

The Maine Sea Coast Mission

ANNUAL REPORT | 2010

*“For more than
105 years, the
Maine Sea Coast
Mission has been
known in island
and coastal
communities for
the excellence of
its programs.”*

REV. SCOTT PLANTING,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
MAINE SEA COAST MISSION



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.



The Sunbeam V at low tide, Matinicus. GREG SPRING

“The Sunbeam V is a place to take a break from work, see some friendly faces, and feel safe no matter what you’re going through.”

EVA MURRAY, MATINICUS RESIDENT



Dear Friends,

After eleven transformative years as the executive director of the Maine Sea Coast Mission, Gary DeLong retired in October, 2010. Under his leadership, the Mission extended its century-old tradition of caring into new areas of service in youth development and island health care.

In the Fall of 2010, the Rev. Scott Planting, a parish pastor who served a cooperative parish in Western Maine, assumed the position of Executive Director. Scott brings to the job an understanding of rural places, a background of program development, and experience building community partnerships.

The new executive director's immediate work was to set out traveling by *Sunbeam V*, ferry, and automobile the length and breadth of the region served by the Maine Sea Coast Mission. Two words 'dependable' and 'excellence' describe his experience of the first months on the job at the Maine Sea Coast Mission.

Dependable describes the Island Health Program when at 5:00 a.m., a dozen lobstermen on Matinicus Island board the *Sunbeam V* for flu shots given by Mission nurse, Sharon Daley.

Excellence defines the EdGE afterschool program when at 2:30 p.m. on a cold afternoon, 50 children pile into the gym at Harrington Elementary School. The EdGE site coordinator, Everett Carroll, leads the children in an energizer and encourages them to sign up for the afternoon's activities: baking apple cobbler, homework help, and capture the flag. The kids love being here.

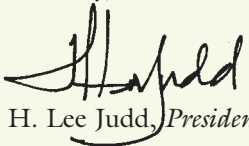
In a world in which programs come and go, the Mission is revered because it is dependable. The *Sunbeam V* shows up. In communities which have experienced great loss, excellence describes the commitment of the Mission to deliver quality programs which meet needs and build upon local assets.

In his first months on the job, traveling from Monhegan Island to Jonesport in Washington County, Scott Planting has witnessed the many ways the Mission offers hope, encouragement, and help to strengthen individuals, families, and communities.

It is an honor for Scott to serve the Maine Sea Coast Mission. He is excited by the challenge to lead the organization; building upon its century-old legacy of trusted service to the people of the islands off the coast of Maine and Downeast coastal communities.

The board of directors and staff leadership are committed to continuing this legacy of excellence and dependability with a new leader at the helm.

Sincerely,


H. Lee Judd, *President*


Scott Planting, *Executive Director*



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Photo above: H. Lee Judd and Rev. Scott Planting. JEFF DOBBS





Sharon Daley, R.N., uses an otoscope to send an image to Dr. Scott Schiff-Slater, Hallowell Family Practice, for diagnosis. HERB SWANSON

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 health care for island residents off the coast of Maine. Sharon Daley, Director of Island Health Services, made regular visits on the *Sunbeam V* to Frenchboro, Isle au Haut, and Matinicus and also supported the provision of telemedicine on Swan's Island.

Through telemedicine on the *Sunbeam V*, Sharon provided primary and behavioral health care. She implemented annual health screenings for diabetes, cardiac problems, cholesterol, hypertension, high blood pressure, thyroid disease, and prostate cancer. In 2010, alcohol and drug counseling was provided by staff at Acadia Family Center.

Sharon worked directly with medical providers to enhance the use of telemedicine. This allowed Sharon to visit patients who were unable to come to

the *Sunbeam V* and provide them with chronic care management. She answered medication questions, provided foot care, administered vitamin B12 injections, and gave flu shots on Frenchboro, Isles au Haut, Matinicus, and Monhegan. Sharon also worked with WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) to sign up clients at the Swan's Island Food Pantry. She advocated for patients in the medical system by finding needed resources. Last year, the *Sunbeam V* transported: dentists to Frenchboro, an audiologist to the Cranberry Islands for free hearing screening, and medical providers to the islands for direct care.

Sharon served as school nurse for the islands of Matinicus and Frenchboro. She provided health education, vision and hearing screenings, maintained immunization and health records, and was a resource to the teachers.

The Mission is working with islands to establish land-based telemedicine units, which will increase

“Try to imagine yourself living at a place where going to an appointment with a doctor takes a whole day.”

ALBERT GORDON, ISLE AU HAUT

the availability of health service. Late in the year, the *Sunbeam V* journeyed to Monhegan to support the community's interest in a land-based telemedicine unit.

In November, representatives from 12 island communities, with year round populations and no bridge access to the mainland, gathered to discuss the issues facing the aging populations on the islands. They also discussed what different island communities are doing to meet the needs of their elderly residents, what resources are available, and how to identify the next steps that could be taken to address these issues. The participants are continuing to work together to help respond to the needs of the elderly.

Albert Gordon, a resident of Isle au Haut, observed: “Try to imagine yourself living at a place where going to an appointment with a doctor takes a whole day. That's the way it is for people living on Isle au Haut. Islanders are very grateful that Sharon and the crew of the *Sunbeam V* come to Isle au Haut on a regular two week schedule throughout the year to provide friendship, medical care, and a shared commitment to the survival of our island community. Sharon's competence, compassion, and warmth make all islanders, even those who might be reluctant to seek medical help, feel comfortable when they go to the *Sunbeam V*'s cabin to consult with Sharon or have an appointment with a mainland physician by telemedicine.

