



January 2024

Mission Stories of Outer Islands  
& Coastal Downeast Maine



## Looking Back on 2023

2023 was a big year for the Mission! We broke ground on the Downeast campus project and our expanded pantry and welcome center is slated to open this year. The first group of Journey students graduated from high school and became the first group to complete six years of the program. We welcomed new staff members including *Sunbeam* Nurse Simone and we honored our healthcare partners for their work bringing excellent care to island residents.

Watch our  
Highlights!



## Food Pantry Kicks Off Monthly Donation Drive

During the average month, around 200 people come to the Mission's food pantry on the Downeast Campus in Cherryfield. Megan Smith, Food Security Program Coordinator. The people that come in represent a household and many are often shopping for their families, others also come to get food for their neighbors who cannot make it to the pantry. Many of the pantry customers visit more often than they had just a few months ago and when the pantry opens on Tuesdays, a line often forms at the front door.

The pantry stocks a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, meat, and shelf-stable products received from partner organizations like Good Shepherd Food Bank. However, there are items...

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## Island Health Makes Connections from Home

This summer, the Mission held a health fair on Isle au Haut where island residents could learn more about the resources that were available to them in their community. Afterward, Director of Island Services Douglas Cornman and *Sunbeam* Nurse Simone Babineaux knew they wanted to offer a way for more islanders to learn more about resources available to them. Together with Island Services Program Coordinator Margaret Snell, they created the Inter-Island Health Connections webinars.

The series of talks started in October and will run for six months. Simone explains, "Islanders frequently talk about..."

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## Getting Ready for College

Earlier this fall, Davis Maine Scholarship Program Director Ace Barrera posed a question to Davis Maine Scholars currently attending college. What would have helped them better transition from high school to college? Their answers helped Ace and EdGE Secondary and Post-Secondary Program Director Christy Oliveri create a series of workshops to provide high school students with tips and guidance.

The workshop will cover a wide range of topics including...

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## Mission Welcomes New Chief Financial Officer

As of January 1, Jeffrey Ewing Del Rio has joined the Mission as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Jeff, a certified public accountant, comes to the Mission with more than 10 years of experience working with nonprofits in various financial positions. He ran his own firm that offered business advisory, tax, and bookkeeping services.

Mission President John Zavodny shares, "We're very excited..."

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## The Mission is Hiring!

We are building our team! For a career with Maine Seacoast Mission, learn about our current openings:

Our [Community Engagement Coordinator](#) provides community and family engagement activities, programs, and events for the Downeast community.

The [Sunbeam Steward](#) provides welcome and well-being for community and crew through hospitality, community engagement, and as a supportive member of the *Sunbeam* team.

An integral member of the development team, the [Development Operations Associate](#) is responsible for precise and timely business operations including gift processing, donor communication flow, and reporting.

The [Food Pantry Assistant](#) helps create a welcoming environment and works with colleagues and volunteers to keep the pantry stocked, clean, and efficient.

Learn More and  
Apply



## In the News

Here are a few of our favorite pieces this past fall.

- [Sigma Kappa Triangle](#) features Sigma Kappa Sorority sisters volunteering with the Mission and reflecting on their time in Downeast Maine.
- [UNE Magazine's](#) piece *Our Future: Davis Maine Scholars* focuses on the Scholars' experience as first-generation college students and their transition from high school.
- [ABC 7 and Fox 22 Bangor](#) interviewed Downeast Director Jenny Jones about the Christmas Program, its history, and how people can donate to the effort.
- [The Harvard Crimson](#) highlights *Downeast* author Gigi Georges about the book, how it spurred the *Downeast* Exploration Fund, and her experiences in Downeast Maine.

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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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