



Thomas Memorial Library Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Thomas Memorial Library

VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/xiw-wqrk-bqq>

Or dial: (US) +1 240-428-7870 PIN: 605 194 930#

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Public Comment (15-minute limit)**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. **January 22, 2026 Draft Minutes -**
- 5. Evaluation of Community Spotlight Applicants**
 - a. **Applicants:**
 - Cape Elizabeth Land Trust**
 - Catholic Charities of Maine**
 - Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society**
 - Cultivating Community**
 - Dream**
 - Hope Acts**
 - Iris Network**
 - Locker Project**
 - Maine Island Trail Association**
 - Marine Mammals of Maine**
 - Riding To The Top Therapeutic Riding Center**
 - Ripple Effect**
 - Telling Room**
 - Wild Seed Project**
 - WindowDressers -**
- 6. Selection of Community Spotlight Organization**

- 7. New Business**
- 8. Public Comment (15 Minutes)**
- 9. Adjournment**

TOWN OF CAPE ELIZABETH
MEETING MINUTES
DRAFT

MEETING: Thomas Memorial Library Committee

DATE: January 22, 2026

TIME: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

PLACE: TML Conference Room

1. Call to Order: Tim called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm
2. Roll Call
 - a. Present: Tim Blackstone, Patience Maloney, Liz Elliott, Reed Dyer, Tim Hebda, Sara Kitchen, Scott Mazuzan; Rachel Davis, Library Director
 - b. Absent: Griff Gilbert,
3. Public Comment (15 minutes): None
4. Election of the Chair: As Tim Blackstone has already served two consecutive years as Chair, the Committee elected a new Chair.
 - a. Reed nominated himself to be Chair for 2026
 - b. Seconded by Tim Blackstone
 - c. Vote: unanimous approval
5. Approval of minutes from the December 11 meeting
 - a. Tim Hebda made a motion to approve the minutes
 - b. Seconded by Sara
 - c. Vote: unanimous approval
6. Community Spotlight Update: Rachel reported that the Community Spotlight Selection Policy finalized at the last meeting was approved without issue at the January 5 Town Council meeting. The information about the program as well as the application are posted on the Town's website, but the application form is having technical issues. Rachel will begin to promote the program once the form is working correctly; Rachel will also notify the Committee so they can begin sharing the information as well.
7. Director's Report: as attached.
8. Orange Bike Brewing potential partnership update: Rachel is trying to arrange a meeting during the workday to meet with the owner to discuss a potential partnership with the goal of attracting younger adults to the library.
9. FOAA Guidelines: Rachel discussed the Freedom of Access Act and the key points that Committee members should keep in mind. She will share via email the documents distributed last year regarding FOAA.
10. New Business
 - a. TML Foundation Update: Tim Hebda shared information about the Foundation's successful annual appeal, and encouraged Committee members to share ideas on how to help spread the word about the Foundation to more people in Town
 - b. Meeting Schedule: The Committee agreed on the following meeting dates for 2026; Rachel will send out Google calendar invites

- i. March 26
- ii. May 28
- iii. September 24
- iv. November 19

11. Public Comment (15 minutes): none

12. Adjournment:

- a. Liz made a motion to adjourn the meeting
- b. Seconded by Sara
- c. Vote: unanimously approved
- d. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rachel Davis, 1/23/26



**Thomas Memorial Library
Summer Reading Community Spotlight Program Application
February 26, 2026**

Cape Elizabeth Land Trust

Organization Summary

In 1985 a group of 16 residents of Cape Elizabeth formed the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust (CELT), a local, community-based, member-supported nonprofit organization. Its purpose was to “preserve natural areas of scenic beauty for residents and visitors to explore and appreciate.” Forty years later, CELT continues to improve the lives of people, animals, and ecology of Cape Elizabeth and the world by providing lasting protection of valued lands and wildlife habitats, maintaining trail access to those lands for everyone, and offering educational programs to inspire future land stewards. Our official mission is to “permanently conserve and steward cherished lands – from shorelands to marshes, from farmlands to woodlands – for ecological benefit and for the enjoyment and education of all people.”

Over more than 40 years, CELT has permanently conserved 900 acres of land on 36 properties to benefit the people, wildlife and ecological health of Cape Elizabeth and beyond. About 570 households (15% of Cape Elizabeth’s population) support our work as contributing members. We are further supported by a dedicated group of volunteers (172 active volunteers in 2025) who engage in trail building and maintenance, removal of invasive species, education programs, event help, office work, grant writing, finance and governance, to name a few.

CELT has been accredited by the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission continuously since 2015, having renewed that accreditation twice in the past 10 years. We are one of only 19 accredited land trusts of the more than 80 in Maine and only 470 accredited land trusts in the U.S.

CELT programs provide stewardship of our properties, access to nature, and environmental education to increase awareness of the environment and conservation issues. To that end, our staff and many volunteers from the community have built and regularly maintain 13 miles of public trails that are free and open to all. Working in a 23-year partnership with the Cape Elizabeth School District, we also provide environmental educational programming to Cape Elizabeth, surrounding schools and communities, and visitors. In 2025, these programs benefited more than 1,000 schoolchildren and hundreds of adults. We also host a number of events that foster community well-being and connection, including the acclaimed annual fundraiser Paint for Preservation, which celebrates the connection of art and the environment; a Harvest Party, a free outdoor festival in the fall with live music, a farmers’ market, and activities for adults and children; and our annual meeting that presents a

speaker on a timely ecological issue; as well as other events throughout the year.

The educational programs provided by CELT are more than just science lessons - they offer comprehensive learning experiences that integrate various disciplines, including Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM), Language Arts, Social Studies, Art, and Social Emotional Learning (SEL). Activities like mindfulness exercises on nature walks help students build resilience, focus, and emotional regulation. Outdoor learning fosters well-being by providing students with a break from traditional classroom settings and connecting them with nature, which is shown to reduce stress and improve mental health. Outdoor learning and nature-based play greatly increase children's health and wellbeing. Stress reduction, improved relationship skills, and other social-emotional benefits have been reported when students spend more time outdoors.

Donated funds, goods, or volunteer activities raised through the Build a Better World Community Spotlight program would further CELT's mission by supporting our new *Trails for Cape* campaign, launched following our celebratory 40th Anniversary year. This support from the public will serve the people, animals, and environment by 1) conserving 32.5 acres of wildlife habitat, protecting the headwaters of Trout Brook, and connecting a mile of trail for the public at Davis Forest off Spurwink Avenue; 2) building an improved access trail at Robinson Woods so that those with mobility challenges may experience nature and the iconic Robinson Pond, 3) and caring for those 900 acres of conserved lands and trails through active stewardship – building and repairing trails, boardwalks and bridges; removing invasive plants; and caring for the health of the environment, all with the active engagement of ~175 volunteers each year.



Rachel Davis <rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us>

Application results

Thomas Memorial Library <no-reply@thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com>

Tue, Feb 24,
2026 at 2:10
PM

Reply-To: kmockler@ccmaine.org

To: rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us

Name of Organization: Catholic Charities Maine

Date Organization was established: 1966 (our 60th Year!)

Organization's Website: {formfield=organizations_website}

Organization's Tax ID Number: 01-0280225

Documentation of Organization's 501 (c)(3) Status:

https://thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/55/documentation_of_organiza

Approximately how many people benefit from the organization's work each year?: From childcare in Cape Elizabeth to education services for blind or visually impaired children, to immigration legal services, to outreach to isolated older adults, to behavioral health services lifting adults and children out of poverty, our network of professionals and volunteers helped more than 16,000 of our neediest neighbors last year across all 16 counties in Maine.

Organization's Annual Operating Budget: \$24,715,884

Organization Summary: https://thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/55/organization_summary

Volunteer Opportunities: We would be delighted to welcome Thomas Memorial Library fans, followers, and volunteers to follow their philanthropic passions by supporting our diverse programs, including:

St. Elizabeth's Childcare Center, opening in June, will be co-located at St. Bartholomew Church in Cape Elizabeth serving families of all faiths and welcoming infants through age 5.

Volunteers participate in enrichment activities with the children such as reading, music, art, outdoor play, and supporting the teachers during lunch/breaks

Our senior services support older and disabled adults with housekeeping

services and companionship to help them remain in their homes.

Because many are isolated with no family nearby, making cards, or sharing artwork by children that our staff can deliver on their weekly visits lifts their spirits.

Threads of Hope thrift store in Sanford. Volunteers help sort donations

Refugee and Immigration Services program. To make check-in calls, drive clients to legal and medical appointments and grocery / food pantry pick-ups

Knitting (hats, mittens, scarves, blankets for children and adults) for the homeless or those in need for our annual Wall of Warmth free giveaway of donated winter wear held on Giving Tuesday.

Special event support in preparation for/at our annual Golf Classic in September benefiting childcare scholarships at our two child development centers.