The *Sunbeam V* crew is easy to talk to about the joys and difficulties of living in an isolated location and a fragile community. They reach out to islanders who aren't able to come down to the wharf and they make home visits. When the harbor freezes, *Sunbeam V* powers its steel hull through the salt water ice and sets the boats free. When the loneliness of winter is at its deepest, we gather in the warmth of the *Sunbeam V* to share laughs, delicious food, and games of dominoes. When we hear the *Sunbeam V*'s whistle as it comes past the lighthouse into Isle au Haut, our spirits lift.”

MINISTRIES TO ISLANDS

Outer Islands Minister

Many talk about building strong, sustainable communities. For over 100 years, the Mission has sought to build bridges between the islands and vital mainland resources, strengthen the spirit of island and coastal communities, and deepen the relationships with island residents. From time to time, the Mission gathers together residents from these communities to create a welcoming space to share the joys, struggles, and shared opportunities of life on the islands.

Rev. Rob Benson, Pastor to the Outer Islands, organized inter-island sports events, worship services, arts and literary programs, and provided resources for island students and teachers. The year began with the sixth annual retreat for island middle school students from eight islands, which was held at the University of Maine at Orono. Residents from Cliff Island in Casco Bay also attended. Activities included, a planetarium exhibit, a tour of the tidal energy wave engineering and aquaculture facilities, the ever-popular Maine Bound rock wall, and EdGE facilitated group games and challenges.

In the winter, Frenchboro students and parents traveled to Swan's Island on *Sunbeam V* for basketball games and clinics. Later in the spring, the Mission sponsored a day at Camp Beech Cliff for the Frenchboro School. It focused on positive peer relationships, mutual encouragement, and meeting tough challenges. The beautiful summer brought Frenchboro students to Isle au Haut for softball with each team winning a game.

A charity potluck was held on Frenchboro to raise money for Doctors Without Borders and the American Red Cross in the wake of the Haiti earthquake. In addition, the popular contra dances on Great Cranberry and Frenchboro featured the amazing Sheep Island Rovers. Ukrainian Easter egg

dyeing workshops on Matinicus and Isle au Haut were led by Cristy Benson. Vinalhaven students traveled to Matinicus for arts workshops. Volume 5 of The Island Reader was published this year. It was filled with poems, stories, photographs, and drawings from islanders and was edited by residents from four islands.

On three occasions, the *Sunbeam V* gathered congregations together for worship services: twice when Cranberry and Islesford came to Swan's Island (including Rev. Scott Planting's first island sermon in December, 2010) and once on Frenchboro when the Sheep Island Rovers led a musical worship.

This year, the Mission hosted its annual retreat for island teachers from five islands. In collaboration with the Maine Community Foundation and the Island Institute, the teachers joined together and formed The Learning Collaborative. This collaborative and its

companion project, The Critical Friends Group, which was founded at the *Sunbeam V*'s Teacher Retreat in 2008, provided professional development for the teachers. The *Sunbeam V* provided transportation for these inter-island learning opportunities and events.

As the Islesford Church continued its search for a pastor, the Mission was a vital partner ensuring the continuity of worship and pastoral services and assisting with strengthening the church community. During Membership Sunday, three new families joined the church.

From an atmosphere of open welcome, to ready resources offered in the context of relationships of depth and trust, the Mission is a daily presence in the lives of those who live on Maine's beautiful and delicate islands, working year-round to nurture the spirit and fabric of the communities.

Island students tour the University of Maine at Orono aquaculture lab during the annual middle school retreat. ROB BENSON



The Blessing of the Fleet on North Haven continued to grow as a community occasion and as an outreach to the fishing men and women of the island.



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

For almost twenty years, Dave Macy has served as Pastor of the North Haven Baptist Church and missionary at large to the island of North Haven. He sees his role as chaplain to all and pastor to some. Last year, he led a worship service, visited parishioners, responded to ambulance calls as chaplain or driver, played trumpet with the middle school band or orchestra, read to the preschool children, attended church meetings, led an informal community chorus, enjoyed tea with the ladies of the Unity Guild, and co-hosted a weekly coffee or monthly luncheon for seniors at Waterman's Community Center.

During the winter, the church held coffee hours with donuts, coffee, and fellowship. Usually donations from these events go to the general fund of the church. Last year, some of the proceeds went to Doctors without Borders in Haiti for earthquake relief. The church building was also the site for AA meetings. On Memorial Day weekend, a bake sale was held to raise money to send a camper to Pilgrim Lodge in the summer. For the third year, the Blessing of the Fleet was held on the Fourth of July weekend and continued to grow as a community occasion and as an outreach to the fishing men and women of the island.

At communion Sunday and at the Christmas Eve service, a special offering was taken for the Deacon's Discretionary Fund. The money was used to help residents on North Haven pay for oil, electricity, sewer, water, and ferry tickets for medical appointments on the mainland.

The following story shows how the Baptist Church helped the North Haven community:

Adam, a widower, has a dog that provides around the clock company and unconditional love. His dog began to have medical problems and a visit to a vet off the island would be very difficult because Adam does not drive. Fortunately, a vet conducts a clinic on North Haven once a month. Last year, the vet needed a new place to work. The North Haven Baptist Church offered their fellowship room for the vet to use and take care of pets like Adam's.

Second Baptist Church of Islesboro

Pastor David Runnion-Bareford at the Second Baptist Church served as missionary at large to the island. He was able to move freely about the island to engage in peacemaking, intervention, counseling, community organizing, and soul care.

In 2010, this role involved late nights intervening in crisis situations, substituting and mentoring students in the school, visiting numerous households where folks were sick or isolated, and serving on community boards. David and his wife, Lauren, had the opportunity to have one of the teenagers on the island, who was experiencing a difficult period, live in their home until an appropriate situation was found.

The year began with the new Community Center opening in March 2010. The center elected new leadership that brought unity and effectiveness. The Island Community Fund continued to serve those in need. Second Baptist provided a free Mission lunch with music by Charlie Pendleton's band on Thursdays for elderly, islanders who are isolated, or anyone that wanted to share a time of fellowship. In addition to the 50-70 attendees, hot meals were delivered to 25 shut-ins. During the year, the church's Food Pantry provided food for over 40 families.

