

# Helping people in need through traditional and innovative programs.

The Maine Sea Coast Mission Report to the Community 2002





## Our Mission

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

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

Dear Friends,

The novelist John Fowles reminds us that the word island derives from the Latin "insula" which was even more literally insalo, "in-the-salt-sea." From this root we have derived not only island, but words such as peninsula, or words such as insulation and isolation.

People who live on islands or salt water peninsulas know that they can often be insulating and isolating, and that is not always bad. They can just as quickly be seen as "thin" places, a term used by ancient people for a place where whatever separates heaven and earth, the sacred from the secular, is almost non-existent.

For those of us privileged to work among the islands and peninsulas of this beloved coast, both realities make themselves known to us daily. To wake up early on the *Sunbeam* on an exquisite August morning anchored in a harbor or cove anywhere from Matinicus to Cutler is to experience all of what a "thin" place, a heaven on earth place, is meant to be. But the year 2002 at the Mission was also a year when we faced once again all of the ways in which our beloved islands and coastline are no longer insulated from many of the forces that plague our culture: unacceptable failure rates beginning in middle school, a breakdown in community, health indicators that are alarming all along the coast, drug abuse and violence in the lives of women, men and children.

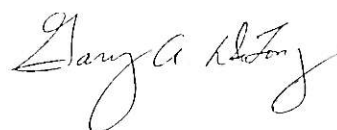
By all that we have done this past year the leadership of the Mission signaled a willingness to step up, to think boldly, and to place some big bets. Our message to those we serve and to those who generously support all that we do is simple: the stakes are high, lives are at risk, and we cannot wait for the economy to be just right. And this is not a time to be timid. It is, instead, a time to meet the challenges of change and to do so creatively and effectively. We have hired the best and brightest staff we could find to help run our programs, and provide the capacity we need to manage. In the past year Wendy Harrington has joined her husband Charlie in helping to lead the EdGE program. The Rev. Rob Benson has accepted our appointment as Pastor to the Outer Islands. Elsa Gettleman has been appointed Director of Finance and Administration and Stephen Richards recently joined the Mission management team as Director of Development. Two new board members, Lee Judd and Connie Greaves, provide welcome strength for the challenges that lie ahead.

We have taken a long look at the horizon. Just coming into view is the centennial anniversary of the Mission. We are determined to be ready, both for the birthday and for the Mission's next one hundred years of service. To that end, a Capital Campaign Study Committee has been appointed to consider the feasibility of an endowment campaign that would do for our successors what others have done for us: leave the Mission in better shape than they found it.

