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### Practicing Personal Philanthropy continued

"My family was not wealthy," Guiles says. Her late father was a noted academic in the field of New Testament studies; her mother, now 99, taught history at the secondary-school level until the birth of her second child. The family's early decades were not easy, but still, philanthropy was important. Her parents strongly supported their colleges; and, when it became possible, her mother, recognizing how important travel and study abroad were in her own early life, set up a fund to offer travel scholarships to students at her alma mater.

Today, Guiles and her husband Philip give away a substantial portion of their income to philanthropic

causes. Phil Guiles only recently stepped down from a 15-year tenure on the board of Opportunity Farm for Boys and Girls, a residential facility in New Gloucester offering children from dysfunctional backgrounds a stable structure along with needed counseling (he was the board's chair from 1994 to 1996).

When Catharine Guiles thinks of giving, though, the word "receiving" quickly comes to mind. "I have learned from the committed people I have met through my philanthropic work and through my connection with the Maine Community Foundation," she says. "Some have become true friends."

## Environmental Funders Network

### Engaging foundations and donors

In spring 2005, the Maine Community Foundation and the Maine Philanthropy Center convened a group of funders with a shared interest in environmental issues. The result of that convening, the Environmental Funders Network, is dedicated to identifying and creating ways to improve and sustain Maine's natural environment.

*Carol Wisbammer, facilitator for the Environmental Funders Network, takes notes at a convening of the group in the Glickman Family Library at the University of Southern Maine.*

While the mission of the network is broad, programs for 2006 have focused on land conservation. Led by Horace Hildreth, MCF Board member, the group has come together twice to hear special presentations by leaders in environmental stewardship in Maine. "An informed network of funders may have a greater impact addressing Maine's environmental challenges than we might have individually," Hildreth said.

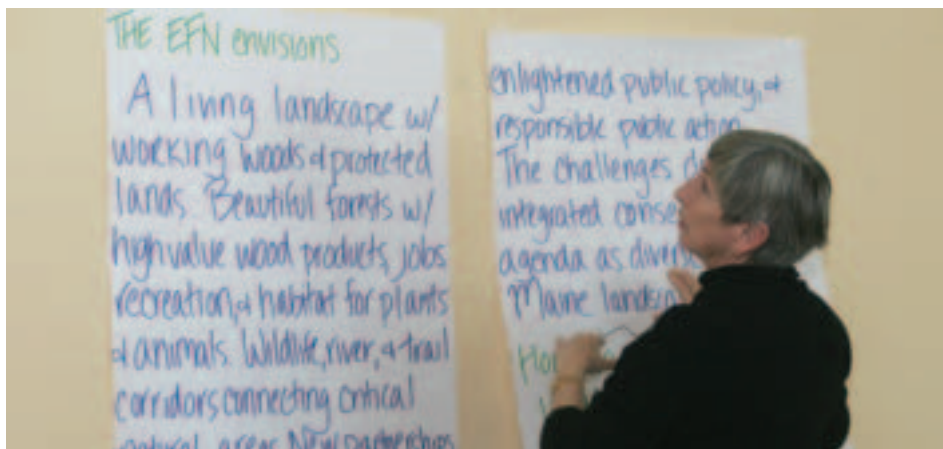


Photo: Herb Swanson

# Maine Arts Teachers Fellowships

*Enriching the teaching of the arts through immersion*



Photo: Elizabeth Watson, MAAE

*At the Maine Arts Advocacy celebration in the Hall of Flags at the State House in March, MCF President Henry Schmelzer (far left) announced the new Maine Arts Teachers Fellowship Program. Here he joins (left to right, front row) Representative Ted Koffman, Mount Desert Island High School Principal Sally Leighton (center), Senator Dennis Damon and Representative Hannah Pingree to honor MDI High School arts teachers: (second row) Dan Stillman; (third row) Charlie Johnson, Liz Keenan, Casey Rush, Beth Lyons and Dan Granholm; and (top) Galen Lowe.*

*The MDI teachers were presented with the Maine Alliance for Arts Education's Creative Ticket Schools of Excellence Award, given to a school for outstanding achievements in arts education.*

Just over a year ago, the Surdna Foundation in New York City approached the Maine Community Foundation to ask if MCF would be interested in starting a fellowship program for arts teachers in Maine's public schools, modeled on its own highly successful Arts Teachers Fellowship Program. MCF turned to the Maine Alliance for Arts Education for counsel and sought the support of a group of Maine Community Foundation donors.