Your community would be welcomed into our professionally managed volunteer services program that streamlines the required background checks and matches volunteers to opportunities that best fit their interests. Plus, if selected, Catholic Charities Maine will promote the library and your volunteer opportunities via social media and to our active network of 380 volunteers who generously gave 27,956 hours last year.

Donation's of Goods: This is such a generous component of your program!

Helping Children: Our childcare centers (St. Elizabeth's (currently in Portland and moving to Cape in June 2026) & St. Louis in Biddeford) always need books, diapers, toys, and teaching aids, and our center directors maintain an Amazon-based wish list to make it easy to support them. We'd love your readers – young and old – to suggest books to the children we serve; would an ongoing invitation to write a "book review" align with your goals? We can share them with parents and teachers at our two childcare centers, and on social media. Books that feature immigrants and diversity are also welcome.

Helping People & the Planet: Our Threads of Hope thrift store accepts high quality, gently used clothing and household items where people shop with dignity and hope and all proceeds benefit our programs. We'd be happy to put a collection barrel for Threads of Hope at the library and collect any donations on a regular basis.

Helping Vulnerable Neighbors: Our behavioral health and immigration services

teams always appreciate grocery gift cards and personal care/safety kits. Residents at our recovery programs for men and women appreciate personal hygiene kits. Bus passes are also very helpful for our clients in getting to work, medical appointments, and accessing community resources.

Helping Seniors: Older adults served by our Independent Support Services and our volunteer SEARCH companion program welcome personal hygiene items and gas cards to support our volunteers who drive seniors to medical appointments/errands.

Name of Contact Person for the Organization: Kathy Mockler

Contact Person's Email Address: kmockler@ccmaine.org

Organization's Mailing Address: [307 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04104](#)

Contact Person's Phone Number: 207-523-2761

Name: Stephanie Miller

Title: Grants Manager

Date: 2026-02-24



Rachel Davis <rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us>

Application results

Thomas Memorial Library <no-reply@thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com>

Fri, Feb 27,
2026 at 2:00
PM

Reply-To: bobadodd@gmail.com

To: rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us

Name of Organization: Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society

Date Organization was established: 1979

Organization's Website: {formfield=organizations_website}

Organization's Tax ID Number: 01-0377606

Documentation of Organization's 501 (c)(3) Status:

https://thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/65/documentation_of_organiza

Approximately how many people benefit from the organization's work each year?: About 2000 people visited our museums last year. We had at least nine school classes visit us for field trips. Several groups, including the Coastal Defense Study Group, also visited. In addition, we had many people call or come in during our open hours to research or ask for help researching topics in Cape Elizabeth. We provide eight monthly historical programs with an average of 35 people attending at the town library. We also produce a newsletter to our members and the public which can be found on our website and in the town library. Our database is now available online to anyone in the world.

Organization's Annual Operating Budget: \$38,856

Organization Summary: https://thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/65/organization_summary

Volunteer Opportunities: We welcome volunteers of all sorts.

Our current biggest need is for docents to guide people through our museums in the summer season. We are open Monday and Thursdays from 9 to noon, and Saturdays and Sundays from 10 am to 3 pm. We also need people interested in serving on our Museum Committee to help us plan for new exhibits and promote group tours.

We also need people year-round to help us digitize our holdings. This involves scanning documents as well as entering data into our computer database. This would be perfect for a teenage with good computer skills. It is our hope to

make all of our information available worldwide through our website. We always need grant writers! We have many projects planned and someone who could find and apply for grants would be a huge help. We are constantly doing research - for our monthly programs, for teachers who have a class studying some historic subject, for an article to put into our newsletter The Keeper, or for a question submitted from the public. Anyone who wants to come in and do a deep dive into some aspect of Cape Elizabeth history is welcome. We plan to better organize our collections. Anyone who has a particular interest or knowledge in textiles, maps, neighborhoods, or any aspect of Cape Elizabeth history is welcome to help out in a particular area.

Donation's of Goods: Non-monetary items we could use:

- Old photographs of buildings, businesses, school classes, Fort Williams, farming, fishing, famous people who lived here, or unusual scenes of Cape Elizabeth
- Portrait photographs of your ancestors who lived in Cape Elizabeth
- Old postcards picturing locations or people relating to Cape Elizabeth or Fort Williams
- Ephemera of events or businesses in Cape Elizabeth
- Artifacts having to do with navigation, fishing, Fort Williams, or Cape Elizabeth
- High school yearbooks, specifically for the years 2019, 2017, 2015, 1989, 1987, 1969, 1957, 1943 or 1940
- Recordings (audio or visual) of old or important events in Cape Elizabeth

Name of Contact Person for the Organization: Bob Dodd, President Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society

Contact Person's Email Address: bobadodd@gmail.com

Organization's Mailing Address: Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society

[1000 Shore Road](#)

Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107

Contact Person's Phone Number: 207 767-1352

Name: Diane Brakeley

Title: CEHPS Board Member

Date: 2026-02-27

CEHPS Organization Summary

The Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society (CEHPS) is a non-profit, all volunteer organization whose mission is to preserve and promote the history of Cape Elizabeth, Maine. They are responsible for cataloging and housing the many documents and artifacts that are part of our town's story. They also provide educational and entertaining monthly programs.

CEHPS is housed in the Bachelor Officers Quarter at Fort Williams where they have created two new historical museums. One is the Cape Elizabeth History Center and the other is the Fort Williams Museum.

The CE History Center is specifically designed with children in mind. The displays include a genuine trolley bell (which all are encouraged to ring) and a scale model of the town center in the 1930s complete with lights, a moving trolley, and engaging questions. The goal is to teach all ages about the history of Cape Elizabeth. Cape schools can bring their classes to visit and learn our history from the time of the Abenaki people to the 1900s Cape Casino and Theater.

The Fort Williams Museum is another educational tool. Classes of older students can see first-hand the part our town has played in national and world events. This makes history real to them. Students will learn the value of source documents in the study of history. Artifacts, maps, pictures, and even recordings of town residents bring history to life.

Volunteers are continuing to create a digital record of all of their holdings, which just recently went online for public access. This means that students can search these records and primary source documents from the comfort of their classroom or home. Photos and documents can be downloaded for closer study. CEHPS is open two mornings a week for anyone who wants to come and search deeper, or see the actual items they found online.

By becoming a part of the library's Community Spotlight, CEHPS hopes to shed light on all the volunteer opportunities for people in town. From teenagers with computer skills to people with research skills to older members who might like the socialization of being a docent, there is a spot for everyone.

CEHPS hopes that people will search their attics for documents or artifacts that shed more light on our town's history, whether those are donated or simply lent to CEHPS to record. Any money raised will go to their many projects. Perhaps a speaker fee for one of their monthly programs or to help pay for the historical signage project they are planning for the town. Creating and maintaining two museums as well as storing the town's history involves many expenses including basic materials, display stands, special archival materials and storage, and special restoration of some artifacts. Due to age, their documents and artifacts often need special handling, which can be expensive.



Rachel Davis <rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us>

Application results

Thomas Memorial Library <no-reply@thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com>

Fri, Feb 27,
2026 at
10:18 AM

Reply-To: David@capelandtrust.org

To: rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us

Name of Organization: Cape Elizabeth Land Trust

Date Organization was established: 1985

Organization's Website: {formfield=organizations_website}

Organization's Tax ID Number: 22-2736834

Documentation of Organization's 501 (c)(3) Status:

https://thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/63/documentation_of_organization

Approximately how many people benefit from the organization's work each year?: CELT's 900 acres of conserved lands and trails and programs in Cape Elizabeth serve thousands of people each year. Our preserves are open and free to all who want to explore nature, within walking distance of many neighborhoods and the Cape schools. Located just a few miles from Portland, they welcome people from the largest population center in the state, and many tourists who visit Cape's large attractions (Fort Williams Park and two state park beaches). More than 1000 schoolchildren and hundreds of adults each year also benefit from CELT's environmental education programs held outdoors, in classrooms, and in conjunction with the Thomas Memorial Library

We are excited about our project to expand access to nature for even more people by building an "improved access trail" at our popular Robinson Woods Preserve to enable people with mobility challenges, families with strollers, and those who simply want a gentler walking experience.

Organization's Annual Operating Budget: 700,000

Organization Summary: https://thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/63/organization_summary

Volunteer Opportunities: CELT offers myriad opportunities for community volunteers to benefit our organization, as well as the people, animals and environment of Cape Elizabeth. We hold volunteer work parties monthly throughout the year and weekly in the summer, in which people can help

remove invasive plants, tend gardens, or build trails, boardwalks and bridges on our properties. Our Paint for Preservation event engages about 75 volunteers helping with parking, registration, set up and clean up, photography, etc. We have other event needs throughout the year, as well as some office work, computer consulting, website maintenance and social media, newsletter writing, sign painting, etc. Committees seeking participation include Membership & Development, Stewardship, Education, Finance, Governance, as well as our Board of Directors. Visit www.capelandtrust.org for more information.

