# THE BULLETIN SUMMER 2022

# Maine Seacoast Mission

#### OUR MISSION

Rooted in a history of compassionate service and mutual trust, the Mission seeks to strengthen coastal and island communities by educating youth, supporting families, and promoting good health.

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#### **Message from the President**

This edition of the Bulletin focuses on the "Humans of the Mission." In the pages that come, you will meet or reconnect with lovely members of the Mission family—dear folks like Mit Twombly. The Mission's new Development Director, Erica Hutchinson, and I were honored to attend Mit's recent memorial service where former President, Scott Planting, delivered a moving reflection about Mit's life and her love for and commitment to the Maine Seacoast Mission. I can imagine no better orientation for a new Mission staff member than to meet a Mission family like the Twomblys and hear their Mission stories.



Read on and you will find a profile of long-time Mission human Wendy Harrington. Wendy semi-retired in January from her role as Director of Downeast Service Programs to spend more time with Charlie and the family. Wendy is maintaining close ties, though, as she coordinates the Mission's Scholarship programs. On a recent Sunbeam cruise with Mission

scholars, I watched Wendy's eyes light up as scholarship recipients and their families expressed their deep gratitude to the Mission, the EdGE program, and, of course, to Wendy.

Speaking of EdGE! 2022 marks the twentieth year of the EdGE program and so we thought it would be the right year to honor a steadfast advocate for the EdGE program, Les Coleman, as well as our Downeast school partners, at this year's Sunbeam Award Gala. In this edition we profile the Parker brothers (not those Parker Brothers, although these fellas do know how to host a game). Don and Rick Parker are wonderful EdGE teachers and leaders at Milbridge Elementary.

At the end of the day, the Maine Seacoast Mission is, and always has been, about people. People who care enough to sail the fifteen-foot *Hope* sloop up and down the coast of Maine just trying to help; people who act with compassion to nurture and support their neighbors.

The Humans of the Mission are some of the best people. I hope that in the pages that follow you enjoy reconnecting with familiar Mission friends and making a few new ones.

For the Mission!

John Zavodny, President, Maine Seacoast Mission

Cover: Matthew Haire holds EdGE student Sergio Osviel Perez Garcia. Photo by Don Parker

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# HUMANS OF THE MISSION

With a 117 years' worth of programming, the Mission has had the good fortune to know, partner, and work alongside thousands and thousands of people. Whether volunteer, community member, employee, or donor, each has left a unique mark on the organization. They have shaped Maine Seacoast Mission and impacted programming in our service area of the outer islands and Downeast coast.

Taking a page out of the very popular photo blog, *Humans of New York*, we have selected a small cross-section of individuals who impact us. They uphold the principles and good values we have celebrated since 1905. These people are vibrant. They are interesting and interested in the well-being of those around them. They are also deeply invested in their communities and reveal to us what drives them. These are humans of the Mission.

# MARJORIE "MIT" TWOMBLY

Majorie "Mit" Twombly was a longtime supporter of the Mission. Originally from Massachusetts, she traveled up and down the Maine coast on boats and schooners with her family. She moved to Maine around 1950, married, and had a family. Settled in Falmouth, she started working at her husband's family's telephone company. Mit is one of four generations in her family to support the Mission and its programs. Here, her son Dana Twombly shares memories of Mit and opens a window to what she cared about.



Mit was a remarkable lady, and I was lucky to have her as my mother. It took her no time at all to connect with people upon meeting them. She put caring about people before herself. She could have her own problems, but it didn't matter compared to others' well-being. She would always ask, "How are you? How are your kids?" We've received so many cards expressing sympathy for her passing last December.

Her mother, my grandmother, was a supporter of the Mission. Growing up, Mit learned about the Mission from her mother because she would knit sweaters, mittens, and lap robes for the Christmas Program. I honestly don't know how my grandmother got connected to the Mission, but that's how my mother became involved.

Through a lot of hard work, my parents were able to grow the family business. It became important for them to give back to the community locally and across the state. And the Mission was one of them. She passed the same interest on to her kids.



She understood the poverty situation in the Downeast region and that's where the need was more intensive than in the Portland area. Regarding the Mission's heating fuel assistance program, she used to say, "Dana, these people can't afford to heat their homes." It was a year of a cold winter with really high rates. That's just how she was.