Sincerely,



Alan L. Baker  
President



Gary A. DeLong  
Executive Director



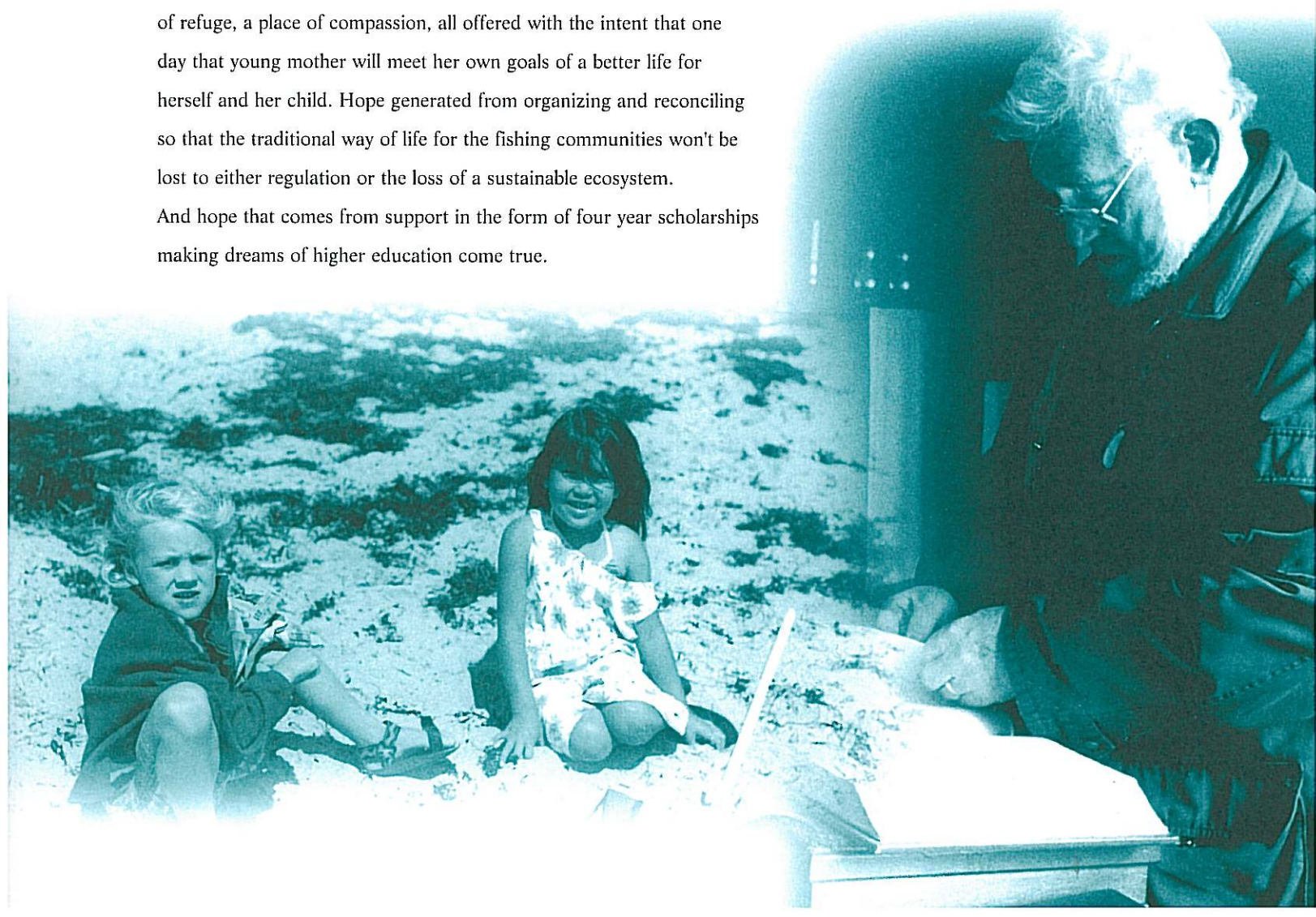
Once again in the year 2002, the Maine Sea Coast Mission was part of the fabric of life in many communities along the coast of Maine. A long-standing group of dedicated staff, joined this year by several key additions, covered thousands of miles over both land and sea responding to individuals and families, often in crisis. The Mission's programs include direct service providing food, clothing, furniture and medical care. In addition, through education and community development initiatives we address underlying causes that keep so many of those we serve on the margins of life.

As you travel along in this beautiful part of the world, with its spectacular coastline, blueberry barrens, pine forests, and traditional fishing villages, it is difficult to realize the challenges and hardships faced by many in the community. Yet, for the Mission, the year was marked by growth in services provided in all areas, but particularly for the food pantry, recycle shop, and crisis ministry as the economy threatens the most basic necessities.





It was also a year of renewed hope. Hope brought by the Mission affiliated pastors and congregations to the families and communities they serve in so many capacities. Hope offered through the newly developed EdGE in school and after school program. Hope as patterns of failure are addressed and replaced by academic excellence and character based leadership which bring an enhanced sense of self-confidence. Our goal is to help families build a foundation that will last a child a lifetime. Hope generated through medical services provided aboard the Sunbeam. It is hope that springs from addressing acute care needs and the difficulties of distance to providers on shore. It is hope that grows from healthier communities through health education and disease prevention programs. Hope offered a young single mother, with help setting up a home. It is hope from the presence of food and clothing and furniture as "God's place in the forest", Weald Bethel, comes to signify more than the natural beauty of that place. It is about safety, a place of refuge, a place of compassion, all offered with the intent that one day that young mother will meet her own goals of a better life for herself and her child. Hope generated from organizing and reconciling so that the traditional way of life for the fishing communities won't be lost to either regulation or the loss of a sustainable ecosystem. And hope that comes from support in the form of four year scholarships making dreams of higher education come true.





## Ministries to Islands and Coastal Communities

The Maine Sea Coast Mission renewed efforts in 2002 to strengthen the ministry of small rural congregations, extending planning and renewal services to churches throughout downeast Maine and the Islands. The central focus, however, is renewing and strengthening those communities and congregations served by Sea Coast Mission sponsored Ministers.

