



NOVEMBER 2021

Mission Stories of Outer Islands
& Coastal Downeast Maine Towns



Mission Launching Christmas Program 2021

NORTHEAST HARBOR, ME – We invite you to help us put presents under trees for individuals and families unable to do it alone.

Each year at Christmas time, through the kindness of our donors, the Mission provides holiday gifts to children, families, the elderly, and nursing home residents. Spreading Christmas cheer is one of the Mission's oldest traditions.

It began more than 100 years ago with gifts wrapped with red string and white paper to island residents and lighthouse keepers. Today our Christmas program includes mainland families and individuals along the Downeast coast in rural Washington County, and on Mount Desert Island.



Island Health Services Director Sharon Daley, RN provides a flu shot to an island resident.

Island Covid Booster Shots Follow Flu Shots

NORTHEAST HARBOR, ME – Island Health Services Director Sharon Daley, RN had no sooner administered flu shots across multiple islands when the Mission received a CDC green light to do the same for COVID-19 booster vaccinations.

Sharon and fellow *Sunbeam* crew member, Island Outreach Director & Chaplain Douglas Cornman, are members of the Mission COVID-19 Vaccination Team. Starting in February 2021, in three months that team COVID-19 vaccinated 343 people on seven islands.

On November 1, Douglas said, “We secured the vaccines, put together fliers announcing availability, and shared them across the islands.” The response from island communities was instantaneous. “Over the weekend, more than 50 people contacted me requesting a booster,” said Douglas, “In less than 48-hours, COVID-19 boosters were booked across seven islands.” The *Sunbeam* and its crew are scheduled to administer booster shots before the Thanksgiving holiday.



A Harrington Elementary EdGE student taking in Maine's great outdoors.

High Praise for EdGE Staff Members

CHERRYFIELD, ME - EdGE Director Isaac Marnik, and Downeast Director Mel Adams, had high praise for full-time EdGE staffers shouldering additional work of running EdGE after-school programs. Without them, said Isaac, the after-school programs could not have stayed open. “We had 333 students attend at least one day of an EdGE after-school program. We hope to have another good month of programming going forward.”

Mel Adams said EdGE staff leveraged all their mental, physical, emotional energy to ensure the program continued throughout this time period. “Thank you can never be enough,” he added.

Interested in engaging youth at our after-school program? [Jobs are open](#) for EdGE after-school staff in Machias and Harrington! Plus, the Mission offers a \$100 sign-on bonus after 60 days. New staffers will lead activities, oversee groups of children, and work alongside EdGE site coordinators.



New Mission Island Church Fund

NORTHEAST HARBOR, ME - Last week, Island Outreach Director and Chaplain Douglas Cornman announced to 17 churches on 15 islands the availability of a new Mission grant. The Island Church Fund (ICF) provides small financial awards to churches and established faith communities on Maine's unbridged outer islands which sustain year-round communities.

The funds are meant to enhance current programs and/or fund spiritual enrichment opportunities, buildings and grounds restoration, equipment repair and replacement, and emergency needs.

Douglas reports that the response has been positive. "There is a lot of gratitude that the Mission is there for island churches, that we're very interested in what they're doing, and how they support their communities. It's just fantastic to continue these relationships and find new ways we can support island communities through their churches," he said.

[Learn More](#)



Kierie Piccininni, our new Director of Marketing

Welcome, Kierie!

NORTHEAST HARBOR, ME - We are delighted to welcome Kierie Piccininni as our first Director of Marketing. In addition to her extensive professional experience in the field, she has a long history of serving non-profit organizations and currently acts as board president for a statewide nonprofit here in Maine.

"I am passionate for values like the Mission's and I am just thrilled to join the team. What is so exciting about being here is the work we do alongside constituents and partners to positively impact communities. This allows them to continue to thrive. My goal is to elevate the Mission and its programmatic work alongside a fantastic team of colleagues across all of our locations."

In her spare time, you can catch her bicycling, skating, or hitting the trails during winter. While based in Northeast Harbor, she looks forward to spending time on our Downeast Campus and aboard the Sunbeam.

[Visit our website](#)



Megan Smith and her favorite Maine place, McLellan Park

People & Places - Megan Smith

CHERRYFIELD, ME – Megan Smith is an integral part of the Mission's food pantry work. Here, we showcase Megan, her favorite place, and what her role means to her.

I started at the Mission in 2018 as the Community Resource Coordinator, which morphed into the Food Security and Sustainability Programs Coordinator. My role here is near and dear to my heart because our food programs help feed our community members.

One of my favorite places is [McLellan Park](#). This place holds many wonderful memories for me. It is such a beautiful spot here in Downeast Maine. Watching the waves hit the rocks and feeling the salty air calms my soul when the world becomes too loud.

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