From her maritime travels, she had seen what island living was like, so she cared about the Sunbeam's outreach, spiritual, and health services. She learned about the EdGE program through Ed and Connie Bates, and with a love for children, she became an instant believer. With any Mission program, she wanted to help to the extent she could and she was able to make a difference. ©



# **MATTHEW HAIRE**

Matthew is a junior at Narraguagus Jr/Sr High School and is active in sports and in his community. He plays basketball, scoccer, baseball, track and field, and cross-country. In addition to his involvement with EdGE and member to Journey's cohort 1 student group, he helps coach basketball at Milbridge Elementary School.



"I went to EDGE starting in in 4th grade, then joined Journey, and decided to get involved with EdGE as a teenager. I never thought I'd come back but I did. Being an EdGE student is different than being an EdGE mentor. It was fun going to summer camp and, at that age, we really connected with our mentors. When I became a freshman at Narraguagus, my first mentor was a senior and it was fun to have that person around. Now that I'm older and in this role, it's clear how much mentors care about the kids, too.

In Journey as a member of cohort 1, we've really connected and we talk a lot more as we've continued through school. We came from separate places, separate towns. We volunteer together and we explore together.

I plan to attend college at UMaine Orono to study civic engineering. I'm excited about that bigger school where no one knows you. Making new friends with people from all over the country and around the world will be an adventure." ۞



# **DON PARKER**

Raised in Milbridge, Rick and Don Parker attended the same school they work in today. At Milbridge Elementary, they serve as literacy, math, and Title I teachers. They are both passionate about child education and development, which made them a perfect fit for the role of as co-site coordinators in the Mission's EdGE program.



I started with the Mission through EdGE's summer camp literacy program, which blossomed into an afterschool position. I was fascinated by the EdGE site coordinator role in because it was a window into working with youth outside the formal classroom. But I said, "I'll do it only if my brother could do it with me." What a fantastic opportunity to do that with Rick who is my best friend and cares deeply for child education and their wellbeing.

At Milbridge Elementary and in EdGE, I have been blessed by good leaders. They surrounded themselves with strong people; they delegate and they trust. This role gave me the opportunity to grow and develop stronger leadership skills, which I have invested in the relationships with kids across Downeast. ③



# **RICK PARKER**

As a high school senior and I said I was going to work with kids. It keeps you young and there is excitement in being with them, even on days you're not feeling it, they bring it out of you. Suddenly your excited and that passion is there, which gets them excited. It becomes cyclical. I became an EdGE site coordinator to work with my brother but to also embrace the opportunity to spend more time with kids in the community. I could see another part of their personalities and they could see mine outside school curriculum. Working with Don is a dream come true. We're best friends, and while we're a lot alike, we are also different from one another. I think

children get that and see how we have a good time with one another.

When you see your former student in the community and outside of school, they talk about what it was like when they were in EdGE. Some have come back to work with us or to volunteer with us. When they want to come back, you've done something right. You've created a positive experience that has impacted their path in life. It gives me hope to know we're helping shape another generation of adults in a positive way. And someday our students will become the grown-ups doing what we are doing now. ③

# DONIELLE FIELDS

Donielle lives and works in Downeast. After growing up in Washington County, she lived in Oregon and New Jersey, then returned to Maine for the sense of community. As a family coach for Downeast Community Partners (a nonprofit partner of the Mission), Donielle helps families access local support services that remove barriers to achieving stability and independence. What gives her hope are the five children she and her partner are raising in the Downeast community.



I started out as a participant in the Mission's Housing Rehabilitation program. It was through Scott Shaw [the Downeast Campus Facilities and Housing Rehabilitation Manager] that I heard about the Mission's work around food security. When I learned deliveries were made to Machias, I signed up. Then I signed my father-in-law up, I signed brother up, and I signed my mom and my grandma and my grandma's husband up. Then I signed up a couple of recovery clients I was working with.

When the opportunity to become a Downeast Community Partners family coach came up, I knew it was my dream job. I was going to school, volunteering, and had experience as a recovery coach. I was also involved with the Maine Families organization, but I thought, "Look at my background. I live in a trailer, I'm low-income, and I'm struggling to keep my family supported. There's no way they'd hire me." I was always afraid of being judged. I was in these programs because I needed help. But



these programs helped me more than I ever really thought. Receiving repairs on my home as well as groceries made me feel better about my life. It gave me confidence to go outside my comfort zone.