Donation's of Goods: Gardening and landscaping tools; a truck, boat, car or other motor vehicle; a microwave that is younger than 10 years old; office cleaning or snow plowing.

Name of Contact Person for the Organization: David Briman

Contact Person's Email Address: David@capelandtrust.org

Organization's Mailing Address: [330 Ocean House Road](#)

Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107

Contact Person's Phone Number: 207-767-6054

Name: Patty Renaud

Title: Membership and Development Manager

Date: 2026-02-27



Rachel Davis <rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us>

Application results

Thomas Memorial Library <no-reply@thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com>

Thu, Feb 19,
2026 at 1:36
PM

Reply-To: eva@cultivatingcommunity.org

To: rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us

Name of Organization: Cultivating Community

Date Organization was established: May 14, 2001

Organization's Website: {formfield=organizations_website}

Organization's Tax ID Number: 04-3607322

Documentation of Organization's 501 (c)(3) Status:

https://thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/51/documentation_of_organiza

Approximately how many people benefit from the organization's work each year?: more than 1,000 people

Organization's Annual Operating Budget: Income \$1,281,876

Organization Summary: https://thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/51/organization_summary

Volunteer Opportunities: 13 May Happy Garden Hour Volunteer Rotation 5 - 7pm North St Community Garden

18 June United Way Day of Action 9 - 11:30am Riverton Community Garden

24 June Happy Garden Hour Volunteer Rotation 5 - 7pm Common Share & Casco Bay Community Gardens

27 June Good Garden Morning Volunteer Rotation 9 - 11am Peaks Island Community Garden

July 8 Happy Garden Hour Volunteer Rotation 5 - 7pm Payson Park Community Garden

23 July Happy Garden Hour Volunteer Rotation 5 - 7pm Brentwood Farms Community Garden

12 August Happy Garden Hour Volunteer Rotation 5 - 7pm Riverton Community Garden

22 August Good Garden Morning Volunteer Rotation 9 - 11am Valley St Community Garden

9 September Happy Garden Hour Volunteer Rotation 5 - 7pm Libbytown Community Garden

14 October Happy Garden Hour Volunteer Rotation 5 - 7pm Clark St
Community Garden

More opportunities: <https://cultivatingcommunity.org/volunteer/>

Donation's of Goods: Wheelbarrows

Wheelbarrow wheel fixing kits

Garden Forks

a leaf rake

Lead-free garden hoses

*we will conduct our garden shed inventories in March, and can follow up with
a more detailed list.

Name of Contact Person for the Organization: Eva Barinas

Contact Person's Email Address: eva@cultivatingcommunity.org

Organization's Mailing Address: Cultivating Community

P.O. Box 3792

Portland, ME 04104

Contact Person's Phone Number: 207 761 4769

Name: Eva

Title: Garden Engagement Manager and Volunteer Manager

Date: 2026-02-19

Cultivating Community Summary for Thomas Memorial Library February 2026

Founded in 2001, Cultivating Community's mission is to grow food justice in Greater Portland, Maine. Our complementary programs meet community-identified needs for land and fresh food access while organizing for systems change:

- **Youth Leadership:** hosting four multilingual paid garden-based leadership development internship sessions yearly for fifty Portland Public School students.
- **School Partnership Program:** hands-on garden-based education, curriculum development, school garden support, and advocacy for fresh, local, and culturally familiar food for ALL 3000+ Portland elementary students
- **Urban Agriculture program:** Managing Portland's 11 Community Gardens, where 485+ neighbors grow food on public land, including the Boyd Street Urban Farm & Youth Garden and urban orchards. We prioritize limited resource access and build community connections through free workshops, volunteer days, and events throughout the growing season
- **Two community farms:** land access, shared infrastructure, training, market development, 45,000 seedlings, and support for ~50 immigrant farming families of color
- **Food Security & Market Development:** In 2024, farmers in our programs produced over \$500,000 of culturally familiar vegetables, including \$115,000 for food pantries \$97,000 in SNAP and WIC sales that are matched 100% at mobile farmstands

As an organization with a 20 year history of working with immigrant, refugees, and asylum seekers; low-income residents; youth and elders; BIPOC people, and others experiencing food insecurity Cultivating Community has an important long-term role to play in providing access to land so that individuals, families, and households can grow fresh, affordable culturally-familiar food. Community gardens have been shown to reduce costs of groceries and double the intake of vegetables per participant while giving people the ability to grow vegetables they are culturally familiar to and often can't easily obtain. (Algert, Dikmann, Renvall & Gay, 2016) Additionally, community gardens can increase people's access to fresh air and reduce stress (ibid). Benefits to physical health, mental health, building social capital, community empowerment, and preserving cultural heritage are widely researched and documented. (Kellner, 2016) Refugees (an important part of the Portland and Cultivating Community community) report an increased sense of belonging when connected to the land and growing activities. (Harris, Minniss & Somerset, 2014)

Support from Thomas Memorial Library will fund materials for the Urban Agriculture program's community gardens. Providing tools such as garden forks, wheelbarrows, and lead-free watering hoses at each of the 11 community gardens set up participants for success as they grow food for their families. Support can also look like joining the volunteer days we host throughout the growing season at each community garden, see listed below in the Volunteer Opportunities section of this application. We look forward to meeting you in the garden!



Rachel Davis <rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us>

Application results

Thomas Memorial Library <no-reply@thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com>

Thu, Feb 26,
2026 at 3:11
PM

Reply-To: cjsmith@dreamprogram.org

To: rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us

Name of Organization: DREAM

Date Organization was established: DREAM, 1999 DREAM Maine: Spring 2026 !

Organization's Website: {formfield=organizations_website}

Organization's Tax ID Number: 260030908

Documentation of Organization's 501 (c)(3) Status:

https://thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/58/documentation_of_organiza

Approximately how many people benefit from the organization's work each year?: Currently, DREAM provides programming for over 800 youth and their families throughout the northeast region. With over 47 program sites in current regions and an alumni network of over 4,500.

We have 5 new regions (ME, RI, DC CT, and Albany NY). Maine is our newest region, and we are aimed to provide summer programming in Portland's Public Housing Authority to 70 youth and their families this summer.

Organization's Annual Operating Budget: Dream ME's Annual Budget \$166,105- we have raised \$3500 of that so far.

Organization Summary: https://thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/58/organization_summary

Volunteer Opportunities: We are currently building out our volunteer networks and plan to have opportunities in the following areas: Fundraising support

Programmatic support

Operations support

Network support

Donation's of Goods: We have an amazon wishlist live with current needs for

summer programming: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3GGTSF6CAJIZ9?ref_=wl_share

Name of Contact Person for the Organization: Caitrin "CJ" Smith, Director
DREAM ME

Contact Person's Email Address: cjsmith@dreamprogram.org

Organization's Mailing Address: [42 Newbury St Auburn ME 04210](#)

Contact Person's Phone Number: 2072511178

Name: Caitrin "CJ" Smith

Title: DREAM ME, Youth Services Director

Date: 2026-02-26



Organization Summary

Please attach a brief summary describing the organization and the impact it has on the communities it serves. Please share specifically what any funds raised through this program would be used for, and the impact that any donated funds, goods, or volunteer activities would have in furthering the organization's mission.

- ❖ Hope Acts is a Maine-based nonprofit dedicated to supporting asylum seekers, who are experiencing or recovering from homelessness and facing significant barriers to employment and stability due to federal immigration policies. Our organization serves mostly extremely low-income individuals and families with young children, and provides housing support, immigration navigation (including work permit assistance), and English and digital literacy programs. Our overarching goal is to support asylum seekers as they transition from reliance on public and nonprofit services to long-term stability and flourishing. Through partnerships with organizations such as Project HOME and Maine Volunteer Rides, we aim to reduce systemic barriers related to housing access, transportation, and employment readiness. By centering client voices and employing staff with lived experience, we seek to advance racial equity and create lasting pathways to stability for immigrant communities across the state.
- ❖ In 2025:
 - We served over 3,000 people.
 - 52% of clients came to us with an immigration-related problem and 42% needed help with an issue related to housing.
 - We secured housing for 88 new households (118 people), including seniors and single-parent families; 99.7% of clients were Extremely Low Income, and 99% maintained housing without eviction during their first year of tenancy. We also provided ongoing housing support for nearly 300 households.
 - We submitted 986 work permit applications. Our Work Permit Clinic is the largest in the state and hosted at the Portland Public Library.
 - We supported 80+ households who experienced a family member in ICE detention.
- ❖ Since January 1, 2026:
 - We have partnered with multiple food pantries, churches, Portland Schools, and volunteers to deliver food, diapers and baby formula to 100 households, mostly families with children.
 - We have distributed \$6,500 in gift cards and bus tickets.
- ❖ The funds raised through this program will help Hope Acts sustain our program capacity at a time when services are increasingly labor-intensive and client needs are becoming more complex due to shifting and harmful government policies. Payroll accounts for approximately 80% of the operating budget, reflecting the staff-intensive nature of our work.
- ❖ Hope Acts is powered by over 70 volunteers – including asylum seekers – who bring language, cultural knowledge, and heart to our mission, and support our small team of 11 staff members. Volunteer activities enable us to expand our client reach and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of our services. Donated funds will help offset rising operational costs – including health insurance and utilities – and help replace pandemic-era resources that previously supported our work permit assistance, housing stabilization and homelessness prevention work. These funds will also support organizational resilience as the broader funding landscape becomes more uncertain. Government cuts to basic needs programs are raising demand for services while shrinking resources, especially for immigrant-serving nonprofits.

