

## Sean O'Hara, Case Manager at Support & Recovery



As a senior last year at Boston College, Sean O'Hara was considering his options for the coming year, and volunteering at Catholic Charities Maine jumped out at him. "I felt a strong connection with Catholic Charities," he said. "They were working directly with what I wanted to do, which was adult

mental health."

Sean has come to Catholic Charities as a member of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, a national organization that matches college graduates with opportunities at non-profit organizations for a year of service. Since August, he has served as a Jesuit Volunteer Case Manager with our Support & Recovery program in Portland. While he says no two days are ever quite the same, on a regular day he spends his time working with clients, assisting them in completing their short and long-term goals, and simply being with them and hearing their stories.

Sean says his time at Catholic Charities has helped him toward his long-term goal of a career in Clinical Psychology. Through his service, he has learned to approach his work with a full heart and a positive attitude. He advises: "Take the little successes along the way, because those are just as important as the bigger successes...with all the difficulties and struggles of being a case manager, there is a lot to be proud of."

If you are interested in volunteering at Support and Recovery or any of our other programs, contact Mandela Gardner at [MGardner@ccmaine.org](mailto:MGardner@ccmaine.org), or visit our volunteer website at <http://ccmaine.org/volunteer>.

## Join the Catholic Charities HOP Team!

If you like to volunteer but don't have the time for an on-going commitment, the Catholic Charities HOP Team might be right for you! **HOP stands for Hands On Projects.** It's our team of volunteers who can be available for one-time, short-term projects where an extra pair of hands is just what is needed! If you have the time to "just hop over for a couple of hours," here's a sample of what you might be doing:

- Stuffing envelopes
- Making copies of the newsletter
- Folding inserts headed for parish bulletins
- Organizing files
- Rearranging boxes in the storage area
- Helping at an event, like our annual golf tournament

If you are interested in volunteering every now and then, being a "hopper" might suit your schedule and your lifestyle perfectly! When special tasks arise, we'll contact everyone on the HOP Team and you can opt in if you're available. To learn more about joining the HOP Team, please contact Mandela Gardner at [MGardner@ccmaine.org](mailto:MGardner@ccmaine.org) or call 781-8550.

## Our Spring Appeal Turned Dollars into Food

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, Our Spring Appeal, which was mailed back in March, was a big success. With a goal of \$35,000, we ultimately exceeded it to raise more than \$42,000! And we couldn't have done it with your support!

Funds raised benefited **Farm for ME** – a program piloted in 2013 that provides fresh vegetables for the Catholic Charities' Food Bank, which supports 23 food pantries in Aroostook County.

More than 200,000 people go hungry in Maine each year, and 61,000 are children. Nearly 25,000 Aroostook county residents depend on Catholic Charities each year for food.

This year **Farm for ME** grew by the bushels thanks to your support! We doubled our planting acreage and added six new crops – onions, kale, cabbage, carrots, tomatoes and blueberries – to our staple of beets, rutabagas and squash.

In 2013 we harvested 8,000 lbs. of vegetables and this year we've already harvested more than 4,500 lbs. of corn and 2,000 lbs. of squash alone! We're currently in the midst of harvesting a bumper crop of rutabagas, beets and kale, in addition to our onions, carrots and tomatoes. We continue to work with Northern Girl, a micro processing company in Limestone, to flash-freeze some our harvest for distribution all year-round so families always have nutritious options at their table.

## Catholic Charities Maine CEO Tapped for National Committee

**Our own CEO, Stephen Letourneau, has been appointed to the Executive Committee of the Council of Diocesan Directors for Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA).** The body helps provide input on priorities for national leadership, arranges meaningful formation and support of new and existing local agency directors, and helps assure continuous improvement in the Catholic Charities network's provision of quality social services to those in need.

"I am very humbled and honored to serve on the Council," notes Letourneau. "It is personally and professionally gratifying to see the hard work of our agency recognized by national representatives and I look forward to being able to contribute on a national level in strengthening our ongoing work to help individuals and families in need here in Maine and beyond."



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## A Record-Breaking Fundraising Year at the 12th Anniversary Golf Classic

Our 12th annual Golf Classic held on September 15th at The Woodlands Club in Falmouth raised more than \$75,000, breaking last year's fundraising high of just over \$65,000. The funds raised are dedicated to the *Put Children First* scholarship fund. This critical fund supports scholarships for low-income, working families at CCM's three child development centers in Portland, Biddeford and Auburn. "We simply could not have done it without the tremendous support of the 31 teams who played and our dedicated corporate sponsors who made the day such a success," noted Judy Katzel, Chief Communications and Development Officer.

This year's presenting sponsors included: title sponsor, Olympia Sports; gold sponsor Winxnet; and presenting sponsor, BGA Financial. Additional corporate sponsors included Allen Signs with Impact, Anthem, Cigna, Coastal Landscape Construction and Snow Services, MEMIC, Port Printing Solutions and Yankee Ford.