This outreach is accomplished primarily through the daily work of the clergy we sponsor in partnership with island congregations. These pastors are highly skilled in adapting the art of ministry to include an all island presence extending far beyond any narrow definition of church.

The island is their parish.

Each community served by a Sea Coast Mission Minister has its own unique flavor. While Cherryfield has a relatively large community, Frenchboro has a winter population of thirty to forty and an unheated church. Worship is held in homes or aboard the Sunbeam. In these small communities, particularly on the outer islands, the Minister plays many roles - town meeting moderator, town newsletter correspondent or production person, school fundraising auctioneer, water meter reader, and even member of the "wear your shorts as early as possible club."

Each community, however, shares the highs and lows of the rest of humanity - births and baptisms, deaths and funeral services, gatherings to help neighbors through difficult times, or celebrations for a special event, such as graduation for one student in North Haven. The Ministers work closely with families, visiting sick relatives in mainland hospitals, counseling couples before weddings, or helping to heal a whole community struggling over the loss of loved ones, young and old.

*There are some fascinating and challenging studies in the area of climate change and fisheries in the Gulf of Maine. The scary part comes when we fail to deal with what we can see coming. We dare not ignore the obvious implications for the coastal communities the Mission serves.*

*Rev. Ted Hoskins  
Minister to the Coastal  
Communities and Fisheries*



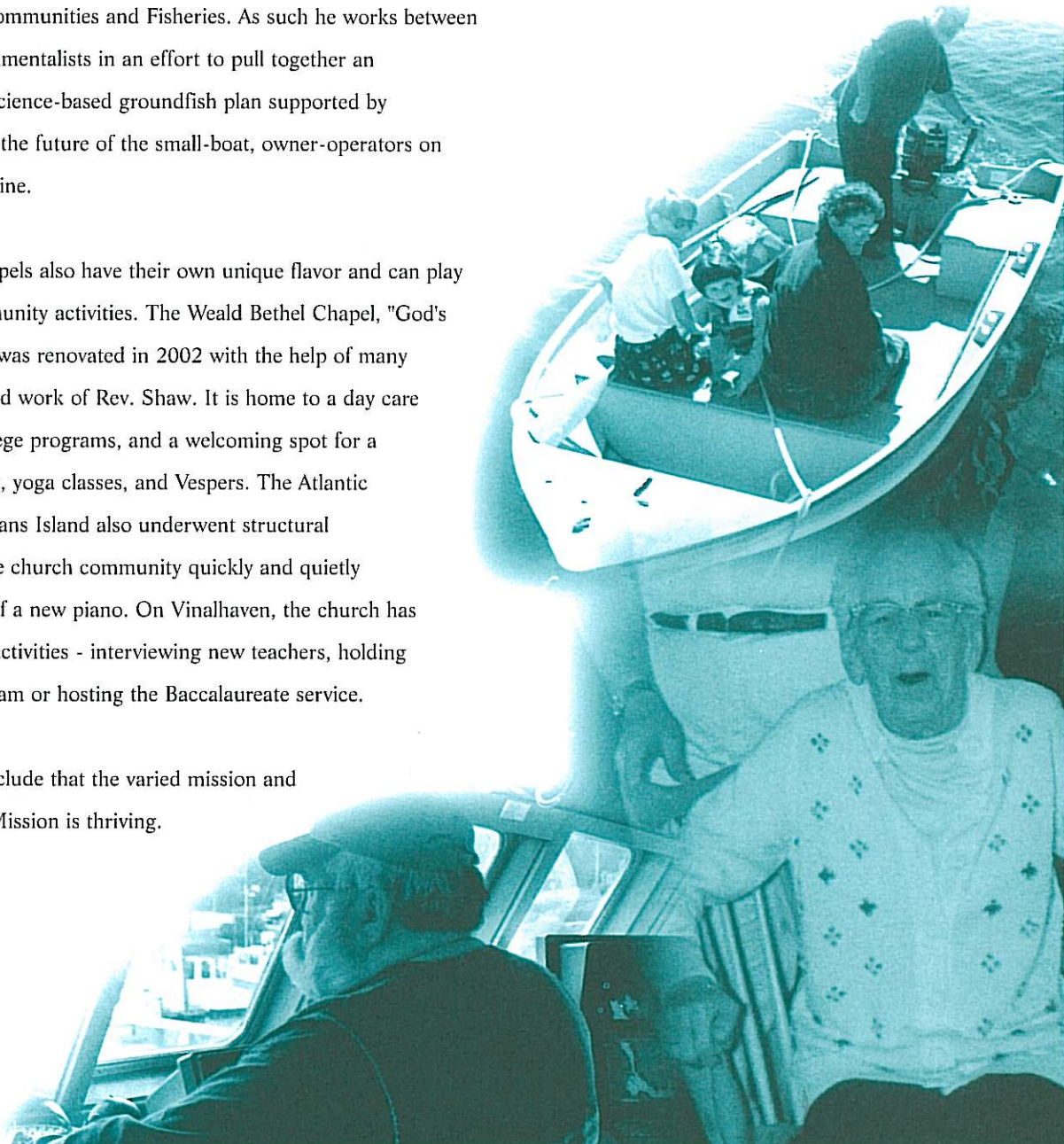