Now I'm in a position where I can give that kind of help back. There are so many of my family clients and co-workers who didn't know about the Mission's food security program. I would call Megan Smith [the Food Security and Sustainability Programs Coordinator] and tell her "I'm signing another one up." At one point, one of my family members didn't answer their door which was weird because she had always greeted the volunteer. I then received a call from the Mission asking if she was all right. They weren't just dropping food off and it's not just about the numbers. They actually care. ۞



# **CINDY THOMAS**

Originally from the Philadelphia area, Islesford librarian Cindy Thomas raised a family on the island and continues to be an ever-present community member. She began visiting Islesford as an adolescent and stayed when she met her husband. Passionate about reading and literacy, Cindy works alongside Director of Island Health Sharon Daley, RN, and has been an important component in advancing the Mission's work on the island of Islesford.



Islesford's Neighborhood House was built in 1913 with a library room. It was a locked room for many years, and in 1984, it became a check-in, check-out library. Jane Sutton had said, "There's no reason why we can't fix the library up and get books." The library has over 7,000 items to borrow, some of which are DVDs and other audio material. I'm happy when people want to come in, take books, and talk books.

We started a health care committee to get information out across the island. Volunteers help residents book appointments through the Mission's telehealth program. We've done a lot of telehealth talks on diabetes and nutrition. We have also participated in the Elder Care conference. I help Sharon organize flu and COVID-19 vaccine clinics. Douglas, the Mission's Director of Island Outreach, comes out to the library's coffee hour, too.

I like being here on Islesford. I like the quiet. When you go for a walk on an island, you have a 360-degree awareness of everything around you. Seals in the water, a Great Blue Heron flying about you—it's different than living in a city. Each island is unique. I can't tell you how, but they are. And everyone works together for a common ground, and what can be better than that? We have lots to look forward to. ۞



# **WENDY HARRINGTON**

Wendy has been with the Mission for over 20 years. Wearing many hats in that time, her legacy includes building the Mission's education and family focused programs. She has touched every Downeast initiative including EdGE, Downeast Table of Plenty (DETOP), and the food pantry. Her commitment Downeast is illustrated by her deep connections with regional partners and community members—people she would call friends and family.



I was Director of Service Programs until August 2021 when I decided it was time to step back. I didn't want to leave completely though. I'm excited to return to the educational roots of the Mission. What has driven me to stay here so long is the people I work with and the people within our community. Being at the Mission has a chance to do something that makes a difference in the lives of people. I have always felt so grateful that I have a job where I can say, "this makes a difference."

Before we arrived, Charlie and I had spent

12 years building and operating a youth development program on the midcoast of Maine. When invited to apply with the Mission, he was clear that the program we both developed that worked with children, family, and schools would be the model for the Mission. Six months later, I joined the Mission and we began building family and community programming around the education program. The organization allowed it and the community allowed it. That's what I love about the Mission's work. If we believe this is the best initiative for our people, it would be funded and it would go forward.

What I love about Washington county and the people here is that they look out for another, they will do whatever they have to do to help each other be successful. I love the work we have done because when we offer an opportunity, people come and say yes. And when they say yes, they put their time and energy into making it successful. It's a place where people are very open and honest and you don't have to scratch too far beneath the surface to get to know someone and make a friend. ③



# **Ashley Bryan Reflection**

Renowned American illustrator and author Ashley Bryan was a treasured member of the Mission's community. As a resident of Islesford, Ashley the person and Ashley the artist had a tremendous impact on the island.

When honored with the Mission's Sunbeam award for his contributions in 2012, one young girl said, "Ashley deserves this award because he's an absolutely amazing person. in Ashley's house is like being in Ashley's imagination. He helps not only in our small community here in Islesford, but in the global community. And he's an honor to have here on our island."

When the Cranberry Isles school was renamed the Ashley Bryan School, one adult said, "So many of us remembered and realized the lessons Ashley taught us, the values that he has taught us, the humanity, the respect, and the understanding of other cultures. Love is the only word I can say to describe this relationship."

Ashley touched the hearts of Mission staff as well, particularly the crew of the

*Sunbeam.* Here, two Mission employees share personal reflections.