With enthusiastic donors on board and a substantial grant from the Surdna Foundation, the Maine Arts Teachers Fellowship Program was born. Open to K-12 arts teachers from across the state of Maine, the program will support up to eight fellows annually, beginning in the 2007 school year. Tuition, travel and expenses up to \$4,000 will be covered. The schools will also receive \$1,000 for post-fellowship

work, restricted to the teacher's use with his or her students.

The program will encourage applications from public school teacher-artists from the visual arts, theater, music, dance, creative writing, film, video and multi-disciplinary arts. Fellowships might include attending an international photography institute, dance festival, playwriting program or craft school; personal study with a master musician; or participation in an artist's retreat.

"Artist-educators play an important role in young people's lives, kindling each new generation's support for artists and the arts in our society," said Henry Schmelzer, MCF president. "We believe that providing opportunities for arts teachers to immerse themselves in their particular discipline will lead to an enrichment of arts education throughout Maine," he said.



Guidelines and application for the Maine Arts Teachers Fellowship Program are available on the Maine Alliance for Arts Education website, [www.maineallforartsed.org](http://www.maineallforartsed.org) and at [www.mainecef.org](http://www.mainecef.org). The first fellowships will be awarded in March 2007.

# Nonprofit Effectiveness Recognized

*Grant support plus management assistance equals stronger organizations*

The Maine Community Foundation recently hosted its second annual luncheon for nonprofits involved in its Program for Nonprofit Effectiveness. Henry Schmelzer, MCF president, and Kristin Majeska, president of Common Good Ventures, were on hand at Colby College to congratulate graduating partners Eastern Agency on Aging and the Center for Maine Economic Policy.

The organizations received three years of Maine Community Foundation grant support and Common Good Ventures management and technical assistance. "This special program proves that nonprofits can increase their operational effectiveness with funding and strategic management assistance," said Schmelzer.



The Maine Community Foundation is currently soliciting letters of interest for new nonprofit partnerships starting in 2007. For information and guidelines, please visit [www.mainecef.org](http://www.mainecef.org).

*Left to right: Common Good Ventures Portfolio Director Chad Sclove and CGV Executive Director Kristin Majeska; Noelle Merrill, executive director, Eastern Agency on Aging; Christopher St. John, executive director, Maine Center for Economic Policy; and Henry Schmelzer, MCF president. The group gathered at Colby College for a celebration of nonprofit effectiveness.*

## Maine Community Foundation Recognized for Best Practices

*MCF among first in nation to receive accountability seal of approval*

The Maine Community Foundation is being recognized for having organizational and financial practices that are in accordance with the Council on Foundations' National Standards for U.S. community foundations.

"Adopting and adhering to high standards is the best way we can demonstrate our ongoing commitment to maintaining the trust of our donors and the entire community of Maine," said Henry Schmelzer, MCF president.

The standards were created to aid community foundations in establishing legal, ethical and effective operational practices that demonstrate the foundations' transparency and financial responsibility in light of the increased public scrutiny of foundation practices.



*This special seal recognizes community foundations that adhere to rigorous standards.*

The 43 National Standards address such areas as governance; resource development; stewardship and accountability; grantmaking and community leadership; donor relations; and communications.

Of the nearly 700 community foundations in the United States, more than 480 have pledged to comply with the National Standards. The Maine Community Foundation is among the first group to be reviewed and to receive the confirmation.

# Celebrating 20 Years of County Grantmaking

## *Aroostook, Piscataquis and Washington County Committees mark a special anniversary*

This fall the first three MCF county committees—Aroostook, Piscataquis and Washington—will be marking their 20<sup>th</sup> year of working to strengthen communities in their counties. With combined endowments of nearly \$1.5 million, the funds have made close to \$1 million in grants.

“These pioneering county committees have been the foundation for our grant-making in these counties,” said Henry Schmelzer, MCF president. “We rely on their local knowledge and volunteer energy to help us make the best grants and help build charitable resources for those counties,” he said.



Photo courtesy Center Theatre  
A grant from the Piscataquis County Fund enabled the Center Theatre for the Performing Arts in Dover-Foxcroft to host its first Children’s Drama Camp.

