



STAND-ING UP FOR A GOOD CAUSE

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

— Margaret Mead

Thanks to all who joined us Saturday, June 23rd at Southern Maine Community College for STAND, a fundraiser to support Maine's most vulnerable populations: children, seniors, refugees and immigrants, and those battling addiction, mental health issues, and hunger.



170 guests in all gathered to kick off the summer and enjoy samples of locally-made wine and beer, delicious hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction, and live music, raising more than \$15,000 in total.

These funds are critical in helping us address some of the most urgent problems facing our neediest neighbors:

- **hunger insecurity** affects 200,000 people in Maine
- the rate of **child poverty** in Maine rose from 2011-2015
- 30% of Maine **seniors live alone**
- the number of fatalities from **drug overdoses** in Maine has more than doubled in the last four years
- one in four adults experiences a **mental health disorder** in a given year
- more than half the **refugees** around the globe are children under the age of 18

We all have causes that are close to our hearts —choose yours and STAND with us, and you'll be amazed at what we can achieve!



THERE'S STILL TIME TO GIVE! Catholic Charities Maine 2018 Fall Appeal

For too many in Maine,
Christmas is just another day...



one filled with worry
and uncertainties.



As the year comes to a close, so does Catholic Charities Maine Fall Appeal. If you have not already made your donation, please look into your heart and give what you can to make 2019 brighter for the most vulnerable in our community.

Through your support of Catholic Charities Maine, you directly aid more than 50,000 Mainers who are struggling to survive another harsh winter, another day sober, another hour of loneliness and despair.

You can donate by mailing a check payable to Catholic Charities Fall Appeal to Catholic Charities Maine, Office of Development, P.O. Box 10660, Portland, ME 04104-6060, by calling our Development Department at (207) 523-1188 or online at www.ccmaine.org/give

Thank you in advance for your generosity. All of us at Catholic Charities wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas.

Penny for your thoughts:

"If you can be kind and considerate for one day, then you can be for another. It won't cost you a penny in the world. Begin today." — Dale Carnegie

As a non-profit organization, Catholic Charities Maine relies on your support to fulfill our mission. We can't do it without you !



Anthony (4), Charity, and Julian (3)

“He left us with nothing.”

What would you do, left broke and alone with two small children?

For Charity, the answer is simple: “You take it one day at a time. You do what you have to do.”

She found herself with no other choice, when her increasingly toxic marriage ended with her husband simply driving away, leaving her and her two young sons, now 3 and 4, with literally nothing. Like most disasters, it happened fast. “We were a normal middle class family, from the outside. I had been a stay at home mom. He didn’t leave us

anything. I didn’t have a job. I didn’t have a car. It was rough.”

With support from family and the state, Charity was able to put the boys in preschool and start working herself, as a waitress. But the demands of her job, along with trying to balance the costs and hours of the boys’ schedules, made life nearly impossible: “It was really touch and go.”

Luckily for Charity and her family, help arrived in the form of a gift from CCM’s *Put Children First* Scholarship Fund, which allowed the boys to enroll in St. Elizabeth’s Child Development Center.

“I couldn’t have done it without it, it kept everything rolling,” Charity says. “It meant me being able to work, and be a productive member of society... it meant keeping my sanity.” As for the boys, “They love it at St. Elizabeth’s. They see each other a lot. And I love that they serve them their lunches and snacks, that’s a huge help.”

Unfortunately, stories like Charity’s are all too common (see right). But luckily, the generosity of people like you provides a safety net — perhaps the only one — when disaster strikes. Find out more about our *Put Children First* scholarship fund and how you can be there for a family in need by visiting www.ccmaine.org or calling 523-1188.

CHAMPIONS OF CHARITY: 16TH GOLF CLASSIC RAISES \$72,000 TO PUT CHILDREN FIRST

Thanks to all who joined us September 17, 2018 at The Woodlands for our 16th annual Golf Classic. 31 teams took to the greens, helping raise \$72,000 for scholarships at our two child development centers, St. Elizabeth’s in Portland and St. Louis in Biddeford.

Special thanks to our event sponsors, without whom none of it would be possible: Royal River Grill House, Tuscan Bistro, Tuscan Table, Winxnet, Cross/BGA Financial, Coastal, Inc., Cigna, Northeast Delta Dental, Olympia Sports, Port Printing Solutions, Identity Group, Yankee Ford, and Edison Press.

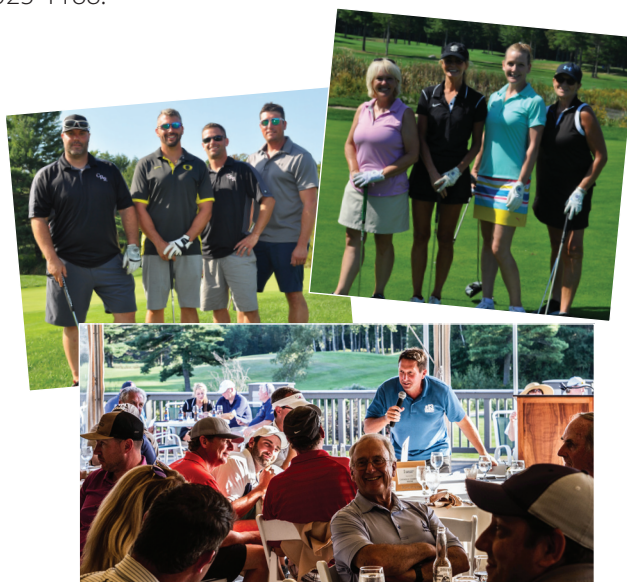
Want to get in on the game? Join the team working on our annual Golf Classic supporting our *Put Children First* scholarship fund. As a player or sponsor, volunteer or prize donor, there are lots of ways to get involved — and everyone’s a winner. Call 523-1188 to find out more.

