

SCHOLARS | SPONSORS | SCIENCE



MAINE SEACOAST MISSION
BULLETIN

SPRING 2026



EDUCATION
BUILDS
COMMUNITY

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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SEACOASTMISSION.ORG



In these pages, we are excited to focus on the Mission's educational programs. As a former college teacher and first-generation college student myself, I know first-hand

how it changes lives. This morning

I watched 10 elementary school children exercise their resilience on our challenge course.

Their confidence grows right before your eyes.

Later, I will review applications for the Davis Maine Scholarship. Talk about life-changing! But these programs are not new to the Mission.

The Mission has cared about education since the beginning, when the MacDonald brothers journeyed aboard *Hope*. The Mission went on to establish scholarships, help build schools, and provide teachers. For many years, the first two *Sunbeams* had a traveling library.

Since 1905, the Mission has partnered with communities to help meet the educational needs of our island and coastal children. This tradition of partnership is stronger than ever. Today, we count donors, foundations, and corporate sponsors among those partners. Throughout this issue, those voices share why they continue to support the Mission, and what education means to them.

Between the Teaching and Learning Collaborative (TLC), EdGE, and scholarship programs, the Mission improves outcomes for more than 700 rural students every year. That includes schooling in much-needed trades, professional licensures, and for non-traditional students. Our impact has never been greater.

And, as we like to say at the Mission, *our work is your work*. Your support for the Mission allows this transformative programming to continue.

For the Mission!

John Zavodny

President, Maine Seacoast Mission

Front cover: An EdGE Afterschool student at D.W. Merritt Elementary School smiles during an experiment with the MDI Biological Laboratory.



Journey students work on a teambuilding skill on the Downeast Campus in Cherryfield.

EDUCATION BUILDS COMMUNITY

To reach Chebeague Island School, one takes a ferry. Headed to Rose M. Gaffney Elementary in Machias? Drive about three and a half hours in the opposite direction. While one school serves 23 students, the other sees more than 300. These schools share almost nothing on the map. But both communities trust the same neighbor: Maine Seacoast Mission.

The Mission's education programs walk alongside students from kindergarten through their post-secondary careers. The Teaching and Learning Collaborative (TLC) serves island schools; EdGE, Journey, Mission Scholarships, and Davis Maine Scholarships serve students in

Downeast Maine. More than 600 students in kindergarten through 12th grade participate, which rises to more than 700 when college scholarship recipients are included. These programs go beyond academics because when students feel supported and hopeful, the whole community thrives.

Programs for students in elementary, middle, and high school—TLC, Journey, and EdGE—use the Clover Model, a framework that focuses on social-emotional development across four domains or “clover leaves:” assertiveness (or agency), active engagement, belonging, and reflection. The model strengthens the



TLC students on the playground at the Isle au Haut School.

emotional, interpersonal, and resiliency skills essential to lifelong success. When students grow equally in all four domains, they tend to be healthier mentally, emotionally, and academically.

Fostering a sense of belonging is an undercurrent in the Mission’s work. Life in rural and remote areas, particularly on islands, can feel isolating. TLC directly addresses that by connecting students and teachers through regular virtual gatherings, teacher meetings, book groups, and a weekly movement class, and brings students together in person a few times each year. Ashley Greenleaf, the teacher for the Cranberry Isles School, shares, “TLC supports the wellbeing of both students and teachers alike. By providing connection and support when needed, this helps to ensure the sustainability of schools.” With these opportunities for connection, TLC helps island communities stay vibrant, welcoming places where people belong.

Tucked into the easternmost county in the nation, the Mission’s Downeast programs also champion the aspirations of students, families, and whole communities. EdGE

brings afterschool experiences and activities to students at seven elementary schools and a leadership program for older elementary-aged children, at no cost. Families trust that their children are in good hands, and they can focus on work. In summertime, EdGE operates three summer camps to keep children learning, playing, and growing. Across all EdGE programming, students access experiences that build self-worth and spark hope, pointing students toward futures they can believe in.

The Journey program deepens that hope. Through consistent mentoring and support, participants build college and career aspirations beginning in seventh grade. Students take trips, explore careers, volunteer, practice leadership, and visit colleges—trade and technical schools, two- and four-year colleges, public and private universities, in and out of state—so they can make informed, confident choices about their paths forward.

