous neighbors, is able to meet that need.

CLOTHES FOR ME

At the end of 2008, the Thrift Shop closed and the Mission began a new clothing assistance program for Washington County called Clothes for ME. This unique program allows people to buy what they need in a size that fits. Vouchers for new clothing, footwear and outerwear at Wal-Mart, Renys, and Marden’s are provided to low-income children and adults. In the first year of the program, 300 people throughout Washington County were able to purchase new clothes for work and school. Once people knew about the new program, Marilyn Nickson, Community Coordinator, was inundated with requests for help.



This home was transformed into a warm, energy efficient home through a community effort that partnered the Mission's Housing Repair Program and Washington Hancock Community Agency. SCOTT SHAW

Sally, a mother with four young children, heard about Clothes for ME and called Marilyn. Three of her children were going back to school and needed clothes, shoes, and underwear. They had outgrown everything over the summer. Children's shoes and new underwear were rarely available at the Thrift Shop. Using a voucher from the Mission, the children were able to buy what they needed for their first day of school.

Becky, a single mother, asked if we could help her buy clothes for her new job. She had just finished a training program to become a surveyor. The job required that she have a pair of work boots and sturdy jeans which she was unable to afford. Marilyn provided a voucher that helped her start her new job and move one step closer to her goal of becoming financially independent and able to support herself and her child.

HOUSING REPAIR PROGRAM

The Housing Repair Program has grown the last several years under the direction of Scott Shaw, Housing Repair Program Coordinator. Church mission groups from throughout the northeast come to Downeast Maine to repair and weatherize homes, making them more energy efficient. In addition, each fall local contractors and community members volunteer their time to winterize local homes, making them more comfortable and warm for the coming winter. The need is great. Much of the low-income housing in Washington County is old, in disrepair, and poorly insulated and the families living

in the homes frequently do not have the resources to make the necessary repairs or install insulation.

In 2009, 210 volunteers shared their time and talent to improve 57 homes and one church. They came from as far away as Michigan and Pennsylvania and as close as Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and even Cherryfield, Maine. Each mission group spent an average of five days working on homes. This year, 5,000 hours of labor were donated. Many of the volunteers were skilled carpenters, roofers, plumbers, and painters. In addition to time, each mission group raised funds to buy materials.

In 2009, the Mission received \$26,000 in donations and grants from church groups, individual donors, foundations, and federal stimulus funds. During the summer, church groups replaced 12 roofs, insulated three homes, and installed replacement windows, doors, and stairs. In addition, they winterized five trailers by providing insulated skirting. They also built a wheelchair ramp and a porch and applied a new coat of paint to six homes.

On November 14, 26 homes were weatherized during the Mission's annual Neighbor to Neighbor day. Local volunteers and homeowners helped 'button-up' homes for the winter by filling holes to prevent drafts and attaching plastic on windows and around the skirting on trailers. In addition, energy-saving light bulbs and 9-volt batteries for smoke detectors were distributed.

SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM

Senior Companions are low-income senior citizens who



Kelly Corson from the MDI and Ellsworth Housing Authorities wraps presents for the Christmas Program. SARAH CLEMENS

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provide support and friendship to other low-income elders. The program is administered by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. The Downeast Campus supports the work of six Senior Companions. Collectively, they work with 48 clients and visit each client weekly providing 7,500 hours of service each year. Their support helps elders live independently. Yet, if you ask a companion what their most important role is, they'll tell you that "It's being a friend and helping people feel less isolated and lonely."

The senior companions receive a small stipend for the valuable work they do. They provide rides to the doctor, the grocery store, and to the hairdresser. They share a laugh, cook a treat, and sit and just listen. The companion may be the only person a client can depend upon since many have more needs than the family can manage and others have no family at all. These caring and generous people are true heroes.

WEALD BETHEL CHAPEL AND FOREST

The Weald Bethel Chapel and surrounding forest

exemplify the definition of Weald Bethel – "God's place in the forest."