According to singlemotherguide.com, single motherhood is now the “new norm”

U.S. Census figures show that today 1 in 4 children under the age of 18 — a total of about 17.2 million — are being raised without a father.

The facts also show just how hard it is for single mothers to raise a child:

- Families headed by single mothers are among the poorest households, with more than a third living in poverty.
- The majority of single mothers in the United States are separated, divorced or widowed; and they work more hours and yet have higher poverty rates than single mothers in other high-income countries. (Spotlight on Poverty: *To Prevent Poverty, Reduce the Penalty for Single-Motherhood*)
- Nationally, the annual cost of center-based infant care averaged over 40% of the state median income for a single mother (approximately 32% for a school-age child).



Top: Team Coastal Road Repair and Team Olympia Sports; Bottom: Our Auctioneer Extraordinaire, WGME’s Jeff Peterson

MAKING EVERY PENNY COUNT:

WE’RE ACCELERATING ENDING HUNGER IN MAINE!

Firecracker 200 stock car race’s biggest winner was Feed the County

For fans of stock car racing, there was only one place to be this past 3rd of July: the Spud Speedway in Caribou. Not only would it be the first race at the track since 2015, but Fort Kent’s Austin Theriault was competing in the Aroostook Savings and Loan Firecracker 200 Pro All-Stars Series (PASS) Super Late Model feature.

According to the owner of Spud Speedway, Troy Haney, the turnout was “phenomenal,” with nearly 2,000 attendees. And though Austin didn’t win the race (Derek Griffith of Hudson, New Hampshire took the flag), **the big winners were the residents of Aroostook County, with \$12,000 in donations to the Food Bank raised from selling laps — 283.5 in total — to sponsors.**

Dixie Shaw, Director of Hunger & Relief Services at CCM, says the “driving force” behind the event’s success was social media, with the Facebook pages of event sponsors WAGM-TV CBS and Aroostook Federal Savings and Loan, along with Catholic Charities Maine, Spud Speedway and PASS (Pro All Star Series), generating far-flung excitement around the event. “It was amazing! We got people from all over, even western Canada. Next year we expect it to be even bigger!”

Tackling the perennial problem of hunger with modern technology and a classic community celebration — that’s the kind of creative thinking that drives CCM and our supporters!

Thanks to you, our Spring Appeal was a blooming success

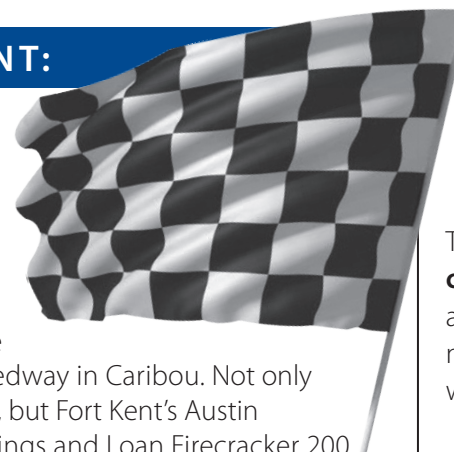
Our goal-busting Spring Appeal ensured our most vulnerable neighbors continue to get the help and hope they need

Thanks to all whose generosity put us over our 2018 Spring Appeal fundraising goal of \$60,000. In all, we raised \$72,726, with more than half the money raised going “where it is needed most.”

With so many vulnerable populations to serve here in Maine, your gift helps us address the most critical issues, including mental health, substance abuse, quality care for seniors and children, food insecurity, and helping refugees rebuild their lives.

Average Spring Appeal Gift: \$187.92 2 Ways a gift of \$187.92 can make a difference:

- Pay for a week+ of childcare for a low-income family
- Fill an oil tank for a low-income senior living alone



*Does not include United Way, federal and state grants, or Diocesan funding.

Give – and Get HAPPY!

The experts say **happiness is a skill you can build.** One of the easiest ways — in addition to nurturing relationships, having new experiences, and being grateful for what you have — is **by helping others.**

At CCM, we make it easy to help:

- donate goods or money
- volunteer your time and skills
- do your holiday shopping at one of our five *Threads of Hope* Thrift Stores

Find out more at www.ccmaine.org — you’ll be happy you did!

Talk about a reason to smile amazon smile

Shop with AmazonSmile, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to Catholic Charities Maine. Happy shopping! <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/01-0280225>

5 ways to boost your happiness instantly:

- do something to brighten a loved one’s day
- thank someone who did something for you
- talk with a friend
- give someone a helping hand
- savor a happy memory

Source: *The Science of Happiness* by happyf.™

DID YOU KNOW?

91 cents of every dollar goes directly to those in need, and 100% of your gift stays here in Maine.

We provide comfort, we feed the hungry, we stand for the vulnerable, we seek wholeness, we bring recovery, we teach the children, we offer support to seniors, we strengthen families, we welcome strangers, we change lives.
WE ARE CATHOLIC CHARITIES MAINE!