

MaineCF

News from the Maine Community Foundation



Generations of Giving

Robert and Anne Woodbury engage their family in the fine art of philanthropy.

Sitting in their cozy home overlooking Harpswell Sound, Robert and Anne Woodbury muse over a life of service: Bob in higher education, Anne, first as an elementary school teacher, later as a hospital chaplain, and most recently, as an author (she wrote and illustrated *The Box Lady*, a children's book about recycling, which has been translated into Navaho and been used to encourage recycling programs in schools across the world).

In their respective careers, the Woodburys have known what it's like to try to

raise money. As president of the University of Southern Maine and later chancellor of the University of Maine System, Bob frequently found himself in an asking position. Anne, who served on the board of the Bangor Theological Seminary after obtaining her Master of Theological Studies degree, has also had to raise money.

In recent years, the Woodburys have, for the most part, traded asking for giving—and finding creative ways to give is an ongoing passion (they once managed to donate a pair of cemetery plots to help launch a local edu-

cation fund). The couple has also engaged their grandchildren, ranging in age from youngsters to a high school senior, in giving. Each year, they decide how to give away a small cache of money, usually choosing three charities, always close to home. Frequently, it is the Yarmouth-based Safe Passage, which helps destitute Guatemalan children obtain food and education, or a homeless shelter, or an organization geared to helping animals.

As another creative philanthropic act, the Woodburys long ago decided to create a donor-advised fund, recognizing that by putting their capital in the hands of investment experts, they could better leverage their own money. Fidelity initially managed their fund, but after moving to Maine, they transferred it to the Maine Community Foundation.

Why the Maine Community Foundation? "It's all in the name," the Woodburys say. To begin with, there's the "Maine" part. Since the couple moved to the state in 1979, they have focused most of their giving on

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Anne and Bob Woodbury with two of their seven grandchildren, Nina, age 6, and Miles, age 3.

Photo: Mark Woodbury

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Maine, frequently through programs with which they are very familiar.

The “Foundation” part of the name is the management—the effectiveness of the organization in making the most of the couple’s charitable resources. Because MaineCF’s reach encompasses the entire state, Bob adds, it allows people with similar priorities to work together, making the funds much more effective.

And then there’s the final, all-important element in the foundation’s name: “Community.”

“The mission of the foundation is to help build stronger communities in Maine,” says Bob; “We support that.” He and Anne are also impressed with how the foundation doesn’t make assumptions, but rather listens to what’s happening within communities, working locally to address their needs. “The key is leadership,” he

says; “people at the county level will know who the real leaders are.”

The Woodburys continue to support higher education, but they also keep donating to their fund at the foundation, encouraging its growth. Recently, they decided to contribute Anne’s life insurance policy to it. Says Anne, “It’s a whole-life policy, it’s growing in value, and it will go to the Maine Community Foundation,” hopefully after it has had many more years of growth.

That the Woodburys have shared their values became obvious a few years ago, when they asked their three children what they should plan to do with their MaineCF fund after their deaths. The children definitely wanted to be involved, so the fund will continue to be advised by the next generation of Woodburys—and continue to give long into the future.

Achieving Racial Equity

People of Color Fund Committee launches grant program.

The Maine Community Foundation’s **People of Color Fund**, established in 2007 with a gift of \$1 million from the River

Rock Foundation, will begin making grants in the spring. The fund is the first grant-making program in Maine dedicated to addressing the needs of people of color, with a goal of achieving greater racial equity.

The beneficiaries of the fund will be self-identified people of color, including but not limited to people of Native American, Latino/a, African, Arabic, Asian, and Caribbean descent. A committee of Maine citizens from diverse backgrounds and geographic locales serve as advisors to the fund.

For more information about the People of Color Fund, visit www.mainecef.org or call Lelia De Andrade at the Maine Community Foundation, (207) 761-2440.