The John T. Gorman Foundation puts it plainly, “The Journey program shows that when students receive mentoring and opportunities they might not otherwise



EdGE Afterschool students on the playground at Rose M. Gaffney Elementary School.

have, their sense of belonging grows, strengthening their resilience.” Every Journey graduate has earned a high school diploma, and 78% attend college, well above the regional average of 57%. Chloe Look, a former EdGE and Journey student now at Wheaton College on a Mission Scholarship, credits the programs with “helping me find scholarships, taking me on trips to various colleges, and having people speak to us about their post-high school experiences.”

For students in Downeast Maine who continue their post-secondary education, the Mission’s scholarship programs provide ongoing support and stability. Currently, 82 students receive Mission Scholarships totaling \$246,000, and 23 students hold Davis Maine Scholarships, which cover cost-of-attendance tuition and expenses of earning an undergraduate education. Emma Parker, a former EdGE and Journey student now attending the University of Maine on a Mission Scholarship, speaks to the affinity she feels for the Mission’s and its donors dedication, “It’s nice to know there’s a group of people rooting for me that will always have my back!”

The impact of these education programs stretches along the Maine coast. TLC has played a role in island communities keeping schools open. That brightens these islands’—and their communities’—futures. Chebeague and Isle au Haut have seen their student numbers grow. Matinicus, which went two years without enrolled students, now has two. And students who participated in TLC grew up and chose to stay on their islands. They now live and work along the coast, rooted in the communities that believed in them.

The same holds true for EdGE. A new generation of students has entered the programs—kids of the first-generation of EdGE kids. In nine years of operation, Journey looks on as its first cohort is completing its junior year of college. The first class of Davis Maine Scholars graduates this year. Many plan to return home, carrying their knowledge back to the communities that shaped them. The Mission’s education programs do not simply support students—they strengthen communities, build belonging, and invest in a hopeful future for coastal and island Maine. 🌊

First Class Graduates

In 2021, six Downeast Maine students received a life-changing call awarding each a Davis Maine Scholarship. Ana Rosa Valencia Jungo, now a senior at Wheaton College, was with her mom when she heard the news. She was elated and knew the impact it would have on her family: she nor her parents would carry the financial burden they expected to shoulder for her.

This unique and rare opportunity is made possible through a partnership between the Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund, generous donor Andrew Davis, and the Mission. The Davis Maine Scholarship offers a full cost-of-attendance undergraduate education to first-generation students from Washington County and Sumner Memorial High School. The program

welcomes Scholars during their senior year of high school, where they receive mentoring and guidance until they graduate from one of three Davis Maine partner colleges: Clark University, Wheaton College, and University of New England (UNE).

This spring, Ana Rosa will graduate from Wheaton. Her fellow Class of 2026 Davis Maine Scholars Lisett Anderson, Rachel Colby, Emilee Hutchins, and Mali Smith will don caps and gowns at UNE's graduation ceremony.

The Scholarship opened a door some Scholars had not expected to walk through. Lisett shares, "I really never thought I'd go to college. I genuinely thought I was going to have a mundane job, going from one position to the next with no real trajectory. This has given me the ability to see paths in front of me that I can take." Rachel adds, "I wasn't sure I wanted to go to college.

The Scholarship helped me build a future for myself and my family." Emilee felt the same way. Mali and Ana Rosa had planned on college, but many schools felt out of reach.

The three Davis Maine partner colleges are known for their commitment to first-generation, rural students. 21% of Wheaton students are first-generation, Clark 20%, and UNE 30%, each offering tailored mentoring, meetups, and clubs. In supportive settings, the young women explored passions, broadened horizons, and grew into themselves. Lisett and Emilee studied abroad; Mali, Emilee, Lisett, and Rachel joined or founded clubs; and all attended games, pursued activities, and built lifelong friendships. The transition was not without challenges: UNE and Wheaton both have student populations far larger than most Downeast towns, and all five were more than three hours from home. By program design, Mission staff helped with the adjustment.

