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!

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!

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

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.
"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 know 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 rough.”

“I couldn’t have done it without it, it kept everything rolling,” Charity says. “It meant me and everyone’s a winner. Call 523-1188 to find out more.

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 —


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

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, Reducing the Penalty for Single-Motherhood)
• Nationally, the annual cost of center-based infant care averages over 40% of the state median income for a single mother (approximately 32% for a school age child).

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, Winnnet, Cross/BGA Financial, Coastal, Inc., Cigna, Northeast Delta Dental, Olympia Sports, Port Printing Solutions, Identity Group, Yankee Ford, and Edson Press.

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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!