A sudden death in several small communities exacted a heavy toll on everyone in that close knit community this past year, and the Minister was there to comfort and guide. There were also lighter moments, when the Minister was called upon to catch a squirrel loose in a house. Who else could you call on?

In 2002 the Mission sponsored eight ministers, including the newly invested minister at Weald Bethel, Rev. Martha Shaw, and new Pastor to the Outer Islands, Rev. Robert Benson. Also new in 2002, long-time Boat Minister Ted Hoskins, moved from his work with the islands aboard the Sunbeam to focus his ministries on sustaining fishing communities as the Minister to Coastal Communities and Fisheries. As such he works between fishermen and environmentalists in an effort to pull together an ecosystem-centered, science-based groundfish plan supported by fishermen, and key to the future of the small-boat, owner-operators on the whole coast of Maine.

The churches and chapels also have their own unique flavor and can play a central role in community activities. The Weald Bethel Chapel, "God's House in the Woods" was renovated in 2002 with the help of many volunteers and the hard work of Rev. Shaw. It is home to a day care center and senior college programs, and a welcoming spot for a community sing-along, yoga classes, and Vespers. The Atlantic Baptist Church on Swans Island also underwent structural improvements, and the church community quickly and quietly funded the purchase of a new piano. On Vinalhaven, the church has been used for school activities - interviewing new teachers, holding a student honor program or hosting the Baccalaureate service.

One could rightly conclude that the varied mission and ministry work of the Mission is thriving.