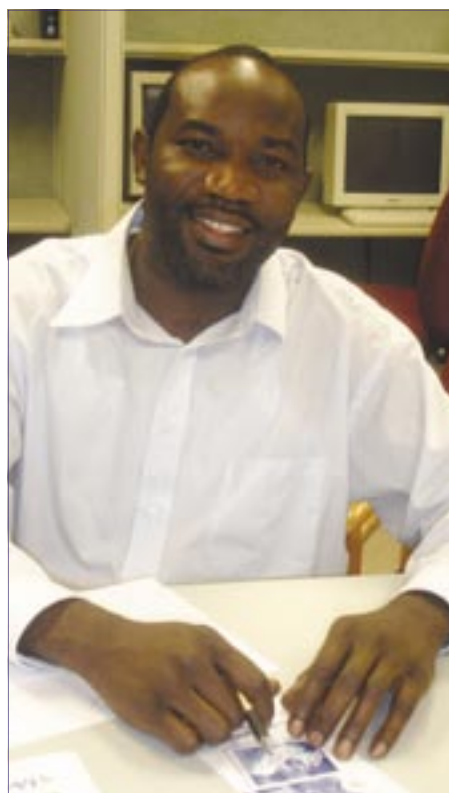


Photo: Don Smith

Born in Khartoum, Sudan, Dominic Suru is multicultural coordinator for 2-1-1 Maine, a communications network that connects people with health and human services in their community. As a member of the People of Color Fund advisory committee, Suru hopes to promote multicultural health, education, and businesses in Maine.

Trends and Tribulations

Thoughts on Dealing with the Downturn

Since becoming the Maine Community Foundation's fourth president on January 1, Meredith Jones has committed herself to enhancing the foundation's outreach to nonprofits in Maine. In the following remarks from a talk she gave at the annual meeting of the Woodlawn Museum held in Blue Hill, Jones shares ideas for dealing with the challenges ahead.

Trends and Tribulations

...Two competing trends are creating pressure points for nonprofits in Maine. The first trend relates to numbers: on a per capita basis, Maine's nonprofit sector is one of the largest in the country. While the sector's sheer size is an indicator of Maine's civic vitality, it also means there is a lot of competition for limited public, private, and philanthropic funds.

The second trend is that revenues for nonprofits are increasingly unpredictable and, in most cases, declining. While history suggests economic recessions typically do not cause a decline in giving, there is reason to believe that this downturn will be deeper and more painful than most, and these patterns may not be repeated.

Quite simply stated, resources for non-profits are shrinking at the same time there is an increased demand for services. So how does the sector respond to these economic challenges?

Here are some recurring ideas and issues that have been raised:

- We in the nonprofit community have to be ready to make adjustments nimbly as the situation evolves.
- We must approach community needs in new and different ways.
- We need to think about our work in the context of what's best for the community rather than what's best for our own institution.



Photo Lincoln Benedict

Meredith Jones (left) was a featured speaker at the "2009 State of Maine Philanthropy: New Leadership in Challenging Times" program co-hosted by MaineCF and the Maine Philanthropy Center in January. Fellow panelists were Gioia Perugini (center), a program officer at Jane's Trust, and Elaine Rosen, chair of the board of the Kresge Foundation.

- We must involve the next generation of leaders in the planning and implementation of significant changes to ensure they stay engaged and excited about the prospects of leading an organization in the future.
- We should explore how organizations can share resources more effectively.

These are all good points, but where do we begin? In January, the United Way of Eastern Maine convened a group of social service agencies to begin a conversation around these ideas. In addition, there is an effort under way by the Maine Association of Nonprofits, Institute for Civic Leadership, Common Good Ventures, several of Maine's largest United Ways and a number of funders, including the Maine Community Foundation and the Maine Health Access Foundation, to explore how they individually and collectively can help nonprofits adapt to the economic downturn.

Here are some of the actions this collaborative is undertaking:

- Designing a clinic that would allow organizations to work in peer groups to identify sustainability issues and develop strategies to adapt.
- Creating a self-assessment tool that will help nonprofits determine their strengths and weaknesses and help them identify potential courses of action.
- Working with nonprofits to identify potential new collaboration and possible consolidation of administrative functions.
- Working with funders to increase resources available to nonprofits seeking financial support for training and technical assistance.

We hope to launch some of these services by early spring. In the meantime, we are all facing challenging times, but I'm hopeful this volatility will prompt us to take actions that will ultimately make us stronger.