The 13th Annual Tournament will be held on Monday, September 21st at The Woodlands Club in Falmouth. Please save the date and plan to join us! If you, or a company you know, would be interested in playing or sponsoring this event, please contact our Development Manager Ellen Jordan at [ejordan@ccmaine.org](mailto:ejordan@ccmaine.org) or 781-8550.



**Olympia Sports, Title Sponsor**  
Pictured L to R: Eddie Manganello, Ed Manganello, Wayne Webster and Jeff Allen

## Inaugural Barrels & Brews Fundraiser was the Toast of Summer!

On June 14th guests of Catholic Charities Maine's newest fundraiser – *Barrels & Brews* – had a blast sipping, savoring and swaying in the summer wind to the sounds of jazz. The evening showcased local brews and vintages from Maine's top purveyors paired with hearty hors d'oeuvres by The Black Tie Co. at Camp Hammond in Yarmouth. A highlight of the evening was a toast to Maine's new Bishop, Robert P. Deeley. Bishop Deeley graciously offered to host a dinner in his home for one lucky silent auction bidder and it quickly became the signature item of the night – raising more than \$1,000!

The evening was so well-received plans are well underway for the 2015 *Barrels & Brews*. If you, or your company, are interested in becoming a sponsor of this event please contact our Development Manager Ellen Jordan at [ejordan@ccmaine.org](mailto:ejordan@ccmaine.org) or 781-8550.



## MAKING EVERY PENNY COUNT: Stories from the Field

### Emergency Services program, *Relief and Hope*, operated by Parish Social Ministry

A single mother with a three-week-old baby calls Catholic Charities *Emergency Services Relief Fund* services seeking assistance with her car payment. She is six weeks behind, and it will be repossessed in one day if she does not come up with the payment. She uses the car to take her new daughter to Maine Medical Center several times a week in preparation for her upcoming surgery in Boston. Without the car she cannot make any of the appointments, which her daughter desperately needs. She supplements her limited income of TANF by selling items, but it is not enough and she has exhausted her family and friends for help. Her tax return is forthcoming, but was delayed. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we were able to provide immediate hope and help through a payment toward the outstanding balance of the car loan and create lasting change by working with the car company to lower the ongoing monthly payment amount to something more affordable that fits within her monthly budget.



Our Emergency Services program, *Relief and Hope* is the beneficiary of our Fall Appeal now underway. We hope you have received a donation letter in the mail for consideration. This critical program enables CCM to provide help, hope and a hand to Maine families as they struggle to meet basic human needs like heat, food, clothing and even a place to live. If you are able to help us provide emergency, one-time assistance for our neighbors in crisis so they can maintain self-sufficiency, **please make a donation online at [ccmaine.org/give](http://ccmaine.org/give) or call our Development Manager Ellen Jordan at 781-8550.**

## Organizations Offering Hope through Grants & Donations

**The CCM Food Bank in Aroostook County** was a recent recipient of \$500 from the Maine Credit Union League. A check presentation was made on September 11th to commemorate those who lost their lives or a loved one during the national terrorist crisis of 2001 and to remember the daily hunger crisis so many families in Maine face. Since 1990, the Maine Credit Unions' *Campaign for Ending Hunger* has raised \$4.8 million to help end hunger in Maine.

The **SEARCH** (Seek Elderly Alone, Renew Courage and Hope) program was the recipient of a \$15,000 grant from the JTG Foundation. The funds will support program services that connect volunteers with seniors to meet their needs and ultimately help them feel less isolated while also remaining independent.

**Jessie Albert Dental & Orthodontic Center** received a grant of \$7,759 from the Davenport Trust. The funds help the Center invest in the latest technology and equipment and were used to purchase special equipment that helps clean/sterilize dental tools.

Our **Refugee and Immigration Services** program has been awarded a three-year grant totaling \$225,000 from the federal government to help promote health awareness, navigation and opportunities of health services to new Mainers in the Lewiston community.



## Our December Days Calendar is a Win-Win!



This November CCM will again be selling our popular *December Days* fundraising calendar, featuring 31 days of prizes for each day in December. Sold mainly through our staff and friends of CCM, last year we raised more than \$6,700 dollars so this year we are hoping to cast a wider net and raise even more needed funds for our programs! With a winner drawn every day and proceeds raised benefitting our 25+ programs it truly is a win-win! Beginning November 1st, to purchase a calendar for yourself, family members, neighbors and friends please contact Development Manager Ellen Jordan at 781-8550, or [ejordan@ccmaine.org](mailto:ejordan@ccmaine.org).



**Stephen Letourneau, Catholic Charities Maine's CEO, accepts a \$500 donation from Lauren Reeves, Communications & Marketing Coordinator for the Maine Credit Union League at the site of the 9.11 Memorial on the Eastern Prom in Portland.**