"In the beginning, I really struggled. The Scholarship is the reason I'm still here," says Ana Rosa. "They checked in on me and connected me to campus resources I didn't know existed." Rachel adds, "I was super homesick that first year, and being able to talk with Mission staff and problem-solve together was really helpful." The Scholarship also provides families with transportation and lodging

for visits, something all five Scholars, deeply value.

They credit the program for navigating an array of challenges, from paperwork to campus life. Emilee shares, "They helped me figure out college, the FAFSA—all of it. They were there, especially those first few years." Lisett adds, "I have a backbone of support: people I can call when I have an issue. I absolutely would have scrambled on my own." Lisett even began informally mentoring incoming Davis Maine Scholars at UNE, making sure they knew they were not alone.

Lisett, Emilee, Rachel, Mali, and Ana Rosa feel a deep sense of gratitude and responsibility. As they chart their next steps, each plans to give back and strengthen their Downeast communities, most by returning to the region. Rachel will become a nurse



Scholar Emilee Hutchins reads to students.

and Emilee hopes to open a daycare. As Emilee reflects, "It's giving our small-town area bigger hopes. So many Scholars are pursuing different fields, and when they come back, that's a huge help for all of us."

As they look ahead, they also look back with gratitude. Their message to future Scholars is simple. Rachel says, "You've been given a great scholarship, a great opportunity, and life is short, so make the most of it."



Scholar Mali Smith holds a rescued raccoon.



Scholar Rachel Colby (right) in a nursing class.

Join us

Thursday, August 20, 2026
Bar Harbor Club

5:00 p.m. Doors Open • 5:30 p.m. Program
6:00 p.m. Cocktail Hour



Sunbeam Award
2026

Gala

Reverend Scott Planting was the Mission President from 2010 to 2019. During his tenure, he played a key role in developing the Downeast Campus, strengthening the foundation of the EdGE program and broadening the Scholarships program. For islands, he oversaw the expansion of telehealth services through the *Sunbeam*. He also initiated the Mission's transition from its longtime home in Bar Harbor to a new headquarters in Northeast Harbor.

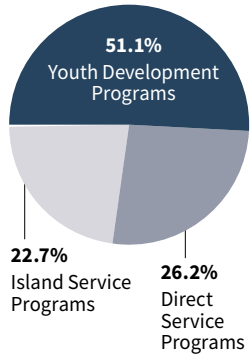
Andrew Davis, through the Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund, created the Davis Maine Scholarship to ensure that more first-generation college students from our rural areas have the opportunity to complete undergraduate degrees, untethered by financial burden. Currently, there are 23 Davis Maine Scholars who receive support through their senior year of high school and during their four years in college.

Reservations will begin on Monday, June 1. To make a reservation scan the QR code or please contact Development Operations Coordinator Terri Rodick at (207) 801-6008 or events@seacoastmission.org.

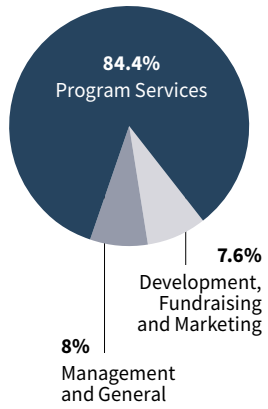
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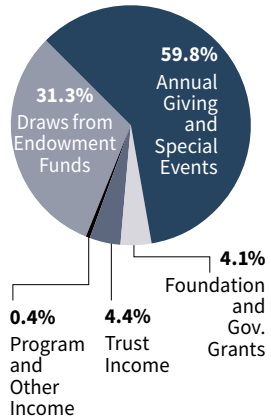
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES



TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES



TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE



An independent auditor's report is available upon request. Maine Seacoast Mission is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, a publicly supported organization as defined by Section 170(b) A-6. Contributions are deductible to the extent provided by law.

FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025

OPERATING FUND

Operating fund income

Annual Giving and Special Events	\$ 3,848,615
Foundation and Government Grants	261,815
Trust Income	282,505
Program and Other Income	28,073
Subtotal	4,421,008
Draws Transferred from Endowment Funds (below)	2,017,711
TOTAL OPERATING FUND INCOME	6,438,719

OPERATING FUND EXPENDITURES

Program Services

Youth Development Programs (EdGE, Scholarships, Journey, Davis Maine Scholarship)	2,650,902
Direct Service Programs (Food Security, Housing Repair, Christmas, Outreach)	1,362,199
Island Service Programs (Island Outreach, Education, Health, Sunbeam)	1,175,339
Total Program Services	5,188,440

Supporting Services

Management and General	494,149
Development, Fundraising, and Marketing	463,181
Total Supporting Services	957,330
TOTAL OPERATING FUND EXPENDITURES	6,145,770

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS—OPERATING FUND

292,949

RESTRICTED FUNDS, Net of Operating Uses

RESTRICTED INCOME, Net of Operating Uses

Special Gift and Capital Campaigns	523,548
Bequest Income	1,023,610
Trust Income	425,159
Subtotal	1,972,317

Investment Income	3,931,152
Less: Endowment Draws	
Transferred to Operating Fund (above)	(2,017,711)
Investment Income (Loss), net	1,913,441

TOTAL RESTRICTED INCOME, Net of Operating Uses **3,885,758**

RESTRICTED EXPENDITURES

Special Project Expenditures	0
TOTAL RESTRICTED EXPENDITURES	0

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS—RESTRICTED FUNDS, NET OF OPERATING USES

\$ 3,885,758

TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

\$ 4,178,707

ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT FUNDS

VALUE ON JUNE 30, 2025 **\$ 59,201,831**

Visits This Summer

SUNBEAM VISITS*

Sunbeam Cruise

at the Northeast Harbor Marina on Wednesday, June 24 at 5:30 p.m. (5:00 p.m. boarding time)

Sunbeam Cruise

at the Northeast Harbor Marina on Thursday, July 9 at 5:30 p.m. (5:00 p.m. boarding time)

Sunbeam Cruise

at the Northeast Harbor Marina on Saturday, August 22 at 11:00 a.m. (10:30 a.m. boarding time)

Sunbeam Open House

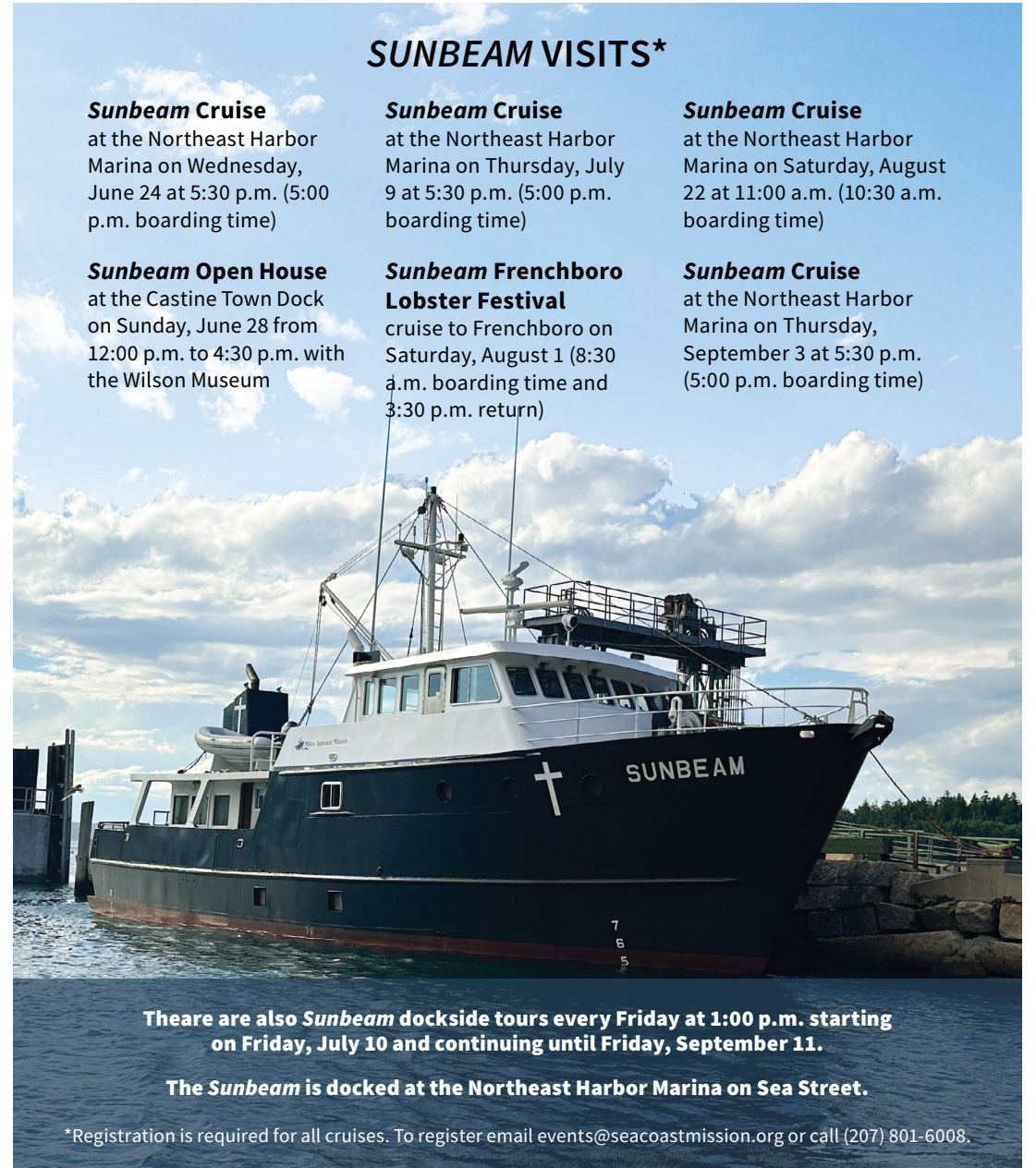
at the Castine Town Dock on Sunday, June 28 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. with the Wilson Museum

