



**THE MAINE
CHILDREN'S HOME**
for Little Wanderers
Serving families and children since 1899



Open Arms

March 2017

Greetings!



We are all excited to welcome spring; it always speaks to new beginnings and growth. Of particular excitement on our campus is the work taking place with the teens in the [Teen Parent School](#) and the youth from [The Children's Place](#) to plant raised bed vegetable gardens thanks to a grant from the Healthy Northern Kennebec Program—a great partnership to learn about agriculture, new skills and healthy eating.

We are growing and gaining momentum in several of our programs: [adoption](#), [The Children's Place](#) and [counseling](#), while holding steady in all other programs.

- We are thrilled that there are 24 home studies in process and 175 adoption cases open.
- The Children's Place is currently serving at least 47 children each day.
- There are 415 open cases in the Counseling Center.
- We have added more social work hours to the Adoption Program and will soon be opening a satellite office in Portland to meet with families in southern Maine, do assessments and host community meetings.
- We are developing a renovation plan to add three more classrooms to The Children's Place to serve more infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

Our staff are creatively and thoughtfully finding new and innovative ways to provide the best quality of service and support to the most children and families.

The Maine Children's Home is doing extraordinary things to build and strengthen families and their children, instilling hope for the future and a better quality of life. You will find a number of notes of upcoming events and activities over the next few months. We hope you will join us for fun and to help us provide additional support for our vital services.

In sincere gratitude,

Richard Dorian, Executive Director

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*From the bottom of our hearts,
thank you for making our
programs possible.*



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

By Deborah Levenseller, MSW, Clinical Director, Certified Play Therapist

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and here at The Maine Children's Home, we want to be a part of a growing community support system for preventing child abuse and neglect through increased support, awareness and intervention. Information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that a combination of individual, relational, community and societal factors can contribute to the risk of child abuse and neglect. The same research also notes several protective factors to decrease risk of child abuse and neglect, and it is these protective factors that The Maine Children's Home focuses upon to be of most help to children and families.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Agency Report Card



THE MAINE
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for Little Wanderers

Serving families and children since 1899

[Visit our website](#)



[Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter](#)

Maine Children's Home

Working with children and their families... every day

How did we do?

| | Program | Accomplishments |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Adoption | We will have a Portland location staffed one day each week starting April 1! |
| 2 | Harland Turner Counseling Center | 20 new referrals; serving 415 active cases |
| 3 | Teen Parent School Program | 8 students enrolled; 1 pending; 2 tours |
| 4 | Fundraising | More than \$8,000 in donations & a \$2,000 grant for the Teen Parent School Program! |
| 5 | The Children's Place | Our children are anxiously waiting for the snow to clear from the playgrounds! |
| 6 | Events | Wine Tasting – April 20 th ! Purchase tickets today.  |
| 7 | Summer Camp | Annual fundraising campaign to begin next month. Camp Program applications will be available soon. |
| 8 | Volunteers | 104 volunteer hours in February. |
| 9 | Our Staff | 2 new teachers added to The Children's Place staff! |

www.mainechildrenshome.org



Adoption Program Growth

New Satellite Office in Portland

In response to the expanding and growing [adoption program](#), we are excited to announce the expansion of our office space to include a satellite office in downtown Portland, Maine, located at 509 Forest Avenue.

The adoption program is seeing a growing number of families from the southern Maine area and the goal of the satellite office is to better reach these adoptive families by offering a warm, welcoming space in a location that is geographically closer to their residence. Staff will use the space to conduct interviews and family team meetings, and plan to offer free adoption informational sessions. These informational meetings are a great place for prospective families considering adoption to have their questions answered and learn about the programs The Maine Children's Home provides. Currently, free informational meetings are held in Waterville every month and are well attended. We look forward to adding Portland as an additional place to offer these meetings to prospective clients.

Ultimately, this new space will help the adoption team better serve the families located in the southern part of Maine and help support the growing adoption program by developing a steady presence in the area for years to come.