In the spring, a Memorial Day celebration for about 200 teens, children, veteran's family members, and



Islesboro children enjoying Spirit Alive at Second Baptist Church. LAUREN RUNNION-BAREFORD

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current military personnel was held. For graduation, a confirmation baccalaureate for graduating seniors and their families was held. In the summer, the outdoor sunset services at Grindle Point were re-instituted. In addition, the island's AA group began holding island meetings in the church and community center.

In June the church held First Rock Sunday. Beginning in May, David put a small pile of rocks on the front porch of the church and added new rocks every few days. After a week or two the church placed an article in the newspaper and displayed posters around the island, which explained First Rock Sunday and the story of Jesus and the woman caught in immorality. In this story, Jesus challenged those gathered to condemn her, saying, "Whoever is without sin, cast the first stone." We invited the whole island to lay down their rocks; or in other words, to give up their grudges, old hurts, and condemnations of one another and to symbolize that by placing their rock on the porch of the church. For the next three weeks, new rocks began appearing daily, often under the cover of darkness, and the whole island talked about First Rock Sunday.

Last autumn the seasonal Episcopal chapel, Christ Church, which is the only other active church on

Islesboro, needed a place to worship. Second Baptist Church modified their service to be more inclusive and Christ Church has been a wonderful and faithful part of what has become the island's Church.

In November the church began Spirit Alive for elementary age children. The goal was spiritual formation for children who had little or no previous exposure to faith. By the end of the year, 80% of the island children in this age group attended and filled the building with song, laughter, sharing, and a Spirit Alive.

Much has been accomplished by the Second Baptist Church on Islesboro in 2010. With the support of the islanders, the future appears bright with all the activities that have been taking place.

Swan's Island Baptist Church

The partnership between the Maine Sea Coast Mission and the Swan's Island Baptist Church celebrated nearly seventy years working together on common projects to better the lives of the islanders. Rev. Neal Bousfield, Maine Sea Coast Mission Superintendent in 1941 said, "It is my desire that the pastor will have freedom to carry on the work of the church and the community."

Rev. Ken Dutille, Pastor of Swan's Island Baptist Church, and his congregation believe that the work of the church goes beyond the four walls of the church building. After the Swan's Island library burned in 2008, Ken was elected as President of the Swan's Island Educational Society, which raised money for the new building. On August 20, U.S. Senator Susan Collins, dignities, and about 200 people attended the library's ground breaking celebration.

During the year, the church raised funds for the Church World Service Relief Fund, a mission project in Papua New Guinea, the Emmaus Homeless Shelter in Ellsworth, 125 hygiene kits for Haiti, and bibles for Gideon's International. The church's benevolent fund provided clothes for families, emergency ferry tickets for traveling to medical appointments, fuel assistance, funds for medical expenses, and 40 boxes of food during the holidays. Every third Sunday, the Advent Christian Church and the Baptist Church

held a community pot luck dinner which provided fellowship for the community.

The Baptist Ladies' Aid Society raised funds for the Children's Home for Little Wanderers in Waterville, the Bangor Daily News' Santa Fund, heating fuel for the church, a homeless shelter in New York, and Boys Town in Nebraska.

In the summer, the Baptist Church held three dinners: a barbeque, lasagna, and seafood festival to raise funds for the church. In August, volunteers from the Three Spring Ministry in Pennsylvania purchased materials and replaced the roof and entrance deck on the church's annex. The group also cooked an Amish dinner to benefit the church's annual fund.

In December at the Inter-island church service, Scott Planting, Mission Executive Director, was welcomed. The *Sunbeam V* brought islanders from Great Cranberry, Islesford, and Frenchboro. They joined

Rev. Ken Dutille and Senator Susan Collins at the Swan's Island library ground breaking ceremony. DICK BROOM, MOUNT DESERT ISLANDER



“The children call the daycare center in the parsonage ‘my other house’ and I enjoy greeting four-year-olds on Monday mornings.”

REV. JOAN SMITH
UNION CHURCH OF VINALHAVEN
INTERIM MINISTER



people from the two churches on Swan’s Island, the Advent Christian and Baptist Churches, for this interfaith service followed by a dinner provided by the ladies of the Baptist and Advent Churches.

With the theme of “Two Churches: Loving God and Loving Community”, the Advent Christian and Baptist Church worshiped together during the winter months. Pastor Dutille provided pastoral leadership during these months to both churches.

During the holidays the church hosted: neighborhood Christmas caroling; a community Christmas gathering with the Swan’s Island Unity Choir, which featured djembe drummers, piano duets by children, a trumpeter, and a trombonist; and a community Christmas Eve and candle-lighting service, which included six trees decorated with white lights. In addition, the church held three community religious services: Good Friday, Easter Sunrise, and the July 4th Hymn Sing.

Union Church of Vinalhaven

The people of the Union Church have seen many changes in this third and final year of Rev. Joan Smith’s Interim Ministry.

The number of community members using the church’s bright and spacious fellowship room has grown. The Community Lunchbox, in its third winter, served a weekly home cooked meal to about 45 people who often stayed for jigsaw puzzles and

fellowship. Numerous benefits were held to raise money for medical bills, a teenager going to Ghana to volunteer in an orphanage, the fuel fund, and Meals on Wheels.

In the summer, the church celebrated its 150th birthday. In August, Tremendous Hearts, from South Africa, performed a benefit concert to raise money for an orphanage in South Africa. In December, the Union Church held its 17th AIDS memorial service. Soon after, Candi Barton, choir director, organized the first community Christmas sing. The New Year began with a fundraiser to replace the church’s commercial stove. The funds were raised in three short weeks! The new stove was due to be installed the second week of March 2011, along with new pots and pans for the many cooks who use the kitchen.