The Belvedere Fund: A Legacy in Action

A range of new funds promotes
lasting change in Maine.

For six years, Castine resident Deborah Pulliam built a legacy of giving through the Belvedere Fund at the Maine Community Foundation. Her grantmaking reflected her passions: traditional and functional handcrafts, preservation of local history and architecture, land and natural resources conservation, and animal welfare. As diverse as her funding interests were, they carried a common thread: direct actions to meet challenges head on, but always with an eye to strengthening the Maine way of life.

In 2007, Pulliam lost a hard-fought battle with cancer and her legacy of giving passed to the Maine Community Foundation. In accordance with her agreement with MaineCF, the Belvedere Fund has been divided into a group of focused funds that reflect the causes closest to Pulliam's heart. Noncompetitive in nature and overseen by a staff team, these funds support carefully selected partners to promote lasting change in Maine.

Animal Welfare

The Belvedere Fund for Animal Welfare is concerned with the care and support of domestic companion animals. The fund will focus on strategies that support a healthy pet population in communities throughout Maine.

The SPCA of Hancock County has received support for its services through MaineCF's new animal welfare fund.



Natural Resource Protection

Taking a broad view of land and wildlife protection, the Natural Resource Protection Fund is focused on conservation measures that support Maine communities. The current partnerships focus on sustainable fisheries, land conservation measures, and initiatives that preserve Maine's "quality of place."

Fisherman Sam Rosen (left) volunteers his time to help hatchery assistant Natalie Banks and hatchery manager Rich Crowley with the release of approximately 12,000 stage IV lobsters into waters off Vinalhaven in July 2008. The lobsters were raised in a community-supported hatchery at the Penobscot East Resource Center, which seeks to secure a future for the fishing community of eastern Maine.



Photo courtesy Steve Rosen



Historic Preservation

Reflecting the foundation's focus on economic development and downtown revitalization, the Historic Preservation Fund will promote the conservation and reuse of historic buildings. To benefit from the statewide reach of existing organizations, MaineCF will be working in tandem with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and Maine Preservation.

Liberty Hall in Machiasport boasts an ornate belvedere tower, which was recently moved to ground level for restoration. The hall is one of ten historic structures that have benefited from the Belvedere Fund for Historic Preservation.

As diverse as [Pulliam's] funding interests were, they carried a common thread: direct actions to meet challenges head on, but always with an eye to strengthening the Maine way of life.

Traditional Handcrafts

The Traditional Handcrafts Fund is focused on supporting organizations that preserve and promote the handcraft arts in Maine. Currently this fund is engaged in multi-year partnerships with carefully selected arts organizations, including the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance, to help build the state's tradition of craft.

Theresa Secord, director of the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance, and her niece, Shannon Secord, work on a basket.



Photo by Peter Demski, from North by Northeast: Wabanaki, Akwesasne Mohawk, and Tuscarora Traditional Arts

“People want to do good things.”

A Camden attorney encourages exploring charitable giving.

As an advisor to the Knox County Fund at the Maine Community Foundation, Richard “Ric” McKittrick has gained a new appreciation for the needs of nonprofits. Sitting down to talk with MaineCF’s Director of Philanthropic Services Jennifer Southard, McKittrick touched on some of the ways in which his experience as a grantmaker has helped him as an attorney.

MaineCF: Describe your role on the Knox County Committee.

Richard McKittrick: Principally, I help evaluate grant applications. I get to meet innovative, creative people who are identifying particular needs in their communities. It’s an opportunity to evaluate, or, in effect, validate, others’ work and then send some money. The advising is much more direct and maybe a little more fun than sitting on the board of a larger organization.

MaineCF: What have you learned about grantmaking that has helped you advise your clients about charitable giving?

McKittrick: There have been occasions when a client will say, “I would like to benefit something, but I’m not sure how to get there.” As a volunteer member of grant review committees for the Maine Bar Foundation and MaineCF, I have learned more about what needs exist, which has helped me in my role as an attorney working with clients who might be able to address some of those needs. It’s a delicate situation because, as legal advisors, it is not our role to suggest particular charitable entities or goals. I do, however, think it is perfectly appropriate for an attorney to explore a client’s areas of interest and things they care about benefiting financially.

