

Catholic Charities Maine making every penny count

PHILANTHROPY UPDATE

FALL 2020

Signing the Portland Regional Chamber's Solidarity Pledge — and steps we're taking now for a more inclusive tomorrow

CCM has always been committed to fighting social injustice, to respecting the dignity of every individual, to welcoming strangers and those struggling to find a place in their community. But we recognize the need to take action to openly and meaningfully address systemic racism and racial injustice here in Maine.

We were proud to sign the Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce's **Solidarity Pledge**, inviting the business community **to pledge to combat racism and discrimination and to advocate for racial and social equity, diversity and inclusion in the workplace** and have taken advantage of the Chamber's excellent educational programming.

The pledge reinforces initiatives we have taken internally, including:

- An on-going company-wide employee education and training program;
- The creation of a multicultural internal Diversity, Equity and Inclusion task force;
- A commitment to ensure diversity on our Board and internal committees.

21-DAY RACIAL EQUITY CHALLENGE



PORTLAND
Regional Chamber
of Commerce

Begins Monday, September 14, 2020
REGISTRATION OPEN NOW! PortlandRegion.com

"Given the composition of Maine's population, I think it's safe to say nearly all Maine companies can do better. We can do better. And the *Standing in Solidarity* program put forth by the Portland Chamber is a great step toward helping to keep this critical issue and work in the forefront over the long term."

— Stephen P. Letourneau
CEO Catholic Charities Maine



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A Love of Skee-Ball Becomes a Gift of Love

When Anne DiSarcina found a treasure trove of Skee-Ball tickets left behind by her late husband, Anthony, she was surprised — she hadn't known about his passion for playing the game. But when she went to redeem the tickets this summer, she knew just what the prize should be.

Anne decided to use Anthony's winnings to make children happy. She asked Bob Lago, the manager of the York Fun-O-Rama where Anthony had played for decades during the couple's summers in Maine, if the 16,000 tickets could be donated to St. Elizabeth's Child Development Center — he not only agreed, but upped the total to 25,000 tickets!

Thanks to this amazing gift, we can choose from a range of age-appropriate gifts for children at St. Elizabeth's Development Center. Toys and books are always in demand— but especially now, as we work to safely welcome children back into our care.

Gifts like Anthony's Skee-Ball tickets are proof that great gifts come in all shapes and sizes. Thanks, Anne, for helping play it forward!

57,000 Boxes of Food and a Ton of Love

While most of us took the chance to try and enjoy a summer break, our Hunger & Relief Services team spent the last two months distributing thousands of boxes of FREE FOOD all over Aroostook County, Washington County, and Northern Penobscot County!

The boxes of fresh produce, dairy, and meat were made possible by the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) and the USDA's Farmers to Families program. Pineland Farms packed each box, with Catholic Charities overseeing distribution and promotion throughout Northern Maine.

Needless to say, it was a big job, but hundreds of local volunteers joined in the effort, helping out at all the various drop-off sites — proof that, even in the toughest of times, Mainers are always ready to step up and help take care of one another.



Meet Martha Gonzalez, Ignatian Volunteer

Hailing from California and Montana, Martha moved to Maine with her husband just one year ago. A self-described "people person," she was looking forward to meeting new people and making new connections, and when a coordinator from the Ignatian Volunteer Corps invited her to be part of the first group to represent the national organization here in Maine, she eagerly agreed.

The Ignatians added "a real component of spirituality to my service," Martha says. But the disruptions of the pandemic have made it a little harder to make new friends: "The biggest challenge is I can't be in the office more than two days a week! I love the team dynamic, I like being part of something bigger than myself."

Luckily for Martha, she's found a team who are keeping her busy in the Marketing/ Communications Department. Right now she is helping assemble prize baskets for our upcoming Put Children First Golf Classic on September 21. "It's good to be part of helping people out, I really appreciate the Catholic Charities mission and what they are doing all around the country. I'm enjoying it!"

Want to do something good for yourself? Learn about volunteering today at ccmaine.org/volunteer.

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.