#### From Sharon Daley, Director of Island Health, RN

It should be simple to write about Ashley. When I try, a few words come to mind, and they would be wonder, love, and kindness. To meet Ashley, you immediately saw and felt those things. His warmth as he met you; his wanting to know and hear about who you are. As you talked, he might see a flower as simple as a dandelion, and he expressed joy at its beauty which led to sharing stories. He had great joy. His joy and faith always shone through despite pain and losses he endured.

I wonder what a world like Ashley's would be like. I think everyone who met him felt a little bit of wanting to be a better person. I hear that often from the people he was loved by and that he loved so dearly. He connected with thousands of people. We can only hope that is what his life and legacy will continue to do and grow.

I take back that only a few words come

to mind and add joy, strength, wisdom, caring, and awe-inspiring. Here is to you, Ashley, for all we learned from you and the hope that we can all be more like you.

# From Douglas Cornman, Director of Island Outreach, MA, BC-DMT

It's an understatement to say Ashley was a uniquely special person. He had qualities in abundance that most of us seem to possess in drips and drabs. To list and rank the many virtues that made him so special to so many seems an impossible challenge. He mastered each and every virtue and employed them with effortless grace. Two of his attributes deserve mention however, and these aspects of Ashley's humanity inspire me to be a better person than the one who crawls out from under the blankets each morning.

The first was his almost otherworldly ability to find the transformative power of beauty and art in everything he touched. I have yet to encounter a piece of his artwork that doesn't inspire beauty and joy and accentuate the loveliness of whatever medium he used. From pieces of tumbled sea glass to bleached bird bones, Ashley made insipid objects glorious and meaningful. Take a look at any one of his puppets or stained glass windows to understand. His written words bring life and emotion to stories and messages that need to be heard again and again. I have never witnessed an author who recites with such passion and animation. Ashley danced and sang stories more than he actually read them. Beautiful Blackbird and My People are my absolute favorites.

The second quality worth mentioning was his ability to make you feel like you were the most special person in the world. Though I wish it otherwise, I can count on my fingers and toes the number of times that Ashley and I shared time and space. My relationship with him was nominal, at best, in comparison to others. Nevertheless, Ashley's face lit with joy and recognition every time I visited with him on his beloved Islesford. Not once was I turned away. Ashley welcomed me with literal open arms. I was invited to sit by his side where he shared his latest project. A visit with Ashley always included his offering a piece of candy or two from the many packages he received from friends far and wide. I know that I was not the only person to benefit from his generous hospitality. He treated everyone with equity whether it was your first meeting or your hundredth.



Director of Island Outreach Douglas Cornman, Ashley Bryan, and Communications Associate Hunter Billings

It may seem as if I have put Ashley on a high pedestal, but it's just the opposite: he was the most human and humble of people. He wore his talents, recognition, wisdom, and intellect as casually as he wore his cardigan. I would be remiss if I ended without mentioning just one more of Ashley's qualities that I admire. Upon reflection, perhaps, it is the one I admire most of all. Perhaps, Ashley's most virtuous and precious gift was modeling for us that being authentically kind, giving, selfless, and loving is obtainable. It is something that each of us can achieve. You will always be my hero and inspiration, Ashley Bryan. ۞