Throughout the year the chapel is the site for church services, a monthly quiet day of contemplative practice, the Narraguagus Nursery School, community gatherings, workshops and a weekly yoga class. In the summer, the chapel houses many visiting mission groups working with the Housing Repair Program.

The 60-acre Weald Bethel Forest surrounds the chapel, the EdGE Center, and Downeast Campus Center. The Forest borders the Narraguagus River and includes two miles of trails, a vernal pool, a challenge course, and a variety of wildlife and birds. The groomed trails are open to the public for hiking, snow shoeing, cross country skiing, and quiet reflection.

For the past two years, with grants from the Maine Forest Service Canopy and The Robbins-de Beaumont Foundation, recreational and educational aspects of the forest have been developed. In 2009, a section of the woods was reserved for educational purposes as a demonstration forest of best practices in woodlot management.

“We would like to thank you for helping make our foster daughter’s first Christmas wonderful. We appreciate all your efforts and time spent making children’s dreams come true.” GIFT RECIPIENT



The chapel, trails, and forest offer an environment that nurtures spiritual and personal growth. All are welcome to enjoy this tranquil setting.

Christmas Program

In 2009, the Maine Sea Coast Mission distributed a record number of new gifts that were donated to the Mission by many generous donors. 3,150 children and elderly received Christmas presents, nearly 300 more than last year. Each recipient received five to seven items wrapped in the traditional white butcher paper and tied with red string. This means that over 16,000 items were distributed during the 2009 Christmas season with over 90,000 items having been distributed since 2003.

For most people, the week following Christmas is a time to put away seasonal decorations, eat the treats that have accumulated, and enjoy the company of family and friends after the holiday rush. At the Maine Sea Coast Mission, however, we prepare for Christmas all year and the week following Christmas is a time to begin planning for the following year. The stockings remain hung and the lights continue to flicker long after spring has appeared. The necessity of this unyielding cycle is reaffirmed year after year by the thousands of individuals and families who seek our assistance.

People learn about the Christmas Program in a variety of different ways. First, we collaborate with area agencies, Head Start programs, nursing homes, correctional facilities, and local churches. Second, we assign community members to serve as liaisons, or “elves”. Third, people contact our offices directly. Combining these varied methods allows the Christmas Program to better identify individuals who will benefit from our services.

Each of the gifts selected for a recipient is based on the information received during the application process. Volunteers say that providing someone with the exact items they requested is a most rewarding experience. In turn, for the Maine Sea Coast Mission, it is a rewarding

experience to work with each of the 150 volunteers who annually donate their time.

Bread of Life Food Pantry

When winter sets in with its harsh grip, people who work on the seas find this season to be very difficult. The Bread of Life Food Pantry, based on Swan’s Island, is used year round, but the need grows significantly during the winter months. The Food Pantry serves clients on Swan’s Island, Frenchboro, and Matinicus.

Thomas, who clams, was very appreciative for the Food Pantry when it became impracticable for him to work because the clam flats were iced over. With a young wife and children to support, he turned to the Food Pantry when he needed to make a decision between buying fuel to heat his little home or buying food. He couldn’t do both, but because of the Food Pantry he was able to feed his family and buy fuel.

The Smithfield family was promised construction work during the winter months. They decided to stay on the island and rent a small cottage for the long winter months. After a few weeks of work, the father was laid off. However, they still had the cottage lease to honor for the winter and no money to buy food, pay the rent, and heat their small cottage. The Food Pantry provided food and made arrangements for some wood to heat their small dwelling. Mrs. Smithfield wrote, “Thank you so much for your help, and many, many thanks for responding so quickly to my call for help. You have made a big difference in many lives here and I just thought I’d write you a little note. Fair winds!”

The Bread of Life Food Pantry received funding from a pilot program of the Federal Government’s Emergency Food and Shelter National Board, which enabled the Pantry to purchase gift certificates. These gift certificates can be used at the local food store for food items, diapers, and other items not usually available to clients at the Food Pantry.

Financial Statements 2009

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.

Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS

Current Assets	27,980,000
Long-term Assets	2,658,000
TOTAL ASSETS	30,638,000

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	256,000
Long-term Liabilities	14,000
Net Assets	30,368,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS	30,638,000

Statement of Activities

OPERATING REVENUE, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT

Contributions, Events and Grants	1,363,000
Program Revenues	26,000
Dividend and Interest Income (Net)	7,000
Endowment Draw	1,412,000
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT	2,808,000

OPERATING EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES

Island Outreach	730,000
Youth Development	939,000
Meeting Immediate Needs	784,000
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICE EXPENSE	2,453,000

SUPPORT SERVICES

Fundraising and Public Relations	207,000
Management and General	255,000
TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICE EXPENSE	462,000

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	2,915,000
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CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS	(107,000)
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Restricted Operating Funds – Previously Raised	262,000
Unrestricted Investment Gains and Losses (Net of Draw)	136,000

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS – OTHER	398,000
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CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	291,000
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NON-OPERATING INCOME, GAINS AND LOSSES

Restricted Contributions	217,000
Restricted Grants	179,000
Restricted Investment Income	4,000
Restricted Operating Funds – Previously Raised	(262,000)
Restricted Investment Gains and Losses	993,000

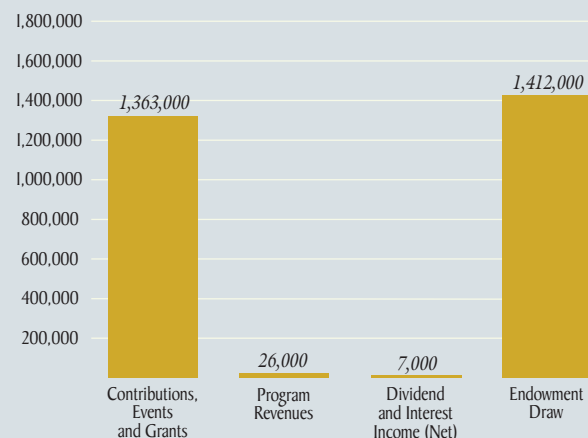
CHANGE IN RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	1,131,000
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INCREASE (DECREASE) IN TOTAL NET ASSETS	1,422,000
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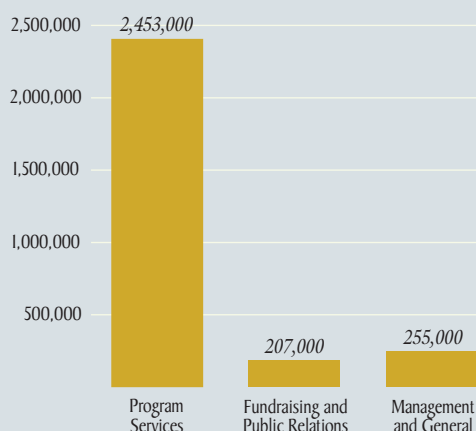
NET ASSETS – BEGINNING OF YEAR	28,946,000
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NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR	30,368,000
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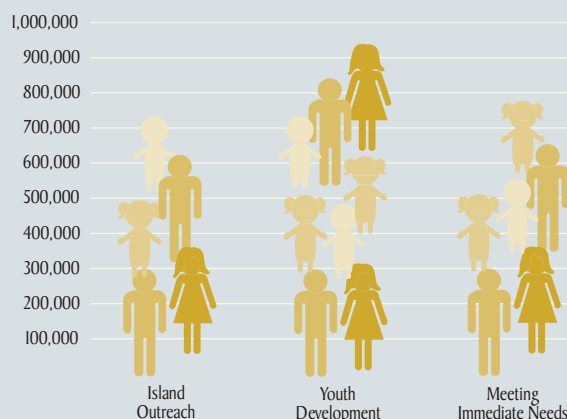
Operating Revenue



Operating Expenses



Total Program Expenses



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

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Enjoying a summer day on Swan's Island. BILL KUYKENDALL



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DESIGN Z Studio

PRINT Snowman Printing & Presort Express



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Mya Merritt and Chad Crowley making felted soap at Black Woods Farm during Wildfiber: Fiber Arts Camp. BILL KUYKENDALL