The church took a bold step this year and rented the first floor of the parsonage to the local daycare center. This provided working parents with a safe place for their children and a little rent for the church. The children call the center “my other house” and Rev. Smith enjoyed greeting the four-year-olds on Monday mornings!

The monthly Food Pantry and annual Christmas Jingle Bells fund, which provides warm clothes to children, ran more smoothly and received generous contributions this year. The Union Church of Vinalhaven is truly blessed with energetic volunteers, frequent good ideas, and a faith-filled congregation.



Milbridge EdGE students learn to make Christmas wreaths. CHARLIE HARRINGTON

Youth Development

EdGE – After School and Summer Programs for Youth

EdGE began its 8th year of operation in 2010. Many things have changed since EdGE first began in 2002. The number of communities served has increased from two communities to seventeen communities. The number of schools served has increased from two schools to eight schools. The number of children served has increased from 89 to almost 500.

In order to meet the needs of this growth, the number of staff increased from five to 55, which includes many part-time staff, most of which are employed in local schools. Approximately 90% of the EdGE staff was employed during the school day as teachers or education technicians. They have become great partners in our efforts to provide a quality after school experience and have helped make the expansion of the program possible.

In 2010, EdGE expanded its four-day-per-week program to include Mountain View and Harrington Elementary Schools. This expanded program began at Milbridge Elementary School in 2007. EdGE now operates at all three sites Monday through Thursday for two hours each afternoon. Having the students for four days has increased after school attendance, consistent individual student attendance, involvement of the teaching staff, participation in family events, participation in summer camps, and decreased discipline problems.

In addition, three schools: Mountain View Elementary School, Cherryfield Elementary School, and Peninsula Elementary School, expanded to include 3rd grade students. This enabled these schools to create two separate groups, grades 3-5 and grades 6-8, to participate in activities and has resulted in increased attendance at both grade levels.

EdGE has always strived to create a safe environment with enrichment opportunities for growth. A main goal of EdGE is to help build a child's resiliency. Resilient individuals have the tools necessary to bounce back and recover from hardship. By creating avenues for children to be successful and attempting new and different experiences, EdGE is helping to foster resilience. A study reported by the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (Bernard, 1991) entitled, *Fostering Resiliency in Kids: Proactive Factors in the Family, School, and Community*, found that individuals who have succeeded despite adverse environmental conditions have "often done so, because of the presence of environmental support in the form of one teacher, one school, or one community person that encouraged their successes and welcomed their participation."

As reported by Linda Huber, Consultant for Maine's 21st Century Grant Program, EdGE has achieved significant measurable results with children involved in EdGE. Results in particular areas are noted below. This data was compiled from teacher surveys

completed by teachers in all EdGE schools in grades 4-8. These surveys were for the 2009-2010 school year. Teachers compared student behavior from the beginning of the year until the end of the year.

In June, EdGE and Narraguagus High School joined forces to create a hands-on, two week long, intensive course for students that needed to recover a course credit in either Science or English in order to graduate. During the course, EdGE team members led students on kayaking expeditions to local lakes and rivers and to the ocean. Narraguagus High School instructors, Helen Sprague and Brittany Ray, taught hands-on lessons where students collected data from their field expeditions. Students kept journals, tracked water temperature, and identified native and invasive species of flora and fauna. They presented a media report and scientific findings at the end of the two week course. 93% of the students successfully completed the course and graduated on time. One student said, "Thank you for making it possible for me to be able to gain another credit so that I could graduate with my classmates." Helen Sprague,

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2009-2010 EdGE Facts



Harrington EdGE students engage in the holiday tradition of making gingerbread houses.

EVERETT CARROLL

- 67% of regular EdGE participants showed improvement in turning in homework on time
- 66% of regular EdGE participants showed improvement in completing homework to a teacher's satisfaction
- 69% of regular EdGE participants showed improvement in class participation
- 37% of regular EdGE participants showed improvement in volunteering
- 56% of regular EdGE participants showed improvement in class attentiveness
- 69% of regular EdGE participants showed improvement in academic performance
- 48% of regular EdGE participants showed improvement in coming to school motivated to learn
- 54% of regular EdGE participants showed improvement in getting along well with other students



Brittany Clark, EdGE student, makes a fashion statement. MIA WHITE

a science instructor at Narraguagus High School observed, “The traditional classroom works for many, but not all students. The students it doesn’t work for are often overlooked and underachieve because of this. This was an amazing opportunity and experience to see those students blossom in the experiential classroom. It was invaluable for me to be reminded of the diversity of students in their learning needs.”

EdGE has had a positive impact not only on academic learning and physical fitness, but on social learning and development as well. Justin, a fourth grade student, had a traumatic beginning to his life. His father abandoned his mother after learning she was pregnant. His mother did not discover her pregnancy until she was about two months pregnant and she abused both drugs and alcohol during that time period. When he was quite young, his mother died in

a tragic automobile accident. Justin was later placed with a foster family and entered school where he exhibited significant behavior problems both at home and in school. He was unable to function in the regular classroom. He was later moved to a different school where had difficulty getting along with his peers. At the beginning of fourth grade, he joined EdGE. This gave him the opportunity to spend time with his peer group that he otherwise would not have had. Justin was gradually able to spend more time in the regular classroom at school. In 2010, although he was retained in 4th grade, he attended EdGE and all of his classes in the regular classroom and was very proud to make the honor roll for the first time. His adoptive father believes that EdGE provided him with academic and social learning opportunities which contributed to his progress.

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“EdGE students make a connection with the staff. They have a safe, fun, inviting place to be after school, and feel part of something.”