# The Mission's Impact in 2021



#### SUNBEAM

**2,025** nautical miles traveled

**6** islands visited

**658** visitors aboard

dance or theater classes

libraries awarded grants

taught on 6 islands

to purchase books

32

12

#### 791

meals served to crew and guests

1,920 cookies baked



Mr. and Mrs. Claus delivered to Northeast Harbor

# **ISLAND OUTREACH**



9 zoom church services





*including* <u>wed</u>ding

vaccines

and **3** funerals sang TOO MANY carols TO COUNT



20 virtual attendees from 9 islands at ElderCare conference

#### 28

virtual ElderCare visits to provide support and education

#### 810 HOME VISITS across 7 islands



#### The Island Reader

**69** artists and writers contributed

450

copies distributed to 16 states and 16 Maine islands

# **ISLAND HEALTH**

**5** islands awarded grants to purchase medical equipment

7

doses of Narcan and instructions provided to key medical personnel



vaccination trips across 7 islands in 4 months

28

**158** flu vaccines administered





#### FOOD

**6,386** visits to the Food Center



**22,388** pounds of bakery items donated

**17,247** pounds of frozen meat donated



## **CHRISTMAS**

**7,584** GIFTS

distributed to 1,264 people residing Downeast and on Maine islands



**2,000** handknit pieces from across the country

verage

monthly visits by some families

2,086

people provided

culturally appropriate

food through partnership with Mano e Mano

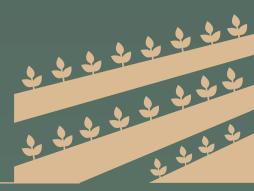
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**158** Christmas cards written for older adults

150 Christmas gifts to children and older adults on 8 islands 23,429

pounds of fresh produce received through partners like Good Shepherd Food Bank, Wal-Mart, and Shaw's

**5,395** pounds of food grown by Folklore Farms



15+ volunteers contributed their time to the Christmas Program

## COMMUNITY

#### 196

isolated community members participated in "Project Reach Out" calls to share in conversation and <u>determine</u> needs

**50–60** guests served weekly at free Sunday dinners HOUSING

**21** families received aid to help stabilize or improve their households

**11** houses rehabbed in 10 towns

## YOUTH

1,992 hours of EdGE programming across 1,481 sessions

Journey deep mentoring for a small group of students

**4**3 students participated

557+ hours of programming

178 students in summer EdGE programs

10 trips around the state

Δ overnight adventures 61 student households participated in "Project Reach Out"

enrolled in all EdGE

programs



## **COLLEGE EXPLORATION**

students identify as non-White

male students



honor roll students

400+ hours of 1:1 mentoring



# **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Davis Maine Scholarship



for full-ride scholarships

6 Davis Maine scholars selected from the College Exploration & Engagement program

8 Washington County high schools sending eligible students into 2022 cohort



applications submitted to 8 different colleges

essential education partner organizations

#### Mission **Scholarships**

80 students received \$162,510 in Mission scholarships for the 2021–2022 school year

70 percent attended college in Maine

#### 100

percent retention rate of Mission scholarship students enrolled in college last year

# Financial Report for the year ending June 30, 2021

OPERATING FUND	
OPERATING FUND INCOME	
Annual Giving and Special Events	\$1,013,800
Foundation and Government Grants	528,181
Trust Income	224,401
Program and Other Income	1,006
Subtotal	1,767,388
Draws Transferred from Endowment Funds (below)	1,968,569
TOTAL OPERATING FUND INCOME	3,735,957
OPERATING FUND EXPENDITURES	
Program Services	
Youth Development Programs (EdGE, Scholarships)	1,116,194
Direct Service Programs (Food Security, Housing Repair, Christmas, Outreach)	648,992
Island Service Programs (Island Outreach, Health, Sunbeam)	686,713
Total Program Services	2,451,899
Supporting Services	
Management and General	387,898
Development, Fundraising, and Marketing	325,245
Budgeted Additions Expensed, net	6,443
Total Supporting Services	719,586
TOTAL OPERATING FUND EXPENDITURES	3,171,485
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS—OPERATING FUND	564,472
RESTRICTED FUNDS, NET OF OPERATING USES	
RESTRICTED INCOME, NET OF OPERATING USES	
Special Gift and Capital Campaigns	251,685
Foundation and Government Grants	603,151
Bequest Income	641,055
Trust Income	1,342,032
Program Income	0
Gain (loss) on Sale of Property and Equipment	(5,982)
Subtotal	2,831,941
Investment Income	10,243,441
Less: Endowment Draws Transferred to Operating Fund (above)	(1,968,569)
Investment Income, net	8,274,872
TOTAL RESTRICTED INCOME, NET OF OPERATING USES	11,106,813
RESTRICTED EXPENDITURES	
Special Project Expenditures	604,706
Depreciation	177,642
TOTAL RESTRICTED EXPENDITURES	782,348
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS—RESTRICTED FUNDS, NET OF OPERATING USES	\$10,324,465
TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$10,888,937
ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT FUNDS VALUE ON JUNE 30, 2021	\$52,293,786



An independent auditor's report is available upon request. Maine Seacoast Mission is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, a publicly supported organization as defined by Section 170(b) A-6. Contributions 16 are deductible to the extent provided by law.