MaineCF: What charitable giving resources would you recommend to your clients and your peers?

McKittrick: I think the first step is identify-

ing where a client might want to focus their charitable giving, whether in the local community, on a national scale, or for a particular organization. “Umbrella” organizations such as MaineCF, Maine Coast Heritage Trust and Maine Initiatives can help narrow a client’s search. Sound charitable giving requires real effort and persistence. Fortunately, we have a tax structure that supports charitable giving. Being able to enjoy certain tax advantages adds a bit of vigor to someone’s charitable instincts.

MaineCF: Do you have a story to share?

McKittrick: A couple in their 50s without children had been involved in education all their lives and wanted to do some good with their assets, but they were uncertain about which direction to go. They elected to create a fund at the Maine Community Foundation. The permanence of MaineCF relative to other options, the well-defined management format, the ability to pool their dollars with other funds to have more clout, and the strength of a broad-based investment portfolio—these factors were all attractive. They ended up designing a fund around a broad vision for benefiting young people in Maine.

MaineCF: Is there anything you’d like to add?

McKittrick: Very often people at a certain stage of their lives develop a disposition for leaving things better—to improve their community, their state, the planet. This can be one of the most pleasant parts of our work: Counseling for good planning to help guide our clients towards a productive conclusion. People want to do good things, and their advisors have a responsibility and privilege to help them fulfill their vision and passion.

Fortunately, we have a tax structure that supports charitable giving. Being able to enjoy certain tax advantages adds a bit of vigor to someone’s charitable instincts.



Ric McKittrick is an attorney with McKittrick & Warren, P.A., in Camden. His practice areas include trusts and estates, probate, and real estate. Born in Chicago Heights, Illinois, McKittrick received his AB degree from the College of William and Mary and his J.D. from the University of Virginia. He serves on the Maine Bar Foundation’s Board of Directors and chairs the Volunteer Lawyers Project Committee.

“My great hope is that you will act with courage and imagination.”

– Reverend Professor Peter Gomes

An Evening to Remember

MaineCF's 25th anniversary year ended on a high note with more than 200 friends of the foundation on hand to hear a talk on the power, joy, and necessity of giving. The Reverend Professor Peter Gomes, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister at Harvard, offered an inspiring and entertaining talk. “Nothing could be more important than the art of philanthropy in these difficult days,” he told the audience. “You have the capacity to translate into action the highest hopes, the noblest ambitions of the community of which you are a part,” he said. The Reverend Professor ended his homily on an inspiring note: “My great hope is that you will act with courage and imagination.”

Clockwise from top:

The Reverend Professor Peter Gomes

Guests gather in the foyer of Hannaford Hall

Artist Alison Hildreth

Senator Karl W. Turner



Photos Lincoln Benedict



Students: Start Your Applications

As we head into spring, deadlines for Maine Community Foundation scholarship applications begin popping up like crocuses on a mild May day. MaineCF now manages more than 400 scholarship funds. Support is available for undergraduate and graduate studies; trade or technical school; and youth enrichment and non-traditional student programs. For more information, visit www.mainecef.org or call 1-877-700-6800.

Thanks to donors, 21 new scholarships were established at the foundation in 2008. Honoring a loved one, a mentor, a school—every scholarship represents an educational opportunity for present and future generations. Please contact Jean Warren, scholarship funds manager, at jwarren@mainecf.org, if you'd like to discuss creating a fund at the foundation.



Photo Mark Dumond

An Inaugural View

With support from MaineCF's Richard Ferrier Scholarship Fund, Mark Dumond of Bowdoinham was able to attend the Presidential Youth Inaugural Conference in Washington, D.C., this past January. In addition to hearing addresses by the likes of Desmond Tutu and Doris Kearns Goodwin, Dumond attended President Obama's inauguration. The Ferrier Fund was established through the estate of Richard Ferrier to encourage students who are residents of Bowdoinham to explore less traditional pathways to an education.

Printed with vegetable-based ink on FSC-certified paper (Forest Stewardship Council certification ensures responsible use of forest resources).



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