Lindsay Bragdon, Adoption Program director and Angie Woodhead, Adoption Program social worker.

We plan to host an opening reception celebration to showcase the new space and welcome interested parties in the coming months, so stay tuned for upcoming information on the event.

For more information on how you can support the adoption program's growth, please contact adoption program director, Lindsay Bragdon, at lbragdon@mainechildrenshome.org or by phone at 207-873-6350.

Upcoming Events

Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 15, 9 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 15

9 am

The Maine Children's Home
for Little Wanderer's
93 Silver St. Waterville

For ages up to Grade 2

Special Prizes Will Be Awarded
to Some Lucky Winners



Annual Wine Tasting

Thursday, April 20, 6 - 8 p.m.

T&B's Celebration Center, Waterville

Join us for our popular wine tasting tour with Bob Roy from Pine State Trading. Kick back, unwind after work, and mingle with other proud supporters of The Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers.

The wine tasting will take place at 6 p.m. at the T&B Event Center, 6 Jefferson Street in Waterville.

Tickets are \$35 and are available at the administrative and development offices at The Maine Children's Home campus at 93 Silver Street, Waterville, or by calling 872-0261. We accept MasterCard and Visa over the phone.

Tickets include two elegant Riedel wine glasses and hors d'œuvres, a cash bar and silent auction.

Riedel Wine Glasses Sponsor - Bangor Savings Bank

Wine Sponsor - Golden Pond Wealth Management



Friends Group Dining for Dollars at Mainely Brews
Wednesday, May 10, 6 - 9 p.m.

Big E Live On the Rock Concert
Saturday, May 13, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Music at The Children's Place

Music is a universal language that has no boundaries of time, culture or age of participant. Music is especially important in supporting growth and development in young children - from singing lullabies to soothe infants and strengthening aural discrimination to support development of language and literacy, to nurturing children's emotional well-being and social experiences. As Stevie Wonder so eloquently put it, "music is a world within itself, it is a language we all understand."

On March 8, two founding members of the Maine-based band Loki visited the preschoolers for some musical entertainment. Mike Loubier, whose son attends [The Children's Place](#), and his bandmate, Jonathan Boyer, gave a mini-concert in the classroom.

It didn't take long before the children were on their feet dancing!



For more information on the importance of music in the lives of young children, check out these articles:

<http://families.naeyc.org/article/10-ways-babies-learn-when-we-sing>

<http://families.naeyc.org/learning-and-development/music-math-more/support-math-readiness-through-music>



Summer Camp Support & Applications

For more than 60 years, The Maine Children's Home has been sending deserving children to [summer camp](#). Early each spring, application forms are sent to elementary and middle schools with instructions to pass them out to free and reduced lunch students, and the social worker network is alerted that it's time to apply. Children are eligible if their parents or guardians are at or below the federal poverty guidelines.

The Maine Children's Home partners with six camps throughout the state, on one or two week programs. The camps include Camp Susan Curtis, Lovell; Camp Mechuwana, Winthrop; Fair Haven Camps, Brooks; Camp Tracy, Oakland; Julia Clukey Camp for Girls, Readfield; and Friends Camp, China. Each camp costs approximately \$250 per child.

This year, we hope to send 120 children to camp. If you would like to help, please send a check to the development office at 93 Silver St., Waterville, ME 04901 or place a donation on mainechildrenshome.org.

Thank you for your continued support!

I made a new friend and his name is [redacted] I got to sleep on a top bunk. I had a really fun week! Thanks again!

your friend,
[redacted]

Dear Ms. Sawyer,

Thank you for giving me a scholarship to camp. I went to Camp Fairhaven. I got to use the blob and I went almost 4 feet high. I did BB guns and I almost hit the bull's eye. My favorite thing was swimming and I passed the swim test.

In the Community



A very warm thank you to the Augusta Kiwanis Club for the handmade birthday cards for the

teens parents to give their children!



The Maine Children's Home recently participated in the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce Business to Business Showcase.