

Catholic Charities Maine making every penny count

PHILANTHROPY UPDATE

SPRING 2020

Mainers take care of one another. It's what we do. And that's never been more evident than now. With a global pandemic affecting all aspects of our lives, from how we shop for groceries to how we connect with family and friends, we've been heartened to see — even during these days of unprecedented challenges and uncertainties — the outpouring of support from individuals and businesses all across Maine.

As one of our senior clients said when an employee came by with groceries, "I'm just so thankful you remembered me!" we too are so thankful you continue to remember us and bless us with your time, talent and treasures!



Steve Letourneau | CEO, Catholic Charities Maine

For Paradis Shop 'N Save Giving Back is a Family Affair

Paradis Shop 'N Save Corporate Office donated \$5,000 to the Catholic Charities Maine Food Bank to help ensure those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic have access to food in the local communities where they operate, including Fort Kent, Madawaska and Brewer. "This donation is so critical to our efforts," notes Dixie Shaw, Director of Hunger & Relief Services. "We're seeing an unprecedented need for food and the demand just keeps increasing." Our Food Bank supplies more than 24 pantries in Aroostook County and neighboring communities providing nearly two million pounds of food last year alone.



Pictured L to R: Denis; Ron; Dawn; Dixie Lee Shaw, Director of Hunger & Relief Services at Catholic Charities Maine; Michael; Kirk; Donna; Kathy; Andrew; and Eden – all 3rd and 4th generation members of the Paradis family – present a \$5,000 check to the Catholic Charities Maine Food Bank. Everyone had disinfected and dispersed quickly after the snapshot!

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 Table in South Portland and Tuscan Bistro in Freeport. All are offering fabulous takeout menus at this time so please support local businesses that do so generously give back to our communities.



TUSCAN BISTRO
Freeport, Maine

tuscanbrickovenbistro.com

ROYAL RIVER
Grill House
EST. 2002

royalrivergrillhouse.com



TUSCAN TABLE

tuscantablemaine.com



www.ccmaine.org | 207.781.8550 | development@ccmaine.org

Rent Relief Offers Hope to Our Presque Isle Thrift Store

With our *Threads of Hope* Thrift Stores shuttered during the pandemic, paying the store's rent presents a challenge when there is no revenue. Thankfully, the landlord of our Presque Isle store, Aroostook Trusses, Inc., has graciously "donated" the cost of our rent for April and May — a wonderful example of how giving back is always in fashion!

Donation of Homemade Masks Keeps Our Frontline Workers & Clients Safe

With personal protective equipment (PPE) in high demand, we were scrambling to ensure we had enough masks for our frontline workers who are still serving isolated seniors, persons with mental health issues and substance use disorders during the pandemic. Thanks to donor Dagmar Klosenski of Sash Couture and many more individual home seamstresses who generously donated handmade masks, our dedicated employees haven't skipped a beat when it comes to serving our most vulnerable populations.



Pictured: Janette Gustafson, Independent Support Services Coordinator and Don Harden, Director of Aging Services Model Masks Donated by Local Seamstresses

Refugee & Immigration Services Volunteer June Gagnon Recognized by CCUSA

We're thrilled to share that long-time volunteer June Gagnon was recognized by Catholic Charities USA as one of the top ten volunteers in the country! June has been "welcoming the stranger" for 12 years at our Refugee & Immigration Services program in Portland.



From coordinating and sorting in-kind donations to ensure every refugee has what they need to rebuild their lives, to helping moms and dads safely install car seats, June quickly becomes a trusted friend and go-to resource for clients. June is also a tireless advocate for the refugee community, lending her expertise by co-facilitating monthly cultural orientation workshops to educate the community-at-large about the refugee experience.

Her "can-do" attitude and reputation often results in unique opportunities, including when a teacher wanted his students to do a project to help refugees, June came up with the idea of creating small packs of soccer clothes and equipment to demonstrate the commonality between local school children and our refugee families. June truly embodies the spirit of Catholic Charities and we are blessed to have her among our ranks!

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.