CATHY STROUT, Lead Teacher at Cherryfield Elementary School

Cathy Strout, Lead Teacher at Cherryfield Elementary School stated, "I have been working for EdGE for eight years now. I started as a volunteer when my two children participated in the program. I am currently the Lead Teacher at Cherryfield Elementary School and run the 6-8th grade program. EdGE students make a connection with the staff. They have a safe, fun, inviting place to be after school, and feel part of something. In rural Maine, with limited social activities and financial resources for our children, EdGE provides programming that is engaging, physical, and creative. As a classroom teacher, I see first hand how the students who are enrolled in the program have higher self esteem, take chances, work in teams, and have a better outlook on school and their studies. We are fortunate to have this type of program in our community."

EdGE and staff continue to make a difference in the lives of students and families in Washington and Hancock Counties during a time of great financial hardship for many people throughout the service area. With state and federal budget cuts looming on the horizon, many after school programs will make drastic cuts or cease to exist entirely. The dependability of EdGE is needed, now more than ever, during this time of economic uncertainty.

Scholarships for Downeast Students

In 2010, the Maine Sea Coast Mission awarded \$107,000 in scholarships to youth in Downeast Maine. The scholarship committee, led by Nancy Ho, Chair, and supported by Terri Rodick, Scholarship Coordinator, reviewed over 158 applications and selected 105 recipients. Each scholarship is \$1,000 with the exception of one \$2,000 scholarship given each year to an EdGE student who has successfully completed the EdGE Program. The Mission scholarships are renewable for up to four years as long as the student is in good standing with their college.

The fourth annual scholarship picnic was held in July. Gary DeLong, Maine Sea Coast Mission Executive Director, spoke about what the Mission's scholarship, which he received in 1962 from Jonesport-Beals High School, meant to him. During this event, upper class students shared with in-coming freshmen the study strategies that worked for them and how they manage their time. The picnic was attended by 65 students and their parents. Scholarship awards were presented after dinner by Mission board members who had the opportunity to visit with the Mission Scholars and their parents. They are grateful for the assistance that they receive from the Maine Sea Coast Mission.

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Jonesport and Beals EdGE students visit the Ed Greaves Educational Center for a delightful winter's day. CHARLIE HARRINGTON





Natasha Nuttall, a Bucksport High School graduate, receives a scholarship from Dennis Damon, a Maine Sea Coast Mission board member, at the Mission's scholarship picnic. DOMINIQUE HESSERT

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One recipient said, "I am so grateful for good people like you who work hard to make a difference in the lives of students through your support and encouragement of our academic endeavors. Knowing that you support and take an interest in my education is a constant encouragement and I am enduringly

thankful to you all." A second recipient said, "Thank you so much for the support you have given me. While the financial support is valuable, I am also grateful for the efforts the Maine Sea Coast Mission has made over the years to strengthen and reach out to local communities."

Mission Scholar Facts

- 84 of the 105 students are attending a college/university in the State of Maine.
- 17 students renewed their scholarship for the fourth year.
- 21 students renewed their scholarship for the third year.
- 22 students renewed their scholarship for the second year.
- We welcomed 45 freshmen to our scholarship program.
- 44 students are from Hancock County.
- 52 students are from Washington County.
- 9 students are from the outer islands.



Mission staff and volunteers march in the Cherryfield parade to raise awareness of the Food Pantry. They won the Judge's Choice Award. SCOTT SHAW

Meeting Immediate Needs

DOWNEAST CAMPUS PROGRAMS

In 2010, requests for food and emergency assistance increased. A large number of requests were received from people who had never asked for help. In addition, people who were familiar with the Mission's programs used the programs more frequently. These issues are multi faceted and need a community wide, coordinated effort to address them. The Mission worked to increase the impact of its service programs and strengthened its collaborative relationships with other social service organizations and community action groups.

home needed to stay in a motel until they found a place to live.

In 2010 the unemployment rate hovered near 13% in Downeast Maine. The winter was cold and long. Heating oil and food costs were high. Because of these factors, the number of requests for emergency assistance increased. In order to meet the demand, the Mission worked closely with Mount Desert Island Campfire Coalition; Washington Hancock Community Agency, a local community action program that distributes federal fuel assistance; local heating oil companies who were willing to deliver only 50 gallons to a customer despite the high cost of delivering the fuel; and the Washington County Food and Fuel Alliance, a county wide collaborative group working to help community members feed themselves and heat their homes.

In December Marilyn received a call from a young couple in Cherryfield. Their one-month-old son was diagnosed with congenital glaucoma. His father was born with the condition and is nearly blind. Emergency surgery was necessary to limit the damage and save the

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Emergency Financial Assistance

The Mission provided financial assistance to 475 households. Marilyn Nickson, Community Coordinator, received requests for assistance for a variety of immediate needs: a mother with a three-year-old ran out of heating oil during the night, a family that needed to rush their newborn infant to Boston for surgery didn't have enough money for gasoline or lodging, and a family who lost their



Food is ready to be placed into the backpacks for children to eat during the weekend. WENDY HARRINGTON

child's sight. An appointment at Massachusetts Eye and Ear was scheduled that week. Family and friends were able to provide \$100 to help with the trip, but that wasn't enough to pay for gas, food, and lodging. The Mission provided funds for gas and food and the hospital provided funds for lodging. Marilyn delivered Christmas gifts from the Mission after they returned from Boston. They proudly showed off their baby who was doing well because of the early intervention.

Cherryfield Food Pantry

Serving Western Washington County

In 2010, the Food Pantry served over 4,000 people, which is an average of 340 people in 120 households every month.

Hunger is a major problem in Washington County. It has the highest statewide percentage of people who are hungry on a regular basis: 20% or 1 in 5

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Jennifer's Story

Jennifer and Bob have three boys and live in Washington County. They believe that Washington County is a great place to raise a family. However, they are like many families in Washington County and have to decide whether to pay bills, buy food, or purchase medication because they don't have enough money for all three.