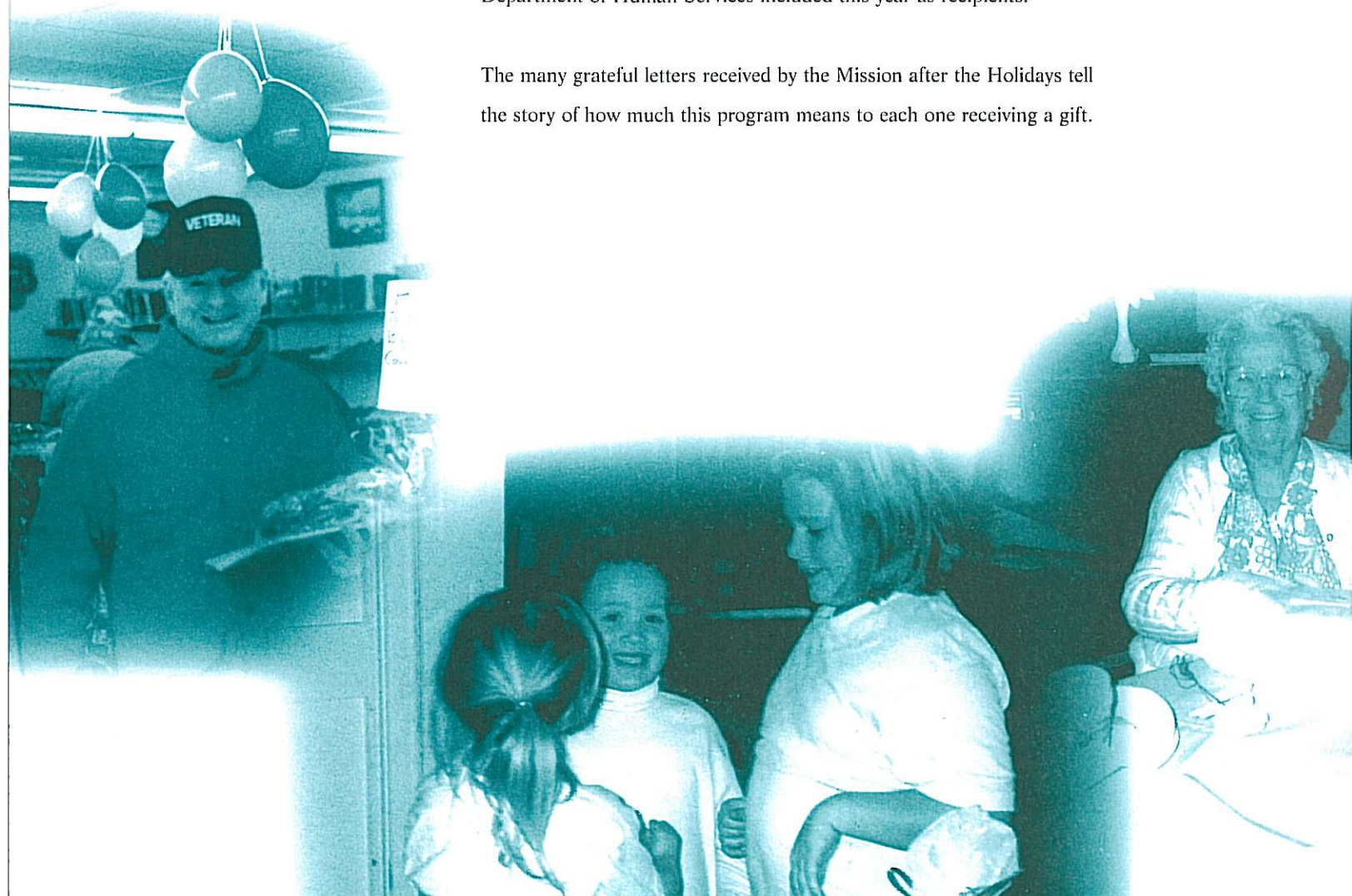
## Christmas Program

*Christmas gifts provided to over 3000 individuals with donations from over 160 people and 40 businesses or groups. 122 volunteers assisted in this effort.*

The Christmas Program is a much loved Mission program. It is how we are best known in some corners of the state by individuals and churches, either from those who have received or, more likely, through so many who have knit warm mittens and socks, collected gifts or sent an annual donation. This year the program bought together 122 elves to collect, wrap, and distribute gifts to over 3,000 individuals. Donations of gifts came from over 160 individuals and over 40 businesses or groups. The experience of having staff from a bank or restaurant come with overflowing boxes of shiny new toys and warm clothing is moving.

New to the program this year was the inclusion of 106 residents of the Youth Development Center in Charleston, Maine on the recipient list. There were also 94 new Foster Care children under the care of the Department of Human Services included this year as recipients.

The many grateful letters received by the Mission after the Holidays tell the story of how much this program means to each one receiving a gift.



