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Maine Women's Giving Tree Quarterly Review

Volume 2, Issue 2 June 2017

Maine Women's Giving Tree, PO Box 1065, Brunswick, ME 04011 mainewomensgivingtree.org

The Sixth Annual Awards Ceremony – June 14, 2017

Co-Presidents Susan Mikesell and Bianca Chambers

More than fifty participants were welcomed by Susan Mikesell, Co-President, to the Sixth Annual Awards ceremony held in the Morrell Room, Curtis Memorial Library. This event celebrated the outstanding community organizations we are proud to support. It is the culmination of what we do as members of the Maine Women's Giving Tree.

Susan recalled that the Maine Women's Giving Tree awarded its first three grants in 2012. The total amount then was \$15,000. This year, we awarded eight grants totaling \$45,285. Including these grants we will have assisted 25 non-profit agencies with 40 programs for a total community investment of over \$195,000. Our only regret is that we were unable to fund every application we receive, because we understand all too well that human service needs in Maine are greater than ever before, while the available public resources to address them are shrinking year by year.

Bianca Chambers, Co-President, added her welcome and thanked everyone for coming to our most important event, the culmination of our grantsmanship—the heart and soul of the

\$45,285 Awarded in 2017

- \$7,500 to **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bath/Brunswick**: Staff time to recruit and train new volunteers; *Lindsay MacDonald, Executive Director*
- \$7,885 to **Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program**: Backpack Program; *Hannah Chatalbash, Development Director*
- \$2,400 to **New Hope for Women**, "The Yellow Dress" production; *Lisa Couture, Youth Educator*
- \$6,000 to **The Opportunity Alliance**: Mediation Program; *Debbie Kennedy, Midcoast Mediation Coordinator*
- \$2,500 to **People Plus**: Brunswick Teen Center teen food program supplies; *Stacy Frizzle, Executive Director*
- \$7,500 to **Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, Topsham Health Center**: At-Risk Teens Reproductive Health Care Center; *Kai Williams, Director of Health Operations*
- \$6,500 to **Tedford Housing**: Outreach Coordinator for Merry-meeting Project for Homeless Youth; *Craig Phillips, Executive Director*
- \$5,000 to **Tri-County Literacy**: Read With Me Program; *Katie Clark, Program Director*



Accepting 2017 Awards (left to right): Lisa Couture, Youth Educator, New Hope for Women; Katie Clark, Program Director, Tri-County Literacy; Kai Williams, Director Health Center Operation, Planned Parenthood; Hannah Chatalbash, Development Director, Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program; Stacy Frizzle, Executive Director, People Plus-Teen Center; Lindsay MacDonald, Executive Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters; Debbie Kennedy, Mediation Program, The Opportunity Alliance; and Donna Verhoveven, Coordinator, Merrymeeting Project for Homeless Youth, Tedford Housing.

Maine Women's Giving Tree. She introduced our Grants Committee Co-Chairs, Lynn Lockwood and Peggy Harris, acknowledging their effective leadership while achieving the mission of the Maine Women's Giving Tree. They have a challenging position to ensure that each application receives an ethical, equitable and fair review.

Lynn Lockwood and Peggy Harris presented a brief overview of the grants process described in their following report, below.

In closing remarks, Bianca offered congratulations to all awardees. The Maine Women's Giving Tree is privileged to honor the significant work that these organizations do to improve the quality of life of those in need residing in the midcoast. It is an honor to building community with the dedicated and committed women of the Maine Women's Giving Tree. As an organization we are both proud and humble. Proud to contribute support for those in need. Humbled by the number of persons in need in our communities that we have not yet been able to help.

Welcome to our newest members:
from Brunswick: Elizabeth Glover
from Harpswell: Barbara Apigian and Connie Conner

Membership Meeting, Grants Committee Report – May 17, 2017

Peggy Harris and Lynn Lockwood, Co-chairs, Grants Committee

The membership continues to be well-served by the dedicated members of the Grants Committee and Grant Reviewers. They have worked extremely hard to ensure that a thorough, confidential, ethical, and equitable review process was implemented and was as objective as is possible. Due to the stress placed on the review process by the large number of grants (29) submitted during the previous grant cycle, the 2016/17 Grants Committee decided to experiment with limiting grant requests to a specific focus: "Child Well-being, ages 0-18". In September, letters were sent to all agencies in our Community of Interest explaining this cycle's focus and asking for Letters of Intent. We received 18 Letters of Intent from which we selected 14 who were invited to submit grant applications. These applications were distributed to reviewers on February 14. Early in May, grant reviewers met in two separate Panel Meetings to discuss reviews and make recommendations, which were then



Members Cyndy Bush and Connie Conner with our MWGT co-founders Judy Woodman and Sandy Neiman.

reviewed by the Grants Committee. Difficult decisions had to be made as the total amount requested was \$103,379 which was well beyond the \$50,000 available funding. Discussion focused on how best to distribute our resources to have the greatest impact on our communities.

The Grants Committee and Grant Reviewers met in June to debrief and evaluate the entire grant review process. The outcomes of this meeting, and recommendations for your consideration, will be shared at the Annual Meeting in September.

Calendar of Events:

Thursday, August 10, 2017, 5-6:30 pm. *Second Annual Cocktail Party*, Hosted by Cyndy Bush, Harpswell, ME.

Wednesday, September 20, 2017, Noon – 2 pm. *Annual Membership Meeting*, Thornton Oaks, Merrymeeting Room, Brunswick, ME.

Wednesday, October 4, 2017, Noon – 2 pm. *Education Presentation Meeting*, Holden Frost House, The Highlands, Topsham, ME.

Wednesday, November 1, 2017, Noon – 2 pm. *Education Presentation Meeting*, Thornton Oaks, Merrymeeting Room, Brunswick, ME.

Wednesday, December 6, 2017, Noon – 2 pm. *Second Annual Holiday Luncheon/Education Presentation Meeting*. Holden Frost House, The Highlands, Topsham, ME.

2017 MWGT Grant Fund Goal: \$55,000

Please send your annual contributions made payable to:

The Maine Community Foundation, c/o Laura Young, Vice President, Maine Community Foundation 245 Main Street, Ellsworth, ME 04605.

Please put "membership/MWGT" on the notation line on your check.