**PO Box 7615
Portland, Maine 04112**

**www.hopeacts.org
207-228-1140**



Rachel Davis <rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us>

Application results

Thomas Memorial Library <no-reply@thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com>

Sat, Feb 28,
2026 at 11:17
AM

Reply-To: madeleine@hopeacts.org

To: rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us

Name of Organization: Hope Acts

Date Organization was established: 2012

Organization's Website: {formfield=organizations_website}

Organization's Tax ID Number: 45-4804770

Documentation of Organization's 501 (c)(3) Status:

https://thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/67/documentation_of_organiza

Approximately how many people benefit from the organization's work each year?: In 2025, we served 3,000 people.

95.7% Black/African (77% from Angola, DRC & Congo)

People accessing services by gender: 53% male, 47% female

People accessing services by age: 50% age 25-44

99.7% Extremely Low Income (30% AMI)

88% Cumberland County, 6% York County, 6% Other County

86% live in Greater Portland

Organization's Annual Operating Budget: \$850,092

Organization Summary: https://thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/67/organization_summary

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteer opportunities at Hope Acts include:

- Driving clients to immigration appointments
- Practicing English with a student (online)
- Teaching assistants for online and conversational classes
- One-on-one mentoring with an individual or family
- Work with clients in our office
- Coming soon. . . Gardening and outdoor maintenance

Donation's of Goods: Our clients often request and could benefit from:

- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap
- Sanitary pads
- Diapers (all sizes)
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper

Name of Contact Person for the Organization: Madeleine Saucier

Contact Person's Email Address: madeleine@hopeacts.org

Organization's Mailing Address: Hope Acts

Po Box 7615

Portland, ME 04112-7615 United States

Contact Person's Phone Number: 207-350-9799

Name: Madeleine Saucier

Title: Deputy Director

Date: 2026-02-28



Rachel Davis <rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us>

Application results

Thomas Memorial Library <no-reply@thomasmemorallibrary.libconnectpro.com>

Thu, Jan 29,
2026 at
10:34 AM

Reply-To: awhitmore@theiris.org

To: rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us

Name of Organization: The Iris Network

Date Organization was established: 1905

Organization's Website: <https://www.theiris.org>

Organization's Tax ID Number: 01-0196359

Documentation of Organization's 501 (c)(3) Status:

https://thomasmemorallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/38/documentation_of_organiza

Approximately how many people benefit from the organization's work each year?: Over 600 individuals in Maine benefit from The Iris Network's programs and services each year

Organization's Annual Operating Budget: \$3.2M

Organization Summary: https://thomasmemorallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/38/organization_summary

Volunteer Opportunities: The Iris Network has many volunteer opportunities, specifically with the residents of our Iris Park Apartments. We have community members who are personal shoppers, provide dance/yoga/music participation sessions, facilitate a board game afternoon, take residents on outdoor adventures, etc. We value our volunteers, as they bring different activities and perspectives to people who have vision loss and are blind.

Donation's of Goods: We accept gently used technology that is geared for those with visual impairments and braille books and reading materials.

Name of Contact Person for the Organization: Amy Whitmore

Contact Person's Email Address: awhitmore@theiris.org

Organization's Mailing Address: 189 Park Ave
Portland, Maine 04102

Contact Person's Phone Number: 207-838-2177

Name: Amy Whitmore

Title: Director of Development and Communications

Date: 2026-01-29



Rachel Davis <rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us>

Application results

Thomas Memorial Library <no-reply@thomasmemorallibrary.libconnectpro.com>

Mon, Feb 2,
2026 at 3:09
PM

Reply-To: kathryn@mainelockerproject.org
To: rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us

Name of Organization: Locker Project

Date Organization was established: 2014

Organization's Website: <https://www.mainelockerproject.org>

Organization's Tax ID Number: 47-1257754

Documentation of Organization's 501 (c)(3) Status:

https://thomasmemorallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/43/documentation_of_organiza

Approximately how many people benefit from the organization's work each year?: 7500

Organization's Annual Operating Budget: \$1,482,059 (includes \$800,000 in the anticipated value of donated food)

Organization Summary: https://thomasmemorallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/43/organization_summary

Volunteer Opportunities: We have volunteer opportunities at our South Portland warehouse--filling bags and boxes with food for kids to take home and at our school- and community-based fresh food events. Volunteers can also assist with fundraising events and food drives.

Donation's of Goods: We collect non-perishable food items year-round. The list of high-priority items is on our website.

Name of Contact Person for the Organization: Kathryn Sargent

Contact Person's Email Address: kathryn@mainelockerproject.org

Organization's Mailing Address: PO Box 3134, Portland, ME 04104

Contact Person's Phone Number: 207-899-9540

Name: Kathryn Sargent

Title: Executive Director

Date: 2026-02-02



Organizational Summary February 2, 2026

Our approach to child hunger is simple: provide healthy food to children and their families, with no stigma, no questions asked, and as few barriers as possible. Five days a week, we put healthy food in the hands of kids from low-income families to take home. In 2025, students in public schools, preschools, and attending such programs as Head Start or the Boys & Girls Club across Greater Portland took home 17,170 green bags of produce and 11,045 purple bags of staples. In addition, we hosted 614 fresh food events, where we set up a free farmers market at schools, in neighborhoods, and in collaboration with partner agencies. At these events, which are held year-round, kids, and often their parents, can choose the items that fit their cultural and dietary preferences. We also provided 1,729 family food boxes to case managers from partner agencies for home delivery.

The Locker Project was founded in 2014 in Portland and grew rapidly by opening school pantries in three school districts. In 2017, we added a fresh food program. In response to the pandemic, we began to offer pre-packed bags of staples and produce, which remains our primary distribution model. We partner with dozens of public schools and local agencies across Greater Portland to reach 2,500+ children at risk of hunger and their families every year with more than half a million pounds of healthy food, prioritizing fruits and vegetables.

About 80 percent of the food we share with kids and families is fresh produce. Half of the fresh produce we share is rescued from local supermarkets, reducing food waste and its negative environmental impacts. The remainder comes from Good Shepherd Food Bank and local farms. We compost whatever fresh food we receive that is no longer edible. We collect dry goods through community food drives and purchase key items like shelf-stable milk and rice from the food bank. Total food shared in 2025 was 612,000 pounds.

Our operating budget for FY26 is \$1,482,059 (includes \$800,000 in the anticipated value of donated food). We rely on foundation grants and support from businesses, community groups, and individuals to cover the costs of our small staff, warehouse for storing and processing food, and vans for transporting food. Donations of funds and food as well as volunteer time are essential resources for our take-home food programs. Each year, volunteers contribute substantially more than the equivalent of a full-time staff person.

By providing reliable access to nutrient-dense food, we are improving children's diets, promoting dietary habits needed for long-term health, and stretching family food budgets.

Our Mission

The Locker Project connects food-insecure children in Maine with nourishing food to improve their learning capacity, health, and future. We take a whole-family approach to child hunger, with programs that strive to be low-barrier, stigma-free and environmentally responsible.

Board of Directors

Marie Boneparth
President

Gretchen Williams
Vice President

Sarah Daignault
Treasurer

Elizabeth K. Jackson
Secretary

Jenny Alfrey

Madeline Backman

Russell Gelinas

MaryBeth McNicholas

Steven Silver

Kathryn Sargent
Executive Director



Rachel Davis <rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us>

Application results

Thomas Memorial Library <no-reply@thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com>

Fri, Feb 13,
2026 at 9:16
AM

Reply-To: kgreen@mmome.org

To: rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us

Name of Organization: Marine Mammals of Maine

Date Organization was established: 11/29/2011

Organization's Website: {formfield=organizations_website}

Organization's Tax ID Number: 01-0500070

Documentation of Organization's 501 (c)(3) Status:

https://thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/49/documentation_of_organization

Approximately how many people benefit from the organization's work each year?: 3,000-4,000

Organization's Annual Operating Budget: \$670,000

Organization Summary: https://thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/49/organization_summary

Volunteer Opportunities: We have a robust volunteer program and are actively looking for volunteers to join our outreach team. This group meets virtually once a month to discuss community engagement events and activities and volunteers get out into the community to help us spread the word and garner enthusiasm for marine mammal conservation. This is a critical component of our four-pronged mission that includes community engagement. We are especially interested in volunteers who want to help with our library programming as we receive more requests than our current volunteers can fulfill. We'll train you and provide the presentation, so if you love marine mammals and are interested in learning more we'd love to hear from you! More details about how to get involved are at <https://www.mmome.org/volunteer/>

Donation's of Goods: Our most needed items include: unscented laundry detergent, unscented chlorine bleach, nitrile gloves (sizes small and medium), Dawn dish soap, paper towels.