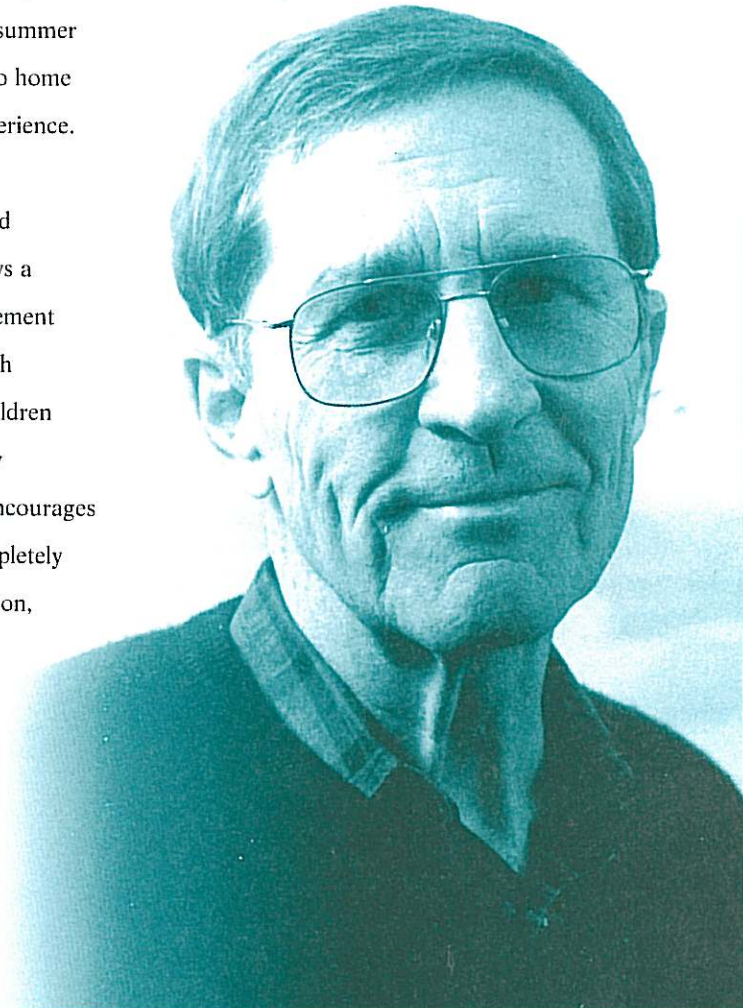


## EdGE - Ed Greaves Education Centers

2002 was the year to launch the newest effort of the Sea Coast Mission, the EdGE program. Named after former Mission Board President Ed Greaves for his inspiration and determination, EdGE is dedicated to helping young people of Washington County reach their full potential by fostering self-confidence, a desire to try new activities, and a sense of personal achievement for academic successes and leadership through character education.

The program was designed over the course of the previous two years with a great deal of input from families, teachers, school administrators and community leaders. In 2002 the staff was hired, offices were established at Weald Bethel, a partnership with Common Good Ventures was established to support program development, and the program commenced with a two-week summer camp. EdGE camp gave students from different schools an opportunity to meet, work and play together on a range of new experiences before the school year began. For some living along the coast, the summer camp offered their first opportunity to sail on the waters so close to home or sleep in a tent on a camping trip, and it was an exhilarating experience.

During the school year the program is designed as an in-school and after-school program, with staff working in the classrooms two days a week, and a smooth transition to after-school activities that complement their academic work. The results already are very positive, with high marks from students, parents and teachers. The EdGE involves children in a way that makes them eager to attend school, willing to try new experiences, or relate to people in new and trusting ways. It also encourages them to be more responsible for getting their homework done completely and on-time, and through team-building activities fosters cooperation, leadership, and a great sense of fun.





The activities offered through EdGE vary widely from fine arts to computer-robotics to bicycle maintenance. Outdoor activities and healthy snacks help promote a healthier lifestyle, and working in partnership with the Regional Medical Center at Lubec has been key to this effort. Special guests, such as artists affiliated with the Maine College of Art, bring fresh insights and a wider perspective on any particular subject.

*I liked the idea of us doing different activities, and I loved the challenges that I put upon myself, so that when I do go home I can say I did everything they handed me.*

*EdGE Summer Camp Student*

This first year of EdGE focused activities in grades 5-8 of Harrington Elementary School and D.W. Merritt School in Addison. Staff included a program director, an adult and community coordinator, and two educators. Staff worked closely with school personnel and the families of EdGE students to coordinate efforts and maintain positive rapport. An advisory team of community members, parents, students, and Mission Board members is active throughout the year.

Future plans for EdGE will expand the program into three other schools in the school district, which will include Cherryfield, Milbridge, and Columbia Falls.





## Medical Care and Telemedicine

The Maine Sea Coast Mission's work providing healthcare to islands and coastal communities goes back decades. But after a hiatus of thirty years, the work was reintroduced with a contemporary framework.

The introduction of telemedicine in 2001 has brought doctors and patients together in ways that are significant and life-saving.

The presence of a nurse on regular visits to the islands provides the eyes and ears of the medical world to these locations in which access can be expensive and difficult and provides a continuity of care that can otherwise too easily be ignored.

The scheduling of visits has proven to be a challenging feature of the medical program. Balancing the *Sunbeam's* schedule, ministry schedule, mainland office hours, four clinic schedules and three islands locations is not always easy. Then the tide changes and weather conditions sometimes make a scheduled trip impossible. Yet, the value of providing medical care - both acute and preventive - makes the scheduling effort worthwhile.