Jennifer and Bob went to the Maine Sea Coast Mission for help. The Mission paid their electric bill, provided food for their family through the Food Pantry and Backpack Program, and surprised their children with Christmas presents. Jennifer wishes that everyone could have seen their boy's excitement on Christmas morning! The Mission also arranged with a local action program for a new refrigerator and with an oil company to deliver oil to heat her home while she waited for state assistance.

Shortly after Christmas, their family was able to pay their bills and no longer needed the Mission's help. They are thankful that the Mission was there to help them when they needed it the most.



Housing Repair volunteers from Lyme Congregational Church in New Hampshire paint and repair the Seaside Chapel in Jonesport. SCOTT SHAW

people. Hunger includes both lack of food and lack of healthy and nutritious food. Washington County also has a very high percentage of people who suffer from diabetes and heart disease. Both conditions are worsened by a poor diet.

Use of the Food Pantry has increased 10% since 2009 and 30% since 2008 and the cost of filling the pantry shelves has doubled. Meeting this community need is possible thanks to the generosity of our faithful donors, churches in the Cherryfield area, and fourteen dedicated volunteers who work in the Food Pantry under the leadership of Gena Norgaard.

The Food Pantry provides healthy food and education on how to prepare nutritious meals on a low income. During the summer, fresh produce grown in the Food Pantry's organic garden or donated by local farmers is distributed. Recipes are prepared and samples are available to Food Pantry clients. The dishes use ingredients available in the pantry and a recipe for the dish is available for the clients to take home.

Statistics show that children who receive free or reduced breakfast and lunch at school are more likely to experience hunger over the weekend. Each Friday during the school year, a back pack filled with food for the weekend is provided to 76 children in kindergarten through twelfth grade from schools

served by the EdGE Program. The Back Pack Program is an innovative program to help our most vulnerable community members.

The 7th Annual Haunted Trails event took place on October 22. Donations from the event supported the Cherryfield Food Pantry. Over 60 adults and children volunteered for this fundraising event. Over 350 people listened to a tale by the fire, walked along the spooky trail, and warmed up in the Chapel where they visited with friends and enjoyed refreshments.

Forty-two seniors received government commodities through the Senior Food Bank, a program of Eastern Area Agency on Aging that is implemented by the Maine Sea Coast Mission.

Housing Repair Program

The Housing Repair Program, with Scott Shaw, Housing Repair Program Coordinator, hosted 280 volunteers from fourteen churches who completed work on 35 homes, one church, two chapels, and two area schools. They replaced or repaired ten roofs, windows and doors in seven homes, siding on two homes, and painted the interior or exterior of fifteen homes. Generous donations from church groups were matched by Federal stimulus funds from Washington

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Hancock Community Agency (WHCA). The funds were used to buy materials for home repairs and weatherization. Volunteers were housed at the Weald Bethel Chapel, the EdGE Center, the local elementary school, and the Cherryfield Congregational Church.

Homes in Downeast Maine are in very poor condition. Many of the homes need more repairs than the Mission volunteer groups can complete. Scott works with the winterization program at WHCA and the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development grant program to help clients access additional resources.

An elderly couple, living on social security, was unable to make necessary repairs to their home. By last summer, their well had collapsed and their home needed a new roof, insulation, and other repairs due to the leaking roof. The Housing Repair volunteer teams were able to replace the roof so that WHCA could insulate the home. In addition, the volunteers were able to replace windows, an outside door, a damaged floor, and rotting stairs. They also painted the inside and outside of the home and built an overhang to protect the stairs from further damage. USDA Rural Development provided a no cost grant for a new well. They are now able to live independently in a safe and warm home.

Scott Shaw, Housing Repair Program Coordinator, served as the county coordinator for the state's Keep ME Warm initiative. This year, the focus was on

providing energy saving materials such as interior storm windows, rope caulking, pipe insulation, and door sweeps. The state provided the materials and 30 community volunteers installed them in 13 homes of low income families and elderly.

Clothes for ME

Clothes for ME helped children and adults throughout Washington County purchase new clothes, footwear, and outerwear for school and work. Vouchers to Walmart, Renys, and Marden's were distributed to 377 people. Goodwill Industries provided additional resources by donating vouchers to their Ellsworth store.

A local guidance counselor called the Mission asking for help for two high school girls who didn't have warm clothing for the winter. Their parents work seasonal jobs and this year did not make enough money to buy clothing for the girls. Clothes for ME provided vouchers for new boots, socks, and warm outerwear to keep them warm throughout the winter.

Senior Companions

Senior Companions are low income senior citizens who provide support and friendship to other elders. The program is administered by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Downeast

Derrick's Story

Seven years ago, Derrick, an EdGE student, lived in a home with no running water. Derrick's mother, Kathy, didn't have a job and they received food, emergency fuel assistance, and clothes from the Maine Sea Coast Mission. EdGE assigned Derrick an adult mentor throughout high school. The mentor met with Derrick every week and helped him with his educational, developmental, and social needs. Derrick is now a senior in high school, is on track to graduate, and has been accepted to a local community college.

Kathy found a job at a grocery store and was eventually given a raise. They were able to purchase a used trailer. With the help of the Mission's Housing Repair Program, a well and septic system were connected to the trailer.

The Maine Sea Coast Mission helped Kathy and Derrick when they needed it the most and today, they only need occasional assistance.



Housing Repair Program volunteers from the Second Congregational Church in West Boxford, MA enjoy the ropes course at Weald Bethel. SCOTT SHAW

Campus supports the work of six Senior Companions. Collectively, they work with 36 clients and visit each one weekly providing 7,500 hours of service each year. Their support helps elders live independently. Companions say that their most important role is being a friend and helping people feel less isolated and lonely.