Name of Contact Person for the Organization: Katy Green

Contact Person's Email Address: kgreen@mmome.org

Organization's Mailing Address: PO Box 751 Bath, ME 04530

Contact Person's Phone Number: 207-505-5115

Name: Katy Green

Title: Development Director

Date: 2026-02-13



Rachel Davis <rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us>

Application results

Thomas Memorial Library <no-reply@thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com>

Thu, Feb 26,
2026 at 3:37
PM

Reply-To: saustin@mita.org
To: rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us

Name of Organization: Maine Island Trail Association

Date Organization was established: 1988

Organization's Website: {formfield=organizations_website}

Organization's Tax ID Number: 01-0478709

Documentation of Organization's 501 (c)(3) Status:

https://thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/59/documentation_of_organization

Approximately how many people benefit from the organization's work each year?: Any individual seeking an adventure on the Maine Island Trail stands to benefit from MITA's stewardship and community engagement and access programming. Annually, MITA records 15,000-20,000 visitors to Maine Island Trail sites and engages over 500 volunteers who provide over 6,000 hours of service to keep Maine's islands clean and thriving.

Our community of over 6,200 members include paddlers, sailors, powerboaters, and non-boaters alike. Members receive comprehensive information about the Trail, helpful tips for safe and responsible boating, and guidelines for low-impact recreation. Importantly, our members are the most crucial component in helping us keep the Trail healthy and pristine through their tremendous volunteer efforts and generous support of the 227 sites on the 375-mile long Maine Island Trail which extends along the entire length of the Maine coast.

Additionally, last year, MITA was able to share the experience of island stewardship with more than 500 volunteers. MITA is working to build our community engagement programs to ensure the Maine Island Trail inspires and connects with diverse communities and these programs facilitated on-the-water experiences for nearly 200 participants in 2025.

Organization's Annual Operating Budget: \$1,526,250

Organization Summary: https://thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/59/organization_summary

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteer stewardship is without a doubt the most impactful aspect of MITA's mission on the Trail. Without it, there would be no Maine Island Trail! Between May-October, MITA recruits volunteers for cleanup and work days. Joining a cleanup or work day with MITA is a rewarding experience and a wonderful opportunity to experience and care for the islands along the Trail. Volunteers do shoreline maintenance, remove invasive species, maintain campsites, trails, and infrastructure, and more. Additionally, our Island Adopter and Monitor Skipper programs provide a more in-depth commitment to island stewardship.

Outside of organized stewardship programs, MITA encourages members and visitors to care for the sites they visit. This is the fundamental premise upon which MITA was built: that the people who use the islands will be inspired to care for them.

We encourage participants in the Summer Reading Program at the Thomas Memorial Library to care for the places on the Maine Island Trail and beyond when they visit: learn what responsible recreation means to minimize the impact, familiarize yourself with Leave No Trace practices so you can be a respectful visitor, pick up marine debris and trash on beaches and trails, submit a stewardship report to MITA if you visit a site on the Trail and notice an issue, etc.

MITA would be happy to brainstorm with the Thomas Memorial Library about ways to engage Summer Reading Program participants in our work. Perhaps a citizen-science project that involves participants reporting information about the trash they find and remove from beaches, shorelines, and islands? Or a contest for the weirdest piece of trash?

Donation's of Goods: Large, heavy-duty construction-grade trash bags
Reusable work gloves

Name of Contact Person for the Organization: Stephanie Austin

Contact Person's Email Address: saustin@mita.org

Organization's Mailing Address: [100 Kensington Street, 2nd Floor](#)
Portland, ME 04103

Contact Person's Phone Number: 207 761-8225

Name: Stephanie Austin

Title: Appeals and Events Manager

Date: 2026-02-26

Organization Summary: The DREAM Program

Founded in 1999, The DREAM Program (DREAM) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to closing the opportunity gap for youth living in low-income households. DREAM provides all services at no cost to youth and families, with an exclusive focus on families residing in affordable housing. Today, DREAM serves more than 800 youth across its footprint and is now ready to expand into MAINE!

DREAM's overall approach is grounded in building long-term, trusting relationships and providing access to enriching experiences - two pillars of healthy youth development. Program design centers on deep partnership with the communities served, ensuring services are responsive, culturally affirming, and embedded where families live. DREAM delivers a continuum of support that includes afterschool enrichment, mentoring, summer day and overnight camp, and scholarships for post-secondary educational pursuits.

As of February 2026, DREAM's first site for programming in Maine has been established with in Portland! This summer, DREAM will offer summer programming to over 70 young people residing in low income communities in the Greater Portland region.

Summer Enrichment Programming:

DREAM's eight-week Summer Programming transforms the traditional summer break into a structured, joyful season of learning and exploration. Designed to combat the "summer slide" and address the opportunity gaps that disproportionately affect youth in public housing communities, each day intentionally blends our four core pillars:

- Build Competent, Motivated Readers
- Foster Problem Solvers
- Support Healthy Minds and Bodies
- Inspire Artists and Creators

Alignment with TML's Mission:

DREAM's work aligns closely with TML's mission to foster individual and civic well-being by connecting people with information, resources, and one another. Like TML's Summer Reading theme "*Build a Better World: Read for Resilience, Read for Kindness, Read for Good*" DREAM uses literacy, connection, and play as vehicles for resilience and community strengthening.

It's important for us to state that while combatting summer slide is a core element of our programming, we recognize that far too often, young people living in public housing are often limited in their options to pay for summer programming that prioritizes joy and play. As such, we recognize not just an "opportunity" gap but also a growing "play" gap emerging for low-income youth.

DREAM, like TML, utilizes imagination, creativity, play, and joy as *vehicles* for civic engagement, literacy, and ultimately, building a better world. Learning, joy, and civic engagement are inseparable. When young people are given structured opportunities to read, create, move, and connect, they build not only academic skills but also social capital, empathy, and a stronger sense of belonging.

Funding Specifics:

ALL funds raised through this program will directly support DREAM MAINE programming:

- Expansion of a new DREAM site, launching with summer programming and continuing into year-round mentoring
- Healthy meals and snacks
- Educational supplies, books, and creative materials, the building of our identity-affirming, culturally responsive mobile library!
- Transportation for enrichment experiences and field trips
- Staff training and high-quality curriculum implementation

As you can see in the budget for Maine, attached earlier in the application, our funding currently is going to the salary for one staff member based in Maine, who is responsible for the development of DREAM in the region. Therefore, all new funds raised will go directly toward building and sustaining programming at the new site, ensuring immediate and tangible impact for youth and families.

Beyond Summer

Summer is just the beginning. In the fall, DREAM will expand into mentoring and continued enrichment programming, with long-term plans that include adventure-based experiences, scholarship opportunities, and deeper family engagement.

By establishing this initial site, DREAM is building networks of care and connection that strengthen entire communities. Through literacy, play, mentorship, and access to opportunity, DREAM increases social capital and creates pathways for long-term success.

The impact extends beyond individual youth—stronger, more connected young people help build stronger, more resilient communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Come build the DREAM with ME!

Organization Summary

The mission of the Maine Island Trail Association (MITA) is to advance a model of thoughtful use and volunteer stewardship of Maine’s wild islands, creating an inspiring recreational water trail that is cared for by the people who use it.

The founders of the Maine Island Trail set out to “create a small boat waterway with both charm and challenge through some of the most beautiful coastal scenery in the United States.” In 37 years, MITA has never owned island properties; instead, through simple handshake agreements with island-owning individuals, families, nonprofits, and government entities, MITA facilitates island access for responsible explorers. The Trail offers public access to some of the most remarkable natural places in Maine and is made possible by these generous landowners who allow access to their properties trusting that users will be responsible recreators, and dedicated staff and volunteers who conduct critical stewardship and conservation work on the Trail, including trail clearing, invasive plant removal, campsite maintenance, shoreline cleanup, and more.

The success of the Trail rests on balancing island visitation with volunteer stewardship and visitor education. Each year, MITA engages between 500-1,000 volunteers who conduct thousands of hours of stewardship work on the Trail in coordination with MITA staff. Annually, MITA records 15,000 – 20,000 visitors who travel the Trail pledging to “leave no trace” during their island visits. This reliance on “user-stewardship” engenders a shared commitment among island visitors, volunteers, and owners to care for the Trail.