Sunbeam Frenchboro Lobster Festival

cruise to Frenchboro on Saturday, August 1 (8:30 a.m. boarding time and 3:30 p.m. return)

Sunbeam Cruise

at the Northeast Harbor Marina on Thursday, September 3 at 5:30 p.m. (5:00 p.m. boarding time)



There are also Sunbeam dockside tours every Friday at 1:00 p.m. starting on Friday, July 10 and continuing until Friday, September 11.

The Sunbeam is docked at the Northeast Harbor Marina on Sea Street.

*Registration is required for all cruises. To register email events@seacoastmission.org or call (207) 801-6008.

CHAPEL VISITS

Hancock Point Chapel

Sunday, July 12

Wilson Chapel

Sunday, August 2

Each year, the Mission makes visits to chapels around the state. These visits are based on the Mission's historic visits to churches along the Maine coast. The Mission has been visiting Wilson Chapel and Hancock Point Chapel for decades. Correspondence through the 1900s, includes letters back and forth from the Mission and churches asking for Mission staff to come speak at their churches.





Corporate Sponsors and Donors Strengthen Community

The Mission's corporate sponsors and donors are embedded in the communities they serve. For some sponsors, their staff have received scholarships, their children attend EdGE or TLC, and they witness the *Sunbeam's* compassionate work firsthand. Most importantly, each sponsor believes in the organization's mission and the benefit its programming offers to rural Maine communities.

Each year, around a dozen businesses invest in the Mission through dollars, volunteerism, and hands-on involvement. "In this community, there are a lot of different needs—from food security to childcare to fishermen needing support," says April Norton, Vice President of Human Resources at Jasper Wyman & Son, a Platinum Sponsor. "Partnering with the Mission was never a question for us. It has helped both Wyman's and our employees." Her son

attended EdGE, and a senior HR team member received a Mission Scholarship. Wyman's Chief Financial Officer Robert Mancini, and a Mission board member, adds, "Running a successful business means ensuring our communities are healthy, vibrant, and kids are getting the education they need."

Machias Savings Bank, a Silver Sponsor, has backed the Mission for years and supported the food pantry's expansion in 2023. Employee Experience Assistant Ellie Hammond captures the spirit well, "We are eager to support young community members in their growth and help them figure out their future." Both Wyman's and Machias Savings Bank recently joined a Mission-organized career and college fair, a demonstration of belonging that goes well beyond a donation check.