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William B. Hubbell, Jr.

Christopher Gridley

Sage and George Hall

Leslie S. Grav

Ed Greaves

Pat Harmon

Carl Hodges

Bill Éason

Paul Felder

Fannie and

Martha DeTurris

Gordon Corbett

William C. Brengle, Sr.

Marion MacDonald Kimball Wendy Knickerbocker Dr. and Mrs. John H. Lamont Philip Bruce Lape Martha Leggett Karen Gunderson Lerner Lawrence Lewis John Rodney Lunt, Jr. Alexander P. MacDonald Stan MacDonald The Rev. Paul Malicote Cammie Mancuso Foster Mathews James E. McElroy Harold and Daisy McKay Callina McNair Thomas R. Meeks John Merrill, Sr. Frederick Meyer The Rev. Dr. James D. Miller The Rev. and Mrs. George M. Milne Harry Doane Miner, Sr. Virginia Watkins Mitchell Clifton and Shirley Morong Anita Morris William and Jane Murdoch Joseph Nagy James M. Newell Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Niemitz lack and lune Parker Edgar Pearson, Jr. Jane Perkins Fred Philbrook Milton Philbrook Marcia E. Pike Willis Potter Patrick Quinn Rita Rabideau Alyce Redman Richard Reynolds Harry Russell The Ŕev. Arthur H. Sargent Dwight Sargent Robert S. Schoonover Jeffery A. Scott F. David Seaton Eleanor Seavey Robert A. Shepard Philip Warnock Silver John A. Smegal Dana Smith Paul and Betty Starkey T. Douglas Stenberg Herbert and Trudi Stroup David Systrom Isabel F. Thacher Richard C. Valentine Susan Wakelin Barbara Warchol The Rev. Paul F. West David A. Wheatland The Rev. Amos N. Wilder Douglas Williams Clayton Young The Rev. George Zabriskie Mary Zavodny Michael Zimmerman

A. Atwater Kent, Jr.

\*deceased

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#### **Sunbeam Gala Award Honorees**

Mark your calendars for Thursday, August 18 to join us for the 2022 Sunbeam Award Gala at Bar Harbor Club. This year, the honorees, Les Coleman and the Mission's Downeast education partners, were selected based on their extraordinary commitment to one of the Mission's signature program, EdGE.

President John Zavodny said, "This fall, EdGE celebrates 20 years of healthy, supportive, and challenging programs for children in public schools along the Downeast coast. Our Downeast school partners pour their hearts out every day for these children, and Les Coleman has been an EdGE leader and supporter since the idea was hatched. Their commitment has made the Downeast community stronger and we're so excited to honor them at the 2022 Sunbeam Award Gala." ۞



#### **LES COLEMAN**

2022 Sunbeam awardee Les Coleman is a longtime and committed advocate for education in Downeast Maine. An early proponent of the EdGE program, he helped forge strong connections between partners for the benefit of Downeast youth. During his tenure on the Board of Trustees from 2006 to 2018, he lent his expertise and wisdom to the Maine Seacoast Mission. Les and his wife Joyce live in Dallas, Texas and Addison, Maine.



#### **DOWNEAST EDUCATION PARTNERS**

For two decades, K-12 schools in Washington and Hancock Counties have partnered with the Mission to offer students and their families afterschool, summer, and in-school opportunities. These 2022 Sunbeam award recipients are a linchpin to Mission education programming. They have grown the number of Downeast students who challenge themselves, engage with their communities, explore the outdoors, and gain social and leadership skills to build personal, career, and educational aspirations.





P.O. Box 600 Northeast Harbor, Maine 04662

# seacoastmission.org



Please join us for the MAINE SEACOAST MISSION

# Sunbeam Award Gala 2022

Thursday, August 18, 2022 The Bar Harbor Club, under the big tent 5:00pm Cocktails • 6:00pm Program • 7:00pm Dinner

> Recognizing those who embody the ideals of community: Les Coleman

Downcast Education Partners

This year capacity is limited. We request that anyone who plans to attend be vaccinated. To request a reservation, contact Events & Marketing Coordinator Terri Rodick at email events@seacoastmission.org or by phone, (207) 801-6008. A reservation request may also be made online at seacoastmission.org/gala-2022

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