It’s not enough to steward the islands, we must also enjoy them! We want to help all people experience the beauty of the Maine Island Trail. To that end, we are making it a priority to increase island access – especially for kids, local communities, non-boaters, and those who might not otherwise have such opportunities. In 2025, MITA helped provide such experiences to nearly 200 participants from groups such as Adaptive Outdoor Education Center, Maine Immigrant & Refugee Services, Juneteenth Downeast Weekend on the Water, First Light, local schools and others.

Any funds raised through the Thomas Memorial Library Summer Reading Program would support MITA’s operating expenses to advance stewardship and access efforts along the Maine coast and to help ensure that thousands can continue to access, enjoy, and be inspired by the splendor of these wild islands.

MITA measures the impact of our programming by tracking island use (visitors, stewardship visits, volunteers and volunteer hours, amount of debris) and progress on our access and community engagement initiatives (partnerships, experiences provided). We also review annual membership and trail growth (the number of islands and trail resources added each year and the special places in this state where access becomes available).



Rachel Davis <rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us>

Application results

Thomas Memorial Library <no-reply@thomasmemoriamlibrary.libconnectpro.com>

Tue, Feb 24,
2026 at 11:12
AM

Reply-To: kjohnson@ridingtothetop.org

To: rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us

Name of Organization: Riding To The Top Therapeutic Riding Center

Date Organization was established: 1993

Organization's Website: {formfield=organizations_website}

Organization's Tax ID Number: 01-0482069

Documentation of Organization's 501 (c)(3) Status:

https://thomasmemoriamlibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/54/documentation_of_organiza

Approximately how many people benefit from the organization's work each year?: 300

Organization's Annual Operating Budget: 863328

Organization Summary: https://thomasmemoriamlibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/54/organization_summary

Volunteer Opportunities:

Volunteers are the heart of Riding To The Top. They contribute over 11,000 hours each year to improve the lives of our clients and horses. While volunteers serve in many capacities, the majority of our volunteers assist in lessons. Volunteers also help with barn chores, facility and trail maintenance, administrative tasks, events and special projects. RTT offers volunteer orientations, trainings and continuing education programs throughout the year.

To volunteer, individuals must first complete the RTT Application and send it to the Volunteer Coordinator (drop off, email or mail). The Volunteer Coordinator will schedule an interview and orientation/volunteer training session. RTT's Volunteer Coordinator then matches trained volunteers with available positions and volunteer interests. Additional training is required for some positions.

Donation's of Goods: Horse and rider equipment

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2XP3TXQBK6SHZ?>

Name of Contact Person for the Organization: Kelly Johnson

Contact Person's Email Address: kjohnson@ridingtothetop.org

Organization's Mailing Address: 14 Lilac Drive

Windham, ME 04062

Contact Person's Phone Number: 207-892-2813

Name: Kelly Johnson

Title: Development Director

Date: 2026-02-24

Riding To The Top (RTT) provides services to children and adults with physical, cognitive, mental health and/or learning disabilities. Our services include therapeutic riding, carriage driving, equine-assisted learning and a small therapy program of PT and OT utilizing equine movement. While a majority of clients and volunteers live in Cumberland County, in 2025, we had participants from nine Maine counties. Clients range in age from 3 to 90+, approximately 53% of whom are children. A majority of our clients come from low-mod income households, receiving financial aid from RTT. In addition, an indirect group of people who are part of RTT are our volunteers who range in age from 14 to 80+. These volunteers participate in everything from lessons, to caring for the horses, to events and administrative tasks.

Funds raised through this program would go toward the expansion of our remote field trip programming, which will significantly increase our outreach to school age children and elderly (nursing home and memory care residents) populations.

Our primary goal is to complete the purchase and retrofitting of a van that will significantly improve the ease and safety of transportation of our miniatures.

RTT's miniature horses are two of the farm's greatest ambassadors – and we can bring them to those who have barriers to getting to the farm. Presently, transportation of our minis has been with our truck and 2-horse trailer which is not ideal, and is limiting due to personnel trained to drive the truck and trailer.

Our secondary goal is to complete 8-12 Mobile Mini Outreach trips within the first year of having our Mini Van reaching 300-350 individuals.

With mobile field trips, RTT can reach much larger numbers of individuals. We saw the success of this during COVID when we brought minis to several schools for outdoor education with students of an entire elementary school. The students all learned about caring for horses, grooming and leading. And for residents at nursing homes or memory care units, quiet time where residents get to interact with the minis in their own familiar spaces offers comfort and joy. There is an increasing body of research that supports what we have observed for many years -- human-animal interactions lead to improved physical and social-emotional health and wellness outcomes in people (The Human Animal Bond Research Institute—HABRI).

This project will ensure that our staff can schedule more visits with our minis to schools and residential facilities thereby expanding our community impact through RTT's equine assisted services.



Rachel Davis <rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us>

Application results

Thomas Memorial Library <no-reply@thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com>

Fri, Feb 27,
2026 at 9:59
AM

Reply-To: adam@rippleeffect.net
To: rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us

Name of Organization: Rippleeffect

Date Organization was established: 1999

Organization's Website: {formfield=organizations_website}

Organization's Tax ID Number: 01-0521260

Documentation of Organization's 501 (c)(3) Status:

https://thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/62/documentation_of_organization

Approximately how many people benefit from the organization's work each year?: 4,100 Maine Youth

Organization's Annual Operating Budget: \$750,000

Organization Summary: https://thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/62/organization_summary

Volunteer Opportunities: Island Clean-Up Days, Grounds Keeping at the ROCC (our mainland facility)

Donation's of Goods: Art Supplies (paint, markers, canvas fabric, etc.), Outdoor Gear in Good Condition (youth PFDs, winter boots, quick-dry layers, jackets, rubber water shoes), Adventure Books for Kids (elementary school and middle school reading levels)

Name of Contact Person for the Organization: Adam Shepherd

Contact Person's Email Address: adam@rippleeffect.net

Organization's Mailing Address: PO Box 441, Portland, ME 04112

Contact Person's Phone Number: 207-791-7870

Name: Adam Shepherd

Title: Executive Director

Date:



Rippleffect: An Introduction

Rippleffect's mission is to promote human development and leadership through adventure, healthy communities and living sustainably.

Since being established in 1999, Rippleffect's primary purpose has been to provide low barrier access to life changing outdoor wilderness experiences for Maine youth—no matter their financial need or level of experience. Rippleffect programs give students hands-on-education in living classrooms that are fundamental to the healthy development of citizens, communities, and stewards of our planet. Our students build confidence, develop critical leadership skills, strengthen relationships, and grow their appreciation for the outdoors through the exploration of our 26-acre eco-campus on Cow Island, the waters of Casco Bay, the wilderness of New England, and the new Rippleffect Outdoor Community Center in Portland.

While best known for our day and overnight summer camps on Cow Island for children ages 8-18, Rippleffect programs also include leadership summits for teens, environmental leadership intensives, school-based community building initiatives & expeditions, and partnerships with youth-focused nonprofits. This broad scope of programming has resulted in our working with over 4,100 youth annually as we continue becoming an integral partner in the community in supporting the holistic development of young people in Maine

NO BARRIER ACCESS TO LIFE-CHANGING OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES:

ALL Rippleffect programs are offered on a sliding scale for individuals looking to participate in Open Enrollment programs. In addition, all public schools that partner with Rippleffect are offered significantly subsidized program fees and joint grant writing/fundraising support.

Making this happen: Currently, Rippleffect's annual overhead is approximately \$750k and the annual revenue from our fee-based structure (approx. \$800k) covers these costs. This means that we are able to allocate 100% of ALL donations & grant funding, including any funding received from the Thomas Memorial Library Community Spotlight Program, directly to Maine families and public schools to ensure access and opportunity for any Maine child to participate in a Rippleffect adventure.

All Rippleffect Programs may include the following activities/content:

- Kayaking
- High & Low Ropes Course
- Zip Line
- Rock Climbing
- 4-Seasons of outdoor wilderness skills
- Backpacking/Hiking
- Winter Mountaineering
- Camping
- Leave No Trace principles
- Environmental Art
- Team-Building Initiatives & challenges
- Environmental Education
- Leadership skill development
- Backpacking
- Clothing systems
- Navigation (map, compass, & chart)
- Outdoor cooking



Rachel Davis <rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us>

Application results

Thomas Memorial Library <no-reply@thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com>

Fri, Feb 27,
2026 at
3:01 PM

Reply-To: sarah@tellingroom.org

To: rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us

Name of Organization: The Telling Room

Date Organization was established: 2004

Organization's Website: {formfield=organizations_website}

Organization's Tax ID Number: 74-3136956

Documentation of Organization's 501 (c)(3) Status:

https://thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/66/documentation_of_organization

Approximately how many people benefit from the organization's work each year?: 2500

Organization's Annual Operating Budget: 1098703

Organization Summary: https://thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/66/organization_summary

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are essential to our organization.