*It was really fun having so many people on the boat, getting to know some new people and letting them know what telemedicine is all about. Of course the fact that Matinicus resident Eva Murray made homemade donuts (up at 4:30 to do so) and **Sunbeam** Steward Betty baked might have had something to do with the good turn out.*

*Sharon Daley, R.N.*



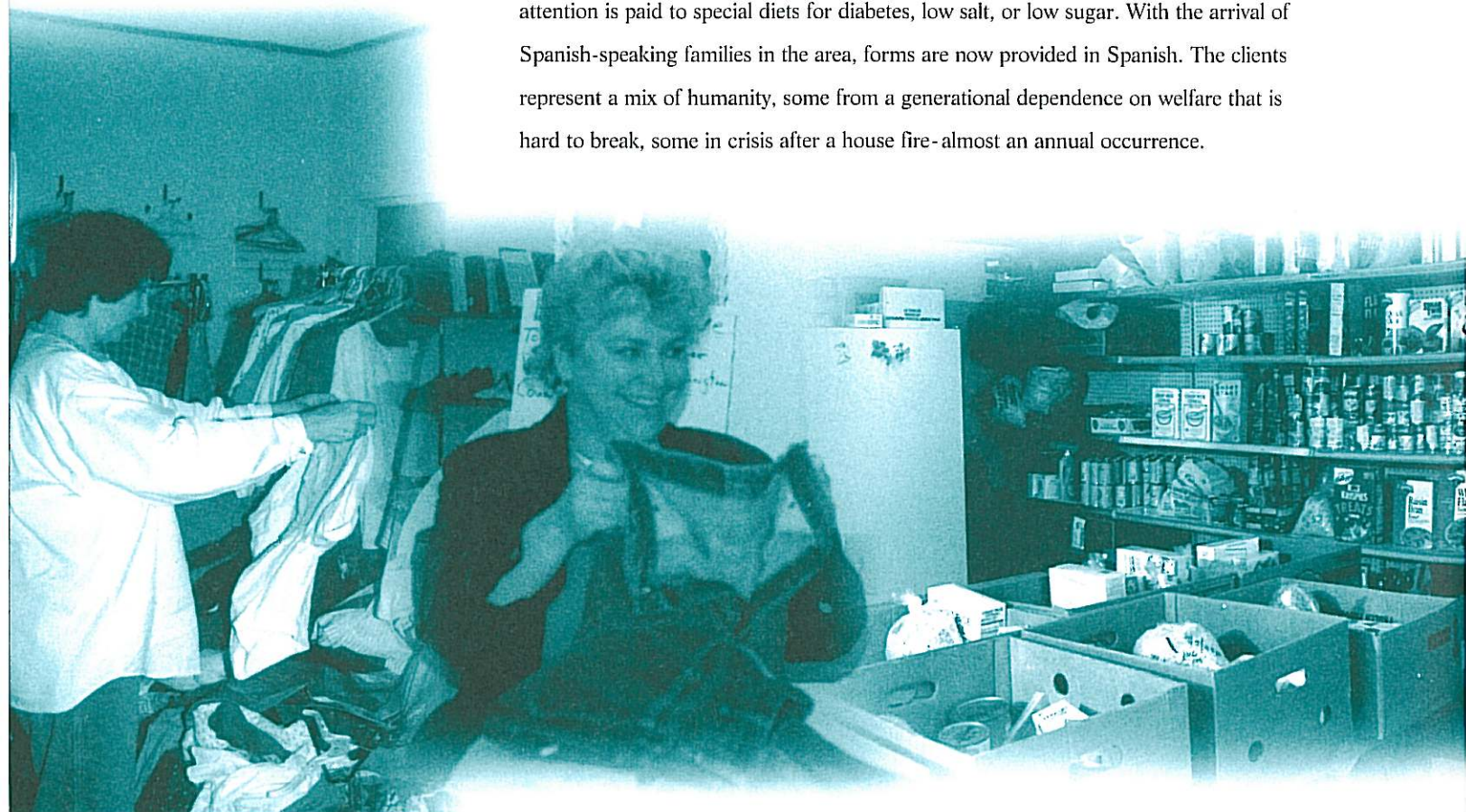


## Food Pantry and Recycle Shop

Located at Weald Bethel in Cherryfield, the Food Pantry and Recycle Shop address the basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter for those most in need in Washington County. They also offer companionship and comfort, a ready smile and a good laugh from the good people operating these programs for so many years.