The companions receive only 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, or 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.

visiting mission groups that work 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 rope 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 funding support from a Maine Forest Service Canopy Grant, recreational and educational aspects of the forest have been developed. Educational signage along the trails help people learn more about vernal pools, the history and ecology of the forest, and local plants and trees. Geocaches and letterboxes are hidden along the trails and registered on web based geocache and letterbox sites. A lean-to shelter is available as an outdoor classroom or an overnight camping facility and benches are available along the trails for rest and reflection. The lean-to and benches were constructed by volunteers from trees harvested in the Weald Bethel forest.

Downeast Senior Coffee House

Joan Elliot, a community member, had a dream of providing a gathering place for elders. An ecumenical group of local churches and the Maine Sea Coast

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WEALD BETHEL

Weald Bethel – Chapel, Forest and Trails

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

The Weald Bethel Chapel and surrounding forest exemplify the definition of Weald Bethel as 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

Mission developed a plan for the Downeast Senior Coffee House. Every Friday morning, over 20 elders gathered to enjoy each other's company, refreshments, and occasionally, live music or a presentation at the Downeast Campus building.

Downeast Table of Plenty

Bonnie Johnson, a member of Saint Andrew Lutheran Church in Ellsworth, identified a need in the community for food and fellowship. She worked with community members and the Maine Sea Coast Mission to create a program to meet this need. Since December, with the help of many community groups, the Downeast Table of Plenty has provided a free meal, music, and fellowship for 30-75 people each Sunday afternoon at the EdGE Center.

Christmas Program

In 2010, the Christmas Program, led by Julie Patton, Christmas Program Coordinator, provided more than 15,000 gifts to 2,850 individuals in Downeast Maine. While most of the program's success can be attributed to the overwhelming generosity of our donors, it is important to recognize the support of our partners and volunteers.

Since 2003, the Mission's Christmas Program has collaborated with the Community Christmas Giving Tree (CCGT). This group, comprised solely of volunteers, coordinates the distribution of goods to approximately 11 towns in the greater Machias area. CCGT has worked diligently to establish a database of their recipients and their specific needs. A list of those needs is annually submitted to the Mission's Christmas Program. In 2010, the Mission supplied one half of all the items necessary to fulfill CCGT's requests, or 2,000 individual items for 400 recipients.

Due to the success of this collaboration, the Mission's Christmas Program extended its support to other groups within our service area who work toward similar goals. The Blue Hill Congregational Church, the Sullivan Town Office, and the Lions Club of Calais partnered with the Mission. This gave Julie better access to information regarding people's needs and to the people themselves, which helped the Mission serve the recipients more effectively.

A family in Blue Hill was reluctant to seek assistance during the holiday. However, their neighbor, a woman associated with the Blue Hill Congregational Church, was able to convince them otherwise. The family has since proclaimed this Christmas, "The best Christmas ever!"

Executive Director Scott Planting, Christmas Program Coordinator Julie Patton, and volunteers examine gifts for Machias area residents. SARAH CLEMENS





The Bread of Life Food Pantry was established in 2004 on Swan's Island.

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Bread of Life Food Pantry

Serving Swan's Island, Frenchboro, Isle au Haut, and Matinicus

According to the Good Shepherd Food Bank, "Hunger in Maine has many faces: a child, a working adult, or a senior citizen. Several factors contribute to hunger in Maine including, income growth that is outpaced by the increasing cost of living and rising unemployment. Thirteen percent of Maine households experience food insecurity or are unable to consistently access adequate amounts of nutritious food necessary for a healthy life." Twenty percent of the households on Swan's Island experience food insecurity and receive food items from the Bread of Life Food Pantry.

The Bread of Life Food Pantry provides healthy food and is stocked with beans, cereal, fruit, meat, pasta, peanut butter, rice, soup, tuna fish, vegetables, and perishables including Maine cheese. The *Sunbeam V* delivers food from the Bread of Life Food Pantry to the islands of Frenchboro, Isles au Haut, and Matinicus.

One fall morning, the seas were violent. Bill, a man working on his lobster boat, lost his balance and his razor sharp knife caused a serious hand injury. This accident ended his seasonal employment. The Food Pantry provided his family of five with a warm meal each day.

Mike, an elderly man, lost his veterans benefits. He had no other means of support and couldn't meet his family's needs. The Food Pantry provided them with nutritious and balanced meals.

Another man who lost his job ended up living in a cabin on an island with no income. His food cupboard was nearly empty. The Food Pantry provided boxes of food to help him get through the long, cold winter months.

These stories, and many more like them, are the reasons why the Bread of Life Food Pantry is vitally important to Maine's islands.

Gary DeLong Retires as Executive Director

Gary DeLong, Executive Director of the Maine Sea Coast Mission since May 1, 1999, retired in the fall of 2010. The Maine Sea Coast Mission and the people it serves benefitted greatly from Gary's transformative leadership over the almost twelve years he led the organization into a new era of service to Maine's island and rural Downeast coastal communities.

By any measure, the Mission grew in Gary's twelve years at the helm of this 106-year-old organization. The annual budget grew from \$819,000 to \$3.1 million, over a four fold increase. This increase in budget was due to significant program expansion and investment in and strengthening of existing programs.

In his first couple of years on the job, Gary traveled extensively to the island and Downeast coastal communities. He wanted to know what the most pressing needs were and how the Mission could help. Working with the then Board Chair, Ed Greaves, a plan to develop an after school program for children in coastal Washington County was hatched. This program, which was named "EdGE" after Ed Greaves who died before his dream became a reality, now serves almost 500 children in 17 communities in coastal Washington County and eastern Hancock County.

Islanders told Gary that they needed better access to high quality health care. It was too expensive and took too much time to travel by ferry or private boat to health care facilities. As a result of these discussions, the Mission developed a unique program which had the latest in telemedicine equipment installed on the *Sunbeam V*. In a cabin aboard the *Sunbeam V* that became the medical office, hundreds of islanders now had access to primary care, specialty care, and behavioral care. A registered nurse from Islesboro was hired to oversee this program and to make house calls. This program has now evolved to the point that the Mission is placing telemedicine equipment on the islands so that islanders can have even better access.