Platinum Sponsor Bar Harbor

Bank & Trust shares that same commitment. The Bank's Director of Community Giving, Jack Frost, highlights the bank's Casual for a Cause program, through which employees donate to a pooled fund every Friday. "Every quarter, we direct those funds to nonprofits across the region, and Maine Seacoast Mission has been among the recipients. It's a way to engage employees at an entry level of philanthropy." While the Bank makes their own donation, it's clear that the employees also value the work of the Mission.

Further down the coast in Belfast, Corporate Donor Safe Harbor Front Street conducts the *Sunbeam's* annual maintenance. General Manager J.B. Turner has watched the boat's impact on island and maritime communities grow, "The Mission is truly part of the Maine coast, and it is deeply appreciated by everyone it serves."

That sentiment resonates across all sponsors and donors. First National Bank President and CEO Tony McKim, a Bronze Sponsor, shares, "The Mission has been a critical partner in Hancock and Washington Counties and on the outer islands, addressing everything from children's programming to food insecurity to healthcare."



Experiments and Experience with STEM

A drop of vanilla, a sprinkle of salt, and a dash of cinnamon — not the beginning of a recipe, but the start of something far more special: a science experiment. In January, MDI Biological Laboratory (MDI Bio Lab) partnered with the Mission to bring hands-on science learning to three EdGE afterschool locations in Washington County. The “Discover STEM” program brings the Lab’s Director of Science Education & Outreach Dr. Elisabeth Marnik into schools—microscopes in hand—for afternoons of learning, curiosity, and connection.

During the first session, students learned to use microscopes. They eagerly examined slides to observe and record their findings. They then explored DNA through strawberries. In the next session, students dove into experimental thinking. Each student received a section of a California blackworm, a tiny creature that can regenerate. Dr. Marnik explains, “At the Laboratory, one of the areas we study is regeneration. We tend to focus on fish or axolotls—which we cannot easily bring to kids!—but these worms do the same thing. Children get introduced to the concept of regeneration and learn how to run an experiment.”

Students paired off and Dr. Marnik then walked them



A student at D.W. Merritt watches Dr. Marnik focus a microscope on his experiment.

through the experiment: choose a substance to add to their worm’s habitat and predict whether it would help or hinder the worm’s growth, hence the salt, vanilla, cinnamon, and about a dozen other add-ins. Students whispered among themselves, weighing their choices, then rushed back to their seats to watch their worms under the microscope for immediate changes. When one student added too much salt, she shared with her peers that she was not optimistic about her worm’s future.

Karen Bailey, EdGE Site Coordinator and third grade teacher at D.W. Merritt in Addison, sees “Discover STEM” as giving students experiences that dedicated classroom teachers rarely have the time or resources to offer. Most elementary-aged students receive fewer than 20 minutes

of science education per day, compared to nearly 90 minutes of reading and language arts and an hour of mathematics. Dr. Marnik agrees, “Research shows how early exposure to science can make a difference in kids considering careers in science and grow up with a genuine appreciation for it.” Karen feels especially hopeful watching young girls see a woman thriving in science. She notes that students light up when they hear Dr. Marnik is coming.

Dr. Marnik will return in six weeks to check on the students’ worms. She does not know how the experiment will turn out, but she hopes the wait will be worth it for the kids. “Science involves a lot of failure, which is part of how discovery happens. But we still want the process to be exciting for the kids.” she says. 🐛

Thank you

TO OUR SPONSORS

The Mission’s corporate sponsors and donors support our work all year. Through their generosity and the generosity of all of our donors, the Mission can help sustain and strengthen families and communities.

PLATINUM



SILVER



BRONZE



COPPER



CORPORATE DONOR



We wish to thank each sponsor for believing in the thriving communities the Mission seeks to assist on Maine’s islands and Downeast coast. Become a sponsor for our organization and create a customized package to best fit your organization’s goals.

To learn more about corporate sponsorship opportunities, please contact our Development Office at development@seacoastmission.org or call (207) 288-5097.



PO Box 600, Northeast Harbor, ME 04662

SEACOASTMISSION.ORG



Sunbeam Award
2026

Gala

Please join us

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026

BAR HARBOR CLUB

Recognizing those who embody the ideals of community:

Rev. Scott Planting

Andrew Davis

To make a reservation beginning June 1, please visit SEACOASTMISSION.ORG/GALA