The Recycle Shop was newly refreshed with paint and wall paper. Displays of clothing changed with the seasons as we offer clean and good used clothing priced at twenty-five cents per item. Volunteer help from high school special education students rounded out a core group of staff and about 25 volunteers who sorted clothing, shoes, books, household items, toys and games for children. Like any store, sales were held to let go of older inventory, and items were added to the racks daily. Baby items and books are popular and bought up quickly. Volunteers and shoppers come daily, sometimes just to see what's new, sometimes for the friendly conversation. And sales were high. Over 130,000 items were sold in 2002.

In the Food Pantry thousands of pounds of food are loaded, unloaded, sorted and finally boxed up for an individual, a couple, or a family. The work is brisk, yet special attention is paid to special diets for diabetes, low salt, or low sugar. With the arrival of Spanish-speaking families in the area, forms are now provided in Spanish. The clients represent a mix of humanity, some from a generational dependence on welfare that is hard to break, some in crisis after a house fire-almost an annual occurrence.





In 2002 the Food Pantry saw an increase in larger families using the service. They also saw glimmers of hope as individuals made changes in their lives to overcome their current dependence on the Pantry. There is also faith restored in humanity by the ongoing support of churches and businesses and individuals to the Food Pantry and the partnership with the Good Shepherd Food Pantry.

*Through their generosity and the support of the Sea Coast Mission 4,810 people were provided 78,315 meals in 2002.*

This past year efforts were also renewed to have the Recycle Shop and the Food Pantry work more closely to address crisis situations. As part of the Weald Bethel programs, individuals and families escaping domestic violence or those who have lost everything to a house fire can find confidential support to help establish a new life, complete with sheets, blankets, pots and pans, clothing and food.

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The Rev. Gary A. DeLong, Executive Director

### Mission House

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Amy L. Gower, Bookkeeper  
Terri Hanson, Christmas Program Coordinator  
Stephen H. Richards, Director of Development  
Terri W. Rodick, Executive Assistant  
Wayne H. Sprague, Property Manager

### Sunbeam

David Allen, Captain  
Elizabeth Allen, Steward  
Rev. Robert Benson, Pastor to the Outer Islands  
Sharon Daley, RN, Telemedicine Services Coordinator  
Michael T. Johnson, Engineer

### Weald Bethel Field Office, Washington County

Rev. Martha B. Shaw, Pastor and Program Director  
Laurie Merchant, Showroom Supervisor, Recycle Shop  
Marilyn Nickson, Manager, Recycle Shop  
Gena Norgaard, Manager, Food Pantry

### EdGE Program, Washington County

Charles R. Harrington, Project Director  
Wendy Harrington, Adult and Community Coordinator  
Andrew Morton, Teacher  
Alahna Roach, Teacher

### Island Partner Congregations

Rev. Michelle Wiley-Arey, Minister, Vinalhaven Union Church  
Rev. Ken Dutille, Minister Atlantic Baptist Church, Swans Island  
Rev. David Macy, Minister North Haven Baptist Church, North Haven  
Rev. James Weathersby, Minister Second Baptist Church, Islesboro

### Coastal Communities and Fisheries

Rev. Ted Hoskins, Minister



## Statement of Financial Position

The financial information presented below is derived from the Maine Sea Coast Mission's financial statements, audited by Horton, McFarland, & Veysey, Certified Public Accountants, of Ellsworth, Maine. Copies of the full report may be obtained by contacting the Mission at (207) 288-5097.

	2002	2001
<u>Assets</u>		
Investments	\$15,974,493	\$19,430,282
Other Current Assets	1,297,278	478,888
Fixed Assets	1,809,811	1,825,703
Total Assets	\$19,081,582	\$21,734,243
<u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>		
Liabilities	\$306,604	\$30,607
Net Assets	18,774,978	21,703,636
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$19,081,582	\$21,734,243
<u>Statement of Activities</u>		
Total Income	\$1,751,911	\$922,083
Investment Gains (Losses)	(\$2,951,114)	(\$1,547,385)
Total Expenses	\$1,729,455	\$1,416,507





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The Maine Sea Coast Missionary Society

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