### **Aroostook County Fund**

- First grant made: Fish River Lakes Water Quality Association, for start-up costs
- Recent grant made: **Community High School** in Fort Kent, toward lighting and sound improvements to produce the first full-scale musical play at the school in more than 20 years

### **Piscataquis County Fund**

- First grant made: Town of Guildford, for general assistance to flood victims
- Recent grant made: **Penquis Higher Education Center**, for the 2006 Penquis Leadership Institute

### **Washington County Fund**

- First grant made: Quoddy Regional Land Trust, for distribution of a brochure on the land trust
- Recent grant made: **Mano en Mano/Hand in Hand**, to provide an after-school homework program for Latino K-6 students in Milbridge, Harrington and Columbia



Photo: Alana Preston

*Mowry Beach, protected by the Quoddy Regional Land Trust, provides public access to a sand beach and views across the Lubec Narrows. The Washington County Fund has made several grants to the trust.*



Photo: Karen Duff

*Volunteers at the Southern Aroostook Agricultural Museum in Littleton join in an old-fashioned barn raising. The new building, supported by a grant from the Aroostook County Fund grant, will allow the museum to house large pieces of early farm equipment safely for display.*

*Richard LeBlanc is senior attorney at the Portland law firm of LeBlanc & Young. His practice focuses on estate and trust administration, estate planning, business succession planning and charitable giving.*



## The Good Listener

*Some sound advice from a financial advisor*

**A**s a seasoned estate planner with a statewide practice, Richard LeBlanc stresses the importance of being a good listener, so that a client's values and objectives can be understood and appreciated as early as possible in the estate planning process.

*In a conversation at his Portland office, LeBlanc emphasized the importance of listening and also shared some success stories with Jennifer Southard, MCF's director of philanthropic services.*

**MCF:** Why do you talk to your clients about charitable giving?

**Richard LeBlanc:** We see our function as helping clients achieve their objectives using correct, appropriate legal arrangements and explaining the tax consequence of different approaches. If our function is to carry out their objectives, we need to understand what's important to them. That includes not only questions about their families, but also what they think about philanthropy.

**MCF:** How have you started that conversation?

**LeBlanc:** It depends on the particular client and situation. We see our role first and foremost as listening carefully and picking up words, phrases, body language; we draw out with our questions what is really important to our client. Exactly how we get to the philanthropy part of the discussion will depend on how that conversation is going.

**MCF:** Any stories to share?

**LeBlanc:** One that comes to mind was an elderly widower who was sponsoring an important annual charitable event by picking up the tab every year beyond what was paid by people attending the event. As he got older, it became clear that some way would have to be found to continue that tradition. He didn't want to put that burden on his children and he wasn't sure how it was going to work.

After a fair amount of discussion and investigation, we decided he could endow that support by creating a fund with the Maine Community Foundation. That option provided an immediate income tax charitable deduction, which he liked. He was able to use appreciated marketable securities and avoid the capital gains tax.

More importantly, this option offered a transition period during which he and his advisors and the Maine Community Foundation could get used to how he wanted the fund to work. He has since died and those of us who knew him well are very comfortable that the endowment fund is accomplishing his objectives. His children are happy. The event continues to go on the way he wanted it to.

**MCF:** That's a great outcome for everyone.

**LeBlanc:** Yes, it is. A more typical story involves a couple that wanted

to set up a family charitable foundation, which would provide them with a way to carry on the tradition of their philanthropy and also encourage their adult children to remain involved in that role. As we discussed what they were trying to accomplish and the amount of money they were prepared to commit, it became pretty clear that establishing a private charitable foundation wasn't the best idea. The initial cost, compliance problems and IRS regulations, plus the very distinct possibility that one or two generations down the line the family might no longer be as committed to this program as their children seemed to be, led them to reconsider.

The couple liked the idea of donor-advised funds, which they hadn't really known about when they first came in. We hooked them up with the Maine Community Foundation, which resulted in three funds being created: a scholarship fund and two separate donor-advised funds. If at some point the family is no longer willing to be involved as advisors, then the funds will become field-of-interest funds.

Once more, as we got a better handle on what our clients were trying to achieve, a solution presented itself through MCF. The foundation helped us help them.

**MCF:** It's important to be thinking about the future.

**LeBlanc:** Yes, and that makes me think of a third story. This client, a widow, had no descendants and was committed to supporting charitable programs in her county, which has a lot of needs. Her concern was that many of the more effective programs that were run by small organizations might not be around for the long haul. She also appreciated that there might be new organizations after her death that would be doing the sorts of things she wanted to support.

