



Mission Completes Downeast Capital Campaign to Transform our Cherryfield Campus

The Mission has completed the Mission Downeast Capital Campaign and has secured over \$1.8 million for renovations and additions to the Mission's 63-acre Downeast campus in Cherryfield.

The campaign was supported by: Connie and Buddy Bates, Roger and Judy Clapp, Joyce and Les Coleman, Diana Davis Spencer Foundation, First National Bank, Good Shepherd Food Bank, Ann and David Ingram, Machias Savings Bank, Red Empress Foundation, Cornelia Cogswell Rossi Foundation, Jasper Wyman and Son, and others. Their donations make it possible for the Mission...

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Volunteers Help Island's Recover from Storms

On a small stretch of beach on Islesford, remnants of broken wine bottles, smashed plates, and silverware dotted the sand. During two storms in January, a restaurant situated on the dock had an outbuilding they used for storage wash away. Now, months later...

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Sourcing the Mission's Food: TEFAP

During a visit to the Mission's food pantry on the Downeast campus, you will notice a lot of pantry staples available: beans, grains, whole wheat pasta, and more. Many of these items are on the shelves because of The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), a federal program run by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Through the TEFAP program, the government purchases these crops from farmers and then this food is given to pantries nationwide. The most common crops the USDA subsidizes include corn, soybeans, wheat, rice, sorghum, and dairy.

With continued high demand, food provided by TEFAP can help pantries meet this increased need, but...

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Create A Lasting Impact in Downeast Maine

Each summer from May to September, hundreds of volunteers make their way to Downeast Maine, and in just one week they make a lasting impact on the community members. These volunteers are part of the Mission's Housing Improvement program and every year, they repair dozens of homes. In 2023, 112 volunteers completed 35 projects on homes throughout the Mission's service area.

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If you are interested in volunteering, please contact [Housing Improvement Program Director Jennifer Kempthorne](#).



From the Archives: Alice "Ma" Peasley and the Lasting Impact of the Hooked Rug Department

Alice Peasley, better known as "Ma," joined the Mission in October of 1917 as an assistant missionary. Alice became well known up and down the coast as a caring but firm figure, who worked with many island communities. She would go on to work for the Mission for 28 years, doing everything from teaching to leading church services. But the program she is most known for is the Hooked Rug Department, which began just over 100 years ago.

Right after starting at the Mission, Alice was quiet literally left to find her own way. In the book *Anchor to Windward*, Edward Valentine Mitchell writes...

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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

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