

making every penny count

PHILANTHROPY REPORT | APRIL-MAY 2022

Full Circle Giving

When do refugees decide that the only homes they've ever known may never be safe again? For Behzad Habibzai's father, it was a day in 1983 when he saw his best friend disappear from a high-ranking government position in Kabul, Afghanistan. The Habibzai family soon packed up their home in Kabul and fled to Germany to avoid Soviet persecution.

"My family was in Germany for three years, which is where I was born," Habibzai explained. "Catholic Charities Maine (CCM) and St. Bartholomew's worked together to get my family to Portland when I was three months old. I heard there was applause in the Portland jetport when we landed, and this was the first sign of how welcoming Maine people can be. The seven of us lived with an incredibly welcoming couple, Dorothy and Cliff Leavis, in Cape Elizabeth while we waited for housing. They became like grandparents to us."

Last November, when Habibzai saw more Afghans being resettled by the same organization who brought him here, he knew he had to help. His letter and generous donation are a reminder of the long-term impact our refugee resettlement work has on newcomers to Maine and on local communities.

Now, as another humanitarian crisis engulfs another part of the world, CCM has been getting inquiries about how Mainers can help resettle Ukrainian people. It's too early to know if our state will be designated to resettle Ukrainians, but the calls remind us that CCM's 40+ year history of resettling refugees resonates with the community.

To read more about the Habibzai family's resettlement journey, visit www.ccmaine.org/Habibzai

Catholic Charities
Attention: Development Office
P.O. Box 10660
Portland, ME 04104

RE: Refugee & Immigration Services Program for Afghan Resettlement

November 19, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

We would like to thank Catholic Charities for their work in helping Maine resettlement efforts for Afghan families. I am a product of this effort; Catholic Charities assisted my family to come to Portland in 1983 from Afghanistan by way of Germany when I was three months old.

Enclosed you'll find twenty Hannaford gift cards with \$20 loaded on each. We'd appreciate it if you could direct these to the Afghan families that your organization are helping.

I look forward to helping these families more, but this is an initial step.

Sincerely,

Behzad & Meghan Habibzai

Community Partner SPOTLIGHT

We are grateful for the year-long sponsorship our Community Partners have made to support our mission, day in and day out. In this edition, we feature our Platinum Sponsors: Royal River Grill House in Yarmouth, Tuscan Bistro in Freeport, Tuscan Table in South Portland, and Sicilian Table, opening soon in Falmouth. If you are looking for great food – both for eating in or for taking out – remember to support local businesses that so generously give back to our communities.

ROYAL RIVER

Grill House
EST. 2002

royalrivergrillhouse.com



TUSCAN BISTRO

Freeport, Maine

tuscanbrickenbistro.com



TUSCAN TABLE

tuscantablemaine.com



SICILIAN TABLE



Anniversary Sale-a-bration in Sanford

**Our Sanford Threads of Hope Thrift store,
located at 1364 Main Street, is celebrating its
ninth anniversary from May 2-7.**

"Nine years is a long time, and the help we provide is something to be celebrated! In my seven years with the store, I have seen how locals rely on the shop to really stretch their dollars, and I have seen countless examples of how we've been able to help someone in their time of need," said Shana King, manager. "I have seen how an elderly lady no longer had to sleep on the floor because we gave her a bed. A domestic violence survivor now feels safer because of the curtains we gave her for her new apartment. And three local children had Christmas presents in a year when they otherwise would not have had anything under the tree. We are blessed with a lot of regular customers who frequent our store weekly (sometimes daily!), and we receive so many generous donations. I wanted to do something to let the community know we appreciate them and all they have given us in their support for CCM. I also want to use this celebration to raise awareness of our mission. The more people we reach, the more people we can help!"

\$ale-a-bration!
May 2 - 7, 2022

Enter to win
RAFFLES!
One entry
per day

MANIC MONDAY

BUY more, SAVE more!
Save \$5 for every \$25 spent

TWO DOLLAR TUESDAY

All clothing ONLY \$2
Special items priced as marked

SENIOR SAVINGS WEDNESDAY

Seniors Age 62+ Enjoy 10% Off Storewide

THRIFTY THURSDAY

50% ALL Clothing

ANNIVERSARY PARTY FRIDAY

TGI Free Refreshments & Surprise Savings

SPRING SATURDAY

Our Gift to You...Special Spring Savings!

Threads Thrift
OF HOPE



Here We Grow Again!

As mud season subsides, Mainers can start to feel hopeful about what's sprouting up in our gardens and local farms. It's a great time to recognize our *Farm for ME* partners in Northern Maine, which launched as a CCM pilot project on three acres in Aroostook County in 2013. Over the years, *Farm for ME* has helped our Hunger and Relief Services distribute hundreds of thousands of pounds of locally grown crops and take advantage of gleaning (gathering of leftover crops) opportunities available with partner farms. *Farm for ME* even grows through the winter, helping with our mission to provide sustainable, healthy food year-round.



Our Old Computers Are Giving Back!

Catholic Charities recently partnered with an innovative Waterville, ME-based company called give IT. get IT. (www.giveitgetit.org) to recycle old and unused computer equipment. Their team picks up old computers, destroys all data, refurbishes hard drives, cleans monitors, keyboards, etc. and gives them to people in need at little or no costs.

This is a win-win for Catholic Charities and for the end recipients. We cleaned out our office storage and filled two very large bins of miscellaneous computer equipment. Instead of collecting dust or ending up in landfills, it will now have a second life for those in need.

Help us go green and make your donation dollars go further by emailing development@ccmaine.org with "subscribe" in the subject line to receive future newsletters via email.