

SEPTEMBER 2022

Mission Stories of Outer Islands & Coastal Downeast Maine



Photo Credit: Erin Clark, The Boston Globe

MDI Hospital Recognizes Mission as Healthcare Partner of the Year

Mount Desert Island Hospital has recognized the Mission as a 2022 Healthcare Partner of the Year. The award recognizes our Covid-19 vaccination clinics and telemedicine programs during the pandemic. In 2021, we administered 928 COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters on seven unbridged islands in addition to its traditional Island Health work done via the Sunbeam, the nonprofit's 74-foot-long vessel. John Zavodny, Mission President, and Sharon Daley, RN, Director of Island Health, who spearheaded the Mission's vaccination program with Director of Island Outreach Douglas Cornman, were on hand to accept the award for the Mission.

Christina Maguire, President/CEO of Mount Desert Island Hospital, says, "The Maine Seacoast Mission has been a dedicated, committed partner in providing healthcare to our outer island populations through..."

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Mission Welcomes Interim Downeast Director

We recently welcomed Jenny Jones as the Interim Downeast Director at our Downeast campus in Cherryfield. Jenny has worked with nonprofits in Downeast Maine for almost a decade, most recently as the Community Resource Representative for Eastern and Northern Maine at the Good Shepherd Food Bank. Through this position at Good Shepherd, Jenny worked directly with Mission Downeast Food Security program staff in Washington County.

Mission President John Zavodny shares about Jones's hiring, "We couldn't be more excited about Jenny joining us. She brings a wealth of leadership training and experience with education, youth development, program evaluation, service programs, and food security. Jenny knows Downeast Maine and her passion for service is contagious."



Summer Recap of Outdoor Excursions and Immersive Experiences for Journey Students

Furiously paddling through white water, completing service projects in Acadia National Park, trying out watercolors, exploring Civil War-era forts, and learning more about options after high school. Students in the Journey program did all these things this summer as they ventured across the state of Maine and throughout New England on overnight trips.

Each year, 15 students in the 7th grade at Narraguagus Jr./Sr. High School and Cherryfield Elementary School are chosen to be part of a Journey cohort and they continue with the program until they graduate from high school. The Journey program is designed...

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Sunbeam Award Gala Celebrates 20 Years of EdGE

In August, this year's Sunbeam awards were presented to Les Coleman and the Mission's Downeast school partners, who were both recognized for their work with the Mission's EdGE programming. This fall marks 20 years since launching the EdGE program in Washington County.

Today, EdGE has grown to be the Mission's signature youth development program Downeast and serves around 700 students in kindergarten through eighth grade and their families each year through afterschool and leadership programs and summer camps. EdGE programs include outdoor recreation, tutoring, STEM, as well as nourishment, support, and coaching for students and their families...

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EdGE Afterschool Enrollment Opens

Families can now register their students for EdGE afterschool programs for the 2022-2023 school year. EdGE programs are open to students in kindergarten through eighth grade at seven schools in Washington County. During the 2021-2022 school year, 399 students attended at least one EdGE afterschool program.

The programs offer educational, social, and outdoor experiences for students. The students can participate in experiential, creative, thought-provoking activities, and receive homework support. EdGE afterschool also supports food security and healthy eating habits...

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Kayla Chagnon | Drake's Island

People & Places - Kayla Chagnon

I am Kayla Chagnon, the Mission's new Content Marketing Developer. I'm originally from New Hampshire and after stints in upstate New York and Pennsylvania, I moved to Mount Desert Island seven years ago. As the Content Marketing Developer, I help to tell the Mission's story.

My favorite place in Maine is Drake's Island in southern Maine. My mom's family grew up going to the same small, summer house for decades. My mom still talks about going there with her grandmother when she was a kid. Growing up, we went for one week every year with my grandfather around the 4th of July and it always had a sort of magic to it. Drake's Island was my first taste of Maine and will always hold a special place in my heart.



In the News

Check out our some of our favorite pieces in the last few months:

- July 30 The Mount Desert Islander announced the first group of Davis Maine Scholars and their college choices. The Davis Maine Scholarship is awarded to six students who receive a full, four-year scholarship to one of three partner schools. - READ NOW
- August 1 WABI TV covered Maine Association of Realtors Foundation's grant to the Mission's Housing Rehabilitation Program. The grant will help purchase materials and pay salary expenses of staff overseeing the rehabilitation of substandard homes in Washington County. - READ NOW
- August 4 The Boothbay Register featured a story about how Douglas
 Cornman, Director of Island Outreach, and John Zavodny, President lead a
 service at the Wilson Memorial Chapel. It's the 99th year that the Mission has
 lead a service at the chapel on Ocean Point.- READ NOW

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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.