*Continued next page*

# Board Members Elected

## *Coit and company bring new ideas to the table*

The Maine Community Foundation has elected four new members to its Board of Directors: **David Coit** of Cape Elizabeth, **Sandra Featherman** of Kennebunkport, **Davis Pike** of Lubec and **Mary “Polly” R. Saltonstall** of Camden.

“The Maine Community Foundation depends on its volunteer board to help guide it and bring new ideas to the table,” said MCF President Henry Schmelzer. “These distinguished individuals are already helping to move us forward,” he said.



Photo: Carl Little

*Left to right: Henry Schmelzer, Maine Community Foundation president and (back) board members Kenneth Spierer, David Dixon and Robert Woodbury, join new directors (front) Sandra Featherman, Polly Saltonstall, and Davis Pike at MCF headquarters in Ellsworth. (Missing: David Coit)*

### *Professional Advice continued*

This client created a field-of-interest fund at the Maine Community Foundation that she knew would be supporting programs of the type she was committed to, without locking her money into any particular program that she currently liked.

I thought that decision reflected wisdom on the part of the client, but also relief that there was an organization with a presence in her county that could help fulfill her goals. It was something that could not be done by a bank trust department or a lawyer as a trustee. So that was another win-win situation.

*Richard LeBlanc is a summa cum laude graduate of Holy Cross and a cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School. He has been actively involved in a number of charitable organizations, including the United Way Foundation of Greater Portland, the Catholic Foundation of Maine, Habitat for Humanity and Maine Special Olympics. He is a frequent speaker at seminars and workshops on estate planning and related topics.*

Before **David Coit** founded North Atlantic Capital Corporation in 1986, he was president of Maine Capital Corporation. He is currently Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, and he serves as a Corporator of the Schepens Eye Research Institute (an affiliate of the Harvard Medical School) and is on the Advisory Board of the University of Southern Maine Business School.

**Sandra Featherman** was President of the University of New England from 1995 to 2006. She is a member of the Maine Legislative Ethics Advisory Committee and the Maine Compact for Higher Education. The Maine Development Foundation honored Ms. Featherman as a Champion of Economic Development in 2002.

Spending much of his career working for Pfizer, Gillette and Revlon based in Southeast Asia, **Davis Pike** retired as Senior Vice President from Berli Jucker Co. The Pike family has had a home in Lubec since 1830. Mr. Pike serves as an elected member of the Lubec Harbor Board and sits on the boards of the Quoddy Regional Land Trust and the Conservation Law Foundation.

**Polly Saltonstall** has 20 years of experience writing, editing and managing newspapers. A freelance writer, she has published in the *New York Times*, *Bangor Daily News* and *Cooking Light* magazine, among other publications. She received honorable mention for coverage of substance abuse issues by the Nancy Dickerson Whitehead Awards as well as several New England Press Association awards. Ms. Saltonstall is president of the Board of the Penobscot Marine Museum. She served on the Maine Community Foundation’s Waldo County Committee and currently is chair of MCF’s Knox County Committee.

Spotlight Grant

# Preserving Culture, Land and History

*\$500,000 grant supports campaign to save Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village*

**F**ounded in 1783, the Sabbathday Lake Shaker community consists of 1,700 acres in New Gloucester, Maine, with 19 buildings, farmland and forest. The site reflects “a unique combination of self-sufficiency, spirituality, communal life and practicality.”

A coalition of historic preservation and conservation organizations and government agencies has joined with the Shakers to secure the future of their village. The alliance includes the Trust for Public Land and the lead project partners: Maine Preservation, Friends of the Royal River, New England Forestry Foundation, the State of Maine and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



*Historic barns at Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village*

An anonymous MCF donor recently contributed \$500,000 to the effort to secure protection of the landscape and village, which have been threatened by development pressures. “We take pride in working closely with donors to fulfill their philanthropic goals,” said Henry Schmelzer, MCF president, “and this significant support for a remarkable cause exemplifies the results such a partnership may have.”

To read about other grants, visit the MCF website: [www.mainecef.org](http://www.mainecef.org).

Photo: Jerry & Marcy Monkman/EcoPhotography,  
courtesy Trust for Public Land

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## *The Mission of the Maine Community Foundation*

is to  
strengthen Maine by  
working in partnership with  
donors and community  
groups.

We accomplish our mission  
by:

- Building philanthropic resources
- Connecting donors to organizations and programs they care about
- Making effective grants
- Providing leadership to address community issues.



MAINE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
*Fulfilling the promise of giving*

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