

September 2023

Mission Stories of Outer Islands & Coastal Downeast Maine



Register for the EdGE 2023 Tennis Tournament

The ball is in your court! Teams and individual players can now register to compete in the 19th EDGE Tennis Tournament on Saturday, September 9 at the Northeast Harbor Tennis Club. The Tournament benefits the Mission's EdGE education program.

Composed of men's doubles and women's doubles playing at advanced and intermediate levels, eight-player teams compete throughout the day. The Tournament will take place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with breakfast and lunch provided.

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To register a player or a team, contact Development Operations Associate David Snyder by email or by phone at (207) 801-6010.

Register to Play



Meeting housing needs, one nail at a time

On a humid summer day on a side road in Franklin, volunteers level a ramp outside of a small home. Inside, more volunteers were painting the bathroom. In the living room, the owners—an older couple—proudly gesture to their already fixed bedroom while they watch the commotion around them. This house has been their home for more than forty years, they moved in as newlyweds and raised a family there. As time wore on, repairs stacked up. The house also became less accessible as they aged. They needed help to stay in the home they loved. That's where the Mission's Housing Improvement program came in...

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Three islands, three nights, one big celebration

When Director of Island Services Douglas Cornman planned this summer's trips, he realized that one trip would be special. During a Sunbeam trip in August, each night would be spent on a different island with enough time for an evening event. So, he scheduled a movie night on Isle au Haut, a bonfire on Matinicus, and a pizza party on Frenchboro. Part of the Mission's work on outer islands includes...

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Journeying through the summer

Touring a college campus in Bar Harbor, seventh grade students glimpsed what their futures could be. On Swan's Island, seniors reminisced about the six years they have spent together as peers while planning their futures. A few weeks later, on the same island, eighth graders learned about the history of the island and tried their hand at watercolor painting.

These trips are all part of the Mission's Journey program. Journey provides Downeast students with six years of deep mentoring with professional staff, community members, and older peers. Each group, called a cohort, focuses on a theme or aspect of their "journey" and the trips are the capstone to this yearlong process. The trips allow time for fun and bonding but also include college visits, community service, time for reflection, and insight into what the future could hold for them...

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Remembering Reverend Ted Hoskins

Reverend Theodore "Ted" Hoskins, who worked for the Mission for 16 years, passed away on Saturday, August 5. Ted joined the Mission as the Minister of the Outer Islands in 1993 and in 2002, he became the Minister to Coastal Communities and Fisheries. He retired in 2009.

When hired, he spent the first few weeks visiting each island. He had said at the time, "Ministry, local church ministry is what my life is all about. I shall preach and teach, visit and counsel, baptize and marry, comfort and bury. I will work for the well-being of the island residents in every way possible." And from the time he stepped on Sunbeam IV to his retirement, he continued to advocate for the people he served. He is remembered as a dedicated and caring pastor, who was every bit as comfortable dressed in a clerical robe standing behind a pulpit as he was traveling with a group of fishermen, preparing to meet with legislators to talk about the challenges they faced on the coast...

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Ann Cox Halkett to retire

In 2015, Ann Cox Halkett joined the Mission as its first dedicated human resources professional. During her time as the Director of Administration, she coached staff members, standardized the Mission's policies, and oversaw the growth in many of the Mission's core programs. At the end of September, Ann will retire from the Mission.

"Through transitions, planning, new initiatives, and even a pandemic, Ann emerged as a thought partner I could always count on," says Mission President John Zavodny....

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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.

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