In order to provide stable sources of funding for these initiatives and to expand other programs, the Mission



Gary DeLong. JEFF DOBBS

launched a \$12 million capital campaign in 2005. Its success ensured that these new programs would continue long after Gary's retirement.

Gary graduated first in his class of eight students at Beal's Island High School, a small island community in Downeast Maine. With the support of a Maine Sea Coast Mission scholarship, he went to college and later followed the footsteps of his father into ministry. He served a large church in Longmeadow, MA, for many years before returning to his roots in 1999 to lead the Maine Sea Coast Mission. Gary's life came full circle as he strengthened the Mission's ability to respond to the needs of small islands and coastal communities, which were similar to the one where he grew up. Gary was honored by the Mission with the Sunbeam Award in August 2010 for his exemplary leadership of the Maine Sea Coast Mission.

If you would like to honor Gary's service and leadership, please use the envelope in this annual report to make a gift in Gary's honor. A commemorative book will be provided to Gary with a listing of those who chose to honor his legacy with a donation to the Mission.

Financial Statements 2010

These results are subject to our annual independent audit. The information contained in these unaudited, condensed financial statements may be subject to audit adjustment. For a set of footnoted audited statements, please contact the Maine Sea Coast Mission Finance Department.

Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS

Current Assets	29,317,000
Long-term Assets	6,753,000
TOTAL ASSETS	36,070,000

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	127,000
Long-term Liabilities	14,000
Net Assets	35,929,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS	36,070,000

Statement of Activities

OPERATING REVENUE, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT

Contributions, Events and Grants	1,535,000
Program Revenues	24,000
Dividend and Interest Income (Net)	33,000
Endowment Draw	1,415,000

TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT 3,007,000

OPERATING EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES

Island Outreach	730,000
Youth Development	991,000
Meeting Immediate Needs	887,000

TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICE EXPENSE 2,608,000

SUPPORT SERVICES

Fundraising and Public Relations	204,000
Management and General	283,000

TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICE EXPENSE 487,000

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE 3,095,000

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS (88,000)

Restricted Operating Funds – Previously Raised	273,000
Unrestricted Investment Gains and Losses (Net of Draw)	429,000

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS – OTHER 702,000

CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS 614,000

NON-OPERATING INCOME, GAINS AND LOSSES

Restricted Contributions	19,000
Restricted Grants	486,000
Restricted Operating Funds – Previously Raised	(273,000)
Restricted Investment Gains and Losses	1,353,000

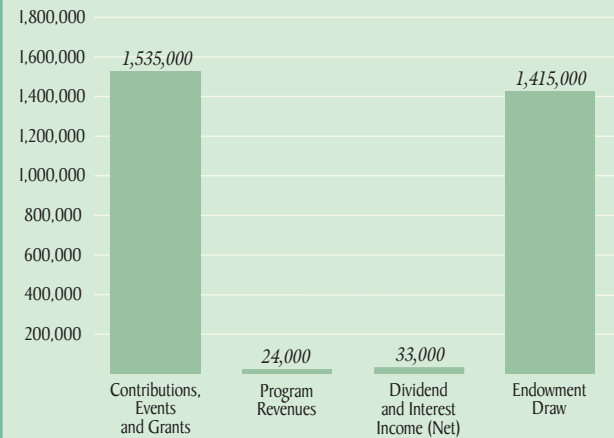
CHANGE IN RESTRICTED NET ASSETS 1,585,000

INCREASE (DECREASE) IN TOTAL NET ASSETS 2,199,000

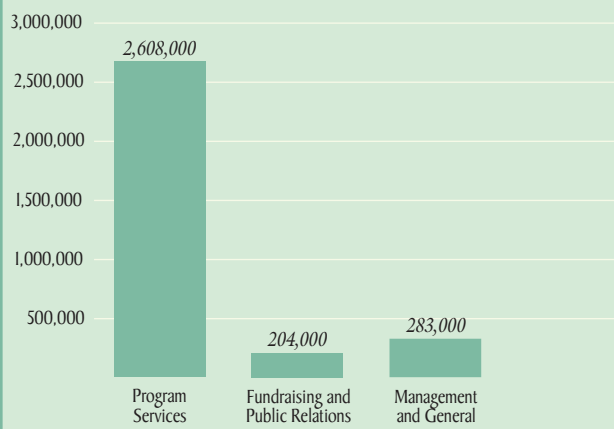
NET ASSETS – BEGINNING OF YEAR 33,730,000

NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR 35,929,000

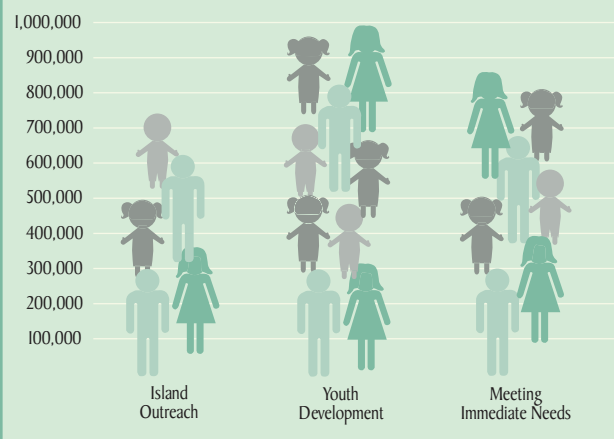
Operating Revenue



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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All Saints' Anglican Church from Amesbury, MA, and Byfield Community Church from Byfield, MA, volunteers repair a roof. SCOTT SHAW

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Sunset reflected on the water. GREG SPRING

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Lobster boat, Perseverance, at Isle au Haut. GREG SPRING