Program volunteers sit with students, write with them, ask questions, and help them develop their stories or poems. Volunteers help with field trips in downtown Portland, residencies in school classrooms, and at events selling books by student authors. They work with a range of different learners, including varying ages and abilities. Some of our students are reluctant writers and need basic coaching, while others are working on their novel and want feedback on their craft. Often we need help during the school day, so our volunteer opportunities are perfect for college students, retirees, or adults with flexible schedules. Beyond programming and events, The Telling Room also seeks volunteers for specialized committees who believe in the power of youth voices and are excited to lend their expertise and experiences in service of advancing youth empowerment through writing. There are forms for both prospective volunteers and prospective committee members on our website.

Donation's of Goods: Educational supplies including art supplies and notebooks. Healthy snacks. Please contact The Telling Room for details before securing any goods to be donated. Thank you.

Name of Contact Person for the Organization: Sarah Schneider
Contact Person's Email Address: sarah@tellingroom.org
Organization's Mailing Address: [225 Commercial Street, Suite 201, Portland, ME 04101](#)
Contact Person's Phone Number: 207-774-6064 ext. 706
Name: Sarah Schneider
Title: Development Director
Date: 2026-02-27



“I feel like I’m important. I’m glad that The Telling Room does this, because it changed my life. Also, seeing a real life author was REALLY cool. I really felt that I grew as a writer.”

—2024-25 Pond Cove Elementary School Fourth Grade Residency participant

MISSION & OVERVIEW: As Maine’s only youth-focused literary arts education organization, our mission is to empower youth through writing and share their voices with the world. Focused on youth in grades 2 - 12, we deliver most of our afterschool and school-based programming within a 60-mile radius of Portland, aiming to provide opportunities through which students can realize their individual potential, validate their creative voices, and gain self-confidence and agency through writing and sharing. With over two decades of development, practice, and growth dedicated to centering and elevating youth voices, we seek participation from diverse and underrepresented youth throughout the arc of program design, development, and delivery. Created to address the need for specialized, highly effective writing and literacy instruction in our community, our programs allow students to practice creative expression and develop crucial literacy and life skills simultaneously—all of which are even more important now as learners recover from the pandemic period and are growing up in tumultuous times. We work directly with 1,800 youth annually in 125 communities statewide across our 12 different afterschool and school-based programs. We publish 300 youth authors each year in acclaimed Telling Room books and reach another 700 youth audience members through our author events. Our eleven core programs are 100% free to students and their families, helping ensure that students who are least likely to have a voice in the community or access to enrichment opportunities can participate. And we reach students and teachers from over 50 schools and 40 organizations to serve more than 130 communities across the state of Maine annually and build enduring partnerships—including with many libraries!

We also help youth build connections among their peers and engage with various learning, arts, and professional networks. We grow the audience for our authors’ work to be read and heard by youth and adults alike, linking students and alumni to experiences that not only benefit them as lifelong learners but also enrich and enlarge our whole community. Our nationally recognized programs are proven to help youth see themselves as capable writers with a unique voice that’s worth sharing. Our evaluation results consistently show that students demonstrate increased skills, knowledge, and understanding of writing and language arts, realize gains in their social emotional well-being, and strengthen the belief that their voice matters after participating in our programs. Young people often share with us how vital and affirming it is to have The Telling Room in their lives as a place they can find and build community, connect with their inner selves and with others, process the world around them, play, have fun, and create new worlds of their own through writing and sharing. Please see the 2024-25 Impact Report on our website for more details and youth voices, including a spotlight on Telling Room authors from Pond Cove Elementary School in Cape Elizabeth.

HIGHLIGHTS: Our Young Writers & Leaders program won a 2015 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award as one of the nations’ top 12 creative youth development programs. In 2024, we were awarded the Golden Apple Award by the Maine Education Association. Last year, we received the Partner for Equality Award from EqualityMaine. And our students garner distinguished awards every year, including top youth honors in the Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance’s Maine Literary Awards (MLAs) and in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Our anthologies have been finalists and winners of the MLA for Best Anthology several times, including in 2024 and 2025 and our titles are regularly selected for book clubs and community reads.

WHO WE SERVE: We work with students who span (and combine!) many different identities, backgrounds, abilities, and circumstances, including: youth who are a part of Maine’s community of immigrants, asylees/asylum-seekers, and refugees; homeschooled youth; youth residing in remote or rural areas; those with emotional and behavioral challenges; students struggling in mainstream classrooms; LGBTQIA+ youth; and unhoused, incarcerated, justice-involved, or other under-resourced youth. Our project-based programming

inhabits the intersection of youth development, education, and the arts, helping young people—many of them reluctant writers—engage in the transformative power of creative writing and self-expression. We often hear from students that the writing they do with us increases their confidence and helps them feel like they can express themselves better and that they matter, key protective factors that improve well-being and build both resilience and community connection. This growth is evident not only in our outcomes evaluation, but also in testimonials that students, educators, and families share with us regularly. As just one of many examples, Perla Ingabire, a 2017-18 Young Writers & Leaders alum and current Telling Room Ambassador recently wrote,

“The Telling Room gave me the confidence to share my ideas and voice my thoughts openly. For the first time, I felt like I could express myself without fear of judgement or the pressure to be perfect. This freedom was transformative for me as a student as it helped me to better articulate my thoughts, even beyond the program itself. I also developed essential life skills like public speaking and collaboration, all within a warm, supportive community of mentors and peers. Most of all, The Telling Room reminded me of the value of community. It's a place where young people can discover who they are, connect with others, and grow through the power of storytelling. In a world that's constantly changing and often isolating, having supportive spaces like The Telling Room makes a real difference.”

Perla’s experience exemplifies the impact of our work: Youth are more empowered and equipped to realize their individual potential and position themselves and their communities for success.

We find that having multiple access points is meaningful to youth as they come to engage with The Telling Room in different ways. Taking Cape Elizabeth area youth as an example, some writers from the area started their journey with us via our in-school residencies, such as our programming at Pond Cove Elementary School, while others have found it more convenient to interact with us remotely via our virtual afterschool program, SWARM!, or through our Statewide Writing Contest. We’ve worked with students from the Cape Elizabeth area who have traveled their Telling Room journey with us from these first touch-points through intensive week-long summer camps, all the way to our fifteen-month long Young Emerging Authors program as they draft, revise, publish, and promote their full-length book with us. There are many ways we serve Maine youth!

KEY ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS:

- Youth gain access to programs where they have agency to find, cultivate, and use their voices
- Youth develop 21st Century Skills: collaboration, creativity, communication, critical thinking, and curiosity
- Youth read (and are inspired by!) the creative work of their peers
- Our community listens to young people and values their contributions

HOW THE COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT PROGRAM WILL BENEFIT THE TELLING ROOM: For starters: We love libraries! It would be wonderful to engage with Thomas Memorial Library’s patrons and the Cape Elizabeth community around the Summer Reading Program theme of *Build a Better World: Read for Resilience, Read for Kindness, Read for Good*. Being the 2026 Community Spotlight Organization would provide amazing support around: Securing much-needed resources (donations of funds as well as goods such as notebooks, art supplies, etc.); making new friends (and readers!) of all ages; increasing The Telling Room’s visibility; gaining potential volunteers for local programs that serve youth and families in Cape Elizabeth and beyond (e.g., our In-School Residency for Pond Cove Elementary fourth graders, now in its second year, and our afterschool programs at the Telling Room’s Portland studio space); and more. These would all be truly meaningful contributions for our organization, given our budget size, the fact that we offer all of our programs for free to students and their families, and that we rely heavily on community support to power our programming. Funds raised through the Community Spotlight will help provide much-needed general operating support to help us deliver our school-based and afterschool programs as well as community activities such as Telling Room author events and readings.

We're still one of the few youth-serving nonprofits in the Portland Metro area that offer our afterschool programs free of cost to students and caregivers. However, we continue to find that in these programs, providing them "for free" isn't enough anymore—meaning that in order to reduce barriers to access and support students in their time with us, we need to continually ramp up student stipend, food security, technology, and transportation assistance, even as the overall cost of doing business continues to rise. This opportunity will offer vital support to our organization and our students at a critical time: Our strategic plan is allowing us to advance several projects that strengthen our programming, partnerships, infrastructure, and capacity in order to fortify our organization now and in the years ahead. It would be a great benefit to The Telling Room to expand our reach and community support through this collaboration with the Thomas Memorial Library to achieve our ambitious goals in the coming year. We are honored to be considered along with other amazing and worthy organizations that support our community. And we thank you for all you do every day to uplift youth voices, youth power, and youth promise—so very needed now.



