



MARCH 2023

Mission Stories of Outer Islands
& Coastal Downeast Maine



Learn about the Mission Downeast Building Project on March 16

We invite members of the Downeast community to learn more about the [Mission Downeast Capital Campaign](#) and construction project during an informational event on our Cherryfield campus on Thursday, March 16 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

During this event, the public can learn more about how the project will transform the Cherryfield property into a more welcoming and useful space for the community. The heart of the project is the renovation of the existing administrative and food pantry building and the addition of a new wing which will house a new food pantry.

Tours will be conducted of the existing space and Mission staff will be on-hand to talk about the addition, building updates, and other planned improvements to the campus.

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Food Commodity Boxes Support Seniors Downeast

Once a month, [Food Security](#) program volunteers and staff members travel from Steuben to Beals Island delivering commodity boxes to 120 seniors. These boxes contain a variety of shelf-stable foods meant to supplement the food recipients already have. The deliveries are not only helpful for the seniors, but they give the Mission a chance to check in with community members and offer any support and resources they might need.

The boxes are delivered the third week of each month in partnership with [Eastern Area Agency on Aging](#) (EAAA)...

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From the Pilothouse: Captaining the *Sunbeam*

In 2001, when I learned there was a position available on the *Sunbeam*, I envisioned the romance of a career at sea. The fresh wind, the salt spray, the beautiful sunsets—sign me up! What does the boat do? As a local I knew it as “God’s Tugboat,” but really at that point the purpose was secondary to me: I wanted the lifestyle.

Maybe I was young and selfish, but I did not expect that this would become one of the richest experiences of my life...

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Winter Activities Bring Families Together

At the Mission's **EdGE Center** on any given Saturday in the winter, you can find kids (and adults) strapping on skates for the first time and hitting the ice. Other families warm up while playing board games after spending time snowshoeing. With the skating rink up and enough snow on the ground, families have been traveling to the Mission's Downeast Campus from as far away as Machias to enjoy the winter activities at the EdGE Center for the first time since 2020.

The Mission has offered winter activities before, but this year for the first time, the Mission's **Community & Family Engagement Program Manager**, Stephanie Moores, has been there each weekend to meet with families...

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Off the Water: the Making of the Cherryfield Marquees

Every few weeks, no matter the weather, the marquee sign outside of the Narraguagus Post 8 of the American Legion in Cherryfield has something to tell you.

Inspirational in nature, it is usually a quote from an author or musician, though it could be a funny quip. Other times the marquee shared important information about voting, town deadlines, or the next yard sale. Each message is unique and they are all the work of Jillian, the *Sunbeam's* Steward. Since 2017...

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In the News

Here are a few of our favorite pieces!

- The *Ellsworth American* featured a story about our food pantry's expanded hours - [READ NOW](#)
- *Maine Biz* covered how the [Mission Downeast Capital Campaign](#) and building project will transform the campus. - [READ NOW](#)
- *Star 97.7 FM* and the *Pen Bay Pilot* highlighted the impact of Mission Scholarships and how students can apply now for this year. - [READ NOW](#)
- Narraguagus Jr/Sr High School announced their Davis Maine Scholar and Journey student Laney Oliver as valedictorian and Journey student Matthew Haire as salutatorian! Congrats to them and the class of 2023! - [READ NOW](#)
- The *Mount Desert Islander* shared that the EdGE literacy program and the backpack programs, generously received a \$20,000 grant award from the Evelyn S. and K.E. Barrett Foundation. - [READ NOW](#)
- *Fox 22 Bangor* shared information about the Mission Downeast Capital Campaign and the March 16 information event on the Downeast campus. - [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.