Over the last six months, the Catholic Charities Donor community has been quite active! As always, much has been accomplished and much is left to be done. The following articles provide an update on the difference you make in Catholic Charities Programs, and share good news about our events and activities.

- Sylvia from Bangor with getting a much needed medical prescription;
- Jessica from Portland with car repairs so she could continue to get to work;
- A homeless man in Belfast with a couple nights at a hotel out of the cold until more permanent housing became available;
- Stacy from Lewiston with a food card so she won’t go hungry;
- Brandy, a single mother from Sanford, with two young children with heating fuel to stay warm;
- a family from Ft. Kent to cover a utility bill; and
- Many others in similar situations.

The need is great and every donation truly made a difference. On behalf of all of us at Catholic Charities Maine and the families and individuals we support, Thank you!

Our Fall Appeal Ensures We Can Provide Help and Hope During Times of Crisis

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, Our Fall Appeal was a tremendous success. With a goal of $85,000 we ultimately raised $89,478, making it our most successful Fall Appeal to date. We couldn’t have accomplished this without the support of our donors, thank you!

Funds benefited our Emergency Services program, Relief & Hope, which provides emergency, one-time assistance to our neighbors in crisis statewide.

For example in just one week our Emergency Services program was able to assist:

- a family from Ft. Kent to cover a utility bill;
- Stacy from Lewiston with a food card so she won’t go hungry;
- A homeless man in Belfast with a couple nights at a hotel out of the cold until more permanent housing became available;
- Jessica from Portland with car repairs so she could continue to get to work;
- Brandy, a single mother from Sanford, with two young children with heating fuel to stay warm;
- a family from Ft. Kent to cover a utility bill; and
- Many others in similar situations.

The need is great and every donation truly made a difference. On behalf of all of us at Catholic Charities Maine and the families and individuals we support, Thank you!

Catholic Charities Maine is Awarded Federal Contract

Our Mental Health & Substance Abuse Counseling Services program in Portland was awarded a five-year, $1.6 million federal contract to provide community-based outpatient substance abuse and mental health treatment services. The services will be administered to federal offenders confined in community-based programs and on home confinement in the greater Portland area. This contract is a tremendous testament to the quality of services CCM provides in this arena and is in keeping with our mission to serve the most vulnerable populations here in Maine.

CCM Dentist Honored with a Healthcare Hero Award

We are proud to recognize Dr. Meredith Davis, Clinical Director at Jessie Albert Dental & Orthodontic Center, for receiving a “Healthcare Hero” award from the Maine Sunday Telegram! The award is given to individuals who go above and beyond to take care of us every day. As her nomination noted, “We work in a dental practice, with many of the patients being young and frightened. Through the use of ‘tell, show, do,’ the children feel at ease and ultimately get their dental decay treated. I remember an instance of one particular child who would not even sit in the dental chair. Dr. Davis was able to treat this patient! Without Dr. Davis, many more kids would go without dental care. She is an asset to our community and children!”
Second Annual Barrels & Brews Fundraiser to be Held
Saturday, May 30th, 6:00 - 9:00 pm!

Catholic Charities Maine's newest fundraiser – Barrels & Brews – was the toast of last summer with guests sipping, savoring and swaying in the summer wind to the sounds of jazz while raising funds for CCM's 25+ programs. And this year’s event promises to be even more enchanting as we move to Southern Maine Community College for sweeping ocean views and more sampling of craft brews and vintages from Maine's top purveyors paired with hearty hors d’oeuvres.

The event will benefit Catholic Charities Maine’s 25+ programs that provide necessary services and support around mental health, food insecurity, senior outreach, child development, dental and orthodontic services, and refugee and immigration, among others.

With 25+ programs that are there for Maine families when a parent loses a job or returns to school for training. 

For more information, call Ellen Jordan at (207) 523-1188 or email development@ccmaine.org.

Put Children First: Make Plans to Play Golf!
Monday, September 21st

Catholic Charities’ 13th Annual Put Children First Golf Classic will be held on Monday, September 21st at The Woodlands Club in Falmouth. It is sure to be the most rewarding round of golf you’ve ever played!

The tournament raises funds for the Put Children First Scholarship Fund which supports the cost of childcare at our three child development centers in Auburn, Biddeford and Portland for low-income working families when a parent loses a job or returns to school for training.

Register your team today at: www.cccmaine.org/golf

From Farm for ME
An elderly woman who received vacuum-packed, sliced and diced fresh vegetables grown through our Farm for ME program shares "with arthritis in my hands, I can no longer peel and chop big vegetables and usually have to buy canned or frozen, so these are great! I can put them in the oven in small portions and they are fresh-packed and I can’t have salt, so I can season them to my liking. I love them, thank you so much!"

CCM’s Farm for ME project in Aroostook County had another successful season harvesting 16,319 pounds of locally-grown, nutritious vegetables. The Farm for ME project is unique from other farming and growing projects designed to feed the hungry thanks to a relationship with Northern Golf, a locally operated micro processor that enables us to slice and dice our bounty for easy use, prep and distribution. The conveniently packaged products allow our Food Banks to distribute throughout the winter months when folks struggle the most to keep warm, pay the bills and feed themselves and their families.

While the County is made up of a large senior population who appreciate the opportunity to get the quality and nutrition of fresh vegetables in packaging that works for them, we are also developing education initiatives to teach younger recipients how to prepare the fresh vegetables as well since the convenience of our packaging makes them especially helpful to busy, working families.

Farm for ME will be the beneficiary of our upcoming Spring Appeal. Please look for more information forthcoming in the mail and to find out how you can help support this exciting initiative as it continues to grow to nourish the hungry in Aroostook County.

Organizations Offering Hope through Grants & Donations

TD Bank shared 16 center court Red Claws tickets with our clients at St. Francis Recovery Center as part of the TD Bank Community Clubhouse. The evening provided a wonderful opportunity for our clients to enjoy sober fun. St. Francis Recovery Center provides a residential chemical dependency program for adult males over the age of 18. The program is pleased to be celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2015!

Keller Williams Realty in Portland donated Thanksgiving baskets with all the fixings for a delicious holiday meal to 16 needy families at our St. Louis Child Development Center in Biddeford. The families felt truly blessed to receive such a thoughtful and generous gift!

The Olympia Sports Clothing Bank spread cheer to dozens of clients at our Support & Recovery services program this winter with a donation of warm winter coats, books and more. The Cheverus Key Club again made it possible for 50 of our clients to receive the fixes for a Thanksgiving meal. This donation from Cheverus is greatly appreciated and enjoyed by the recipients who otherwise would be going without this holiday season. And also a big thanks to the Bruce Roberts Toy Fund who helped 40 Support & Recovery families at Christmas time. The Support & Recovery program provides services to adults with severe mental illness in southern Maine.

PDQ Door in Bath is celebrating its 20th year as Maine’s premier garage door company. As a token of appreciation to its customers and communities who have made this possible, they will donate $10.00 to Maine charities for every garage door sold and installed by PDQ Door between July 1, 2014, and June 30th, 2015. Every three months PDQ makes a donation and CCM was thrilled to be the recipient of a $1,000 check this past November.

The Coleman Foundation made a $25,000 donation to our mental health, co-occurring and addiction treatment services programs. The funds will support outpatient treatment at both our Portland and Auburn campuses as well as inpatient residential services at St. Francis Recovery Center in Auburn.