P.O. Box 751
Bath, ME 04530
MMoME.org

Marine Mammals of Maine Application Attachment

Summary of our Organization

Marine Mammals of Maine (MMoME) is one of two marine animal response organizations in Maine and operates the only federally permitted seal rehabilitation center. Our four-pronged mission includes stranding response, triage and rehabilitation, research, and educational outreach. At the core of our mission is a 24/7 hotline where anyone can report a stranded marine mammal or sea turtle to an experienced and compassionate individual ready to respond. MMoME's coverage area spans Rockland to Kittery, Maine and annually we field approximately 4,000 calls to the hotline representing about 400 individual animals.

When we determine a need, and as space and resources allow, we admit seals for care in our triage and rehabilitation facility, located in Brunswick. Our ultimate goal is to release healthy animals back to the wild, generally a process of 2-4 months. We are the only seal rehabilitation facility in New England that currently offers care for dependent harbor seal pups, a particularly resource intensive age class to care for, and these cases dominate our spring and summer months as harbor seal pupping takes place almost entirely in Maine. We also respond and admit seals for care during the winter months, when gray seal pupping takes place and when arctic species, harp and hooded seals, seasonally inhabit the Gulf of Maine.

Strandings of marine mammals, especially large whales, dolphins and porpoises can be a stressful event for the reporting party or landowner, particularly when it's clear that an animal is injured or in distress. MMoME is the only federally permitted organization operating in this part of the state and as such the only entity able and prepared to respond and appropriately manage these stressful events. We never know who is on the other end of the call when we answer, but our goal is to offer a compassionate and experienced response no matter the nature of the call.

Furthermore, we seek to spread awareness about how to safely share the shore with seals through community outreach and engagement events. Over half of our rehabilitation cases have had some form of human interaction, so we seek to minimize those events by sharing easy to understand information about marine mammals and when to call the hotline.

How Funds and Donations will Make a Difference

Individual donations make up about 70% of our budget each year and we are so grateful for community support that makes this possible. Donations received as part of this program will directly support our stranding response and rehabilitation programs, specifically the hotline and animal care. These are foundational programs that directly benefit the community. Some Cape Elizabeth residents might remember [these two gray seals, both collected in Cape Elizabeth, from a couple years ago](#) which highlight how our response and rehabilitation programs support each other.

We maintain wishlists ([Amazon](#) and [Walmart](#)) for donated items that support all of our activities and people can choose items directly from these lists that are at a price point and program of interest. Thankfully, many items are also available through local retailers. Specific items listed elsewhere in this application are our most used and needed items and we always can use more!

We have a robust volunteer program and are actively looking for volunteers to join our outreach team. This group meets virtually once a month to discuss community engagement events and activities and volunteers get out into the community to help us spread the word and garner enthusiasm for marine mammal conservation. This is a critical component of our four-pronged mission that includes community engagement. We are especially interested in volunteers who want to help with our library programming as we receive more requests than our current volunteers can fulfill. We'll train you and provide the presentation, so if you love marine mammals and are interested in learning more we'd love to hear from you!

The Iris Network is a nonprofit organization that provides programs and services throughout the state of Maine for individuals with vision loss and blindness. Founded in 1905, the agency has a *mission* of helping people with vision impairment or blindness attain independence and community integration. Our *vision* is to build a world where no person is limited by vision impairment or blindness, and everyone is an advocate for eye health and the needs of people with vision impairment or blindness. The Iris Network's programs provide housing, job readiness and training, vision rehabilitation, low vision tools and technology and orientation and mobility.

The funds from this grant will help provide needed technology and devices for individuals through our Low Vision Center. Our Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapists assess the needs of our clients and recommend items that will help keep them safe and independent at work, school or home. These tools can range from "bump dots" that are placed on ovens and microwaves, to magnifying glasses, to reading machines. Many clients want to be able to stay in touch with family and friends, and we are able to help teach them how to use an Ipad and other assistive devices with applications for communication.

Our goal is to make technology and devices affordable and accessible to all who could use them. We have a Low-Income Fund for Tools (LIFT) program that provides subsidized pricing for just this purpose. These tools help individuals with vision loss remain safe, independent, and able to continue to enjoy their life and community.

Wild Seed Project builds awareness of the vital importance of native plants and provides all people with the tools to restore biodiversity in their own communities. We equip community members, public officials and municipalities, and land-holding individuals and organizations—from farmers to land trusts—with the skills and resources they need to collectively repopulate landscapes with native plants that expand wildlife habitat, support biodiversity, and build climate resilience. Our Native Seed Center serves as a living example for visitors, where we demonstrate what biodiversity looks like in action. Community members and volunteers who come to the Native Seed Center to learn and engage with our work bring their knowledge back to their communities, where they in turn can educate and mobilize neighbors, public officials, and other community stakeholders to return native plants to the landscape and restore habitat and biodiversity. Donations support our all-ages educational programs, maintain the grounds and facilities at the Native Seed Center, and facilitate the installation of Community Seed Gardens that create wildlife-sustaining habitat at partner sites.



**Build a Better World Summer Reading Program
Thomas Memorial Library
Community Spotlight Program Application**

Catholic Charities Maine Program Overview
February 2026

Catholic Charities Maine (CCM) provides help and hope to individuals and families of all faiths in Cape Elizabeth and all sixteen counties of Maine. Across our 20 service programs, CCM:

- nurtures babies and toddlers with quality childcare
- counsels individuals with a mental illness who often feel forgotten
- connects isolated seniors with homemaker services and caring volunteer companions
- feeds families facing food insecurity
- educates children and teens with a vision impairment
- provides immigration legal services to help refugees secure their path to citizenship
- strengthens individuals and families affected by substance use disorders
- delivers affordable dental care to low-income families, and much more!

Alignment with the Thomas Memorial Library Mission

CCM's values of Respect, Integrity, Compassion, Hospitality, Excellence and Stewardship (RICHES); are at the core of everything we do and help us identify underserved or emerging gaps in services for the most vulnerable people of all faiths in Maine. These align well with the values of the Thomas Memorial Library, particularly Access, Respect, Creativity, Human Relationships, and Social Progress, as well as with your Strategic Vision to be recognized as a cornerstone of democracy: a place where everyone in our community feels seen, accepted, supported and valued.

Thematic support of Build a Better World: Read for Resilience, Read for Kindness, Read for Good

CCM creates a broad spectrum of opportunity for collaboration with the Thomas Memorial Library because our programs cross service areas and populations. This opens a wide selection of thematically connected reading – books about resilience reflect our immigrant neighbors, our blind students' achievements, and the persistence of people building a path out of poverty. Books about kindness reflect the tens of thousands of small compassionate moments performed by volunteers and professionals every day – listening to others' stories, providing a one-time micro-grant that pays the car repair bill so someone can keep their job, helping an evicted client rescue their



diabetes medication from the landlord. And books about good people, good outcomes, and good neighborliness all exemplify the volunteer opportunities we can create together.

We'd love to partner with TML to create a bingo card for summer reading opportunities and can help with regional distribution at our events, our local offices/services, and digitally. Consider a slate of READING and ACTING for resilience, kindness, and the greater good that is co-curated by your librarians and our program team. A free space for new ideas could spark sharing book recommendations or random acts of kindness on a Build a Better World mural or whiteboard that visitors to the library create over the course of the summer. CCM can create matching murals on our service program and thrift store walls for our clients and volunteers. We are open to and excited by all kinds of partnership ideas.

Positive impact and measurable outcomes

Our programs are designed to lift people out of poverty and into self-sufficiency. We take a community-centric approach to program design and investment. In fact, many of our employees have lived experience in the communities we serve. All our programs share these strengths:

- Diverse and inclusive operating models with all served and welcomed regardless of faith
- Efficient use of funds
- Community based services
- Trusted, compassionate, and well-respected employees
- Lift our voice in support of those most in need in our community.

CCM has been nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA) for more than 25 years. The accreditation standards require a risk management plan and performance quality improvement plan, both of which CCM leverages as living documents. The longevity of CCM's accreditation has fostered an organizational culture of quality improvement which is foundational as we strive to be proactive in our compliance efforts. In addition, we are a Better Business Bureau accredited charity and have earned a 4-star rating (the highest awarded) by Charity Navigator and a platinum seal of approval through Candid.

All this attention to operational excellence gives confidence to private and public funders, creates an outcome/mission focused culture for the team, and helps us innovate to meet emerging community needs.

We track all volunteer hours and client interactions and will be able to measure impact for you by tracking volunteer orientations, service hours, in-kind donation value, and event participation.

Contact: Kathy Mockler, Director of Development & Communications, kmockler@ccmaine.org



Rachel Davis <rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us>

Application results

Thomas Memorial Library <no-reply@thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com>

Fri, Feb 27,
2026 at 10:21
AM

Reply-To: jess@wildseedproject.net

To: rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us

Name of Organization: Wild Seed Project

Date Organization was established: 2014

Organization's Website: {formfield=organizations_website}

Organization's Tax ID Number: 465759154

Documentation of Organization's 501 (c)(3) Status:

https://thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/64/documentation_of_organiza

Approximately how many people benefit from the organization's work each year?: 3,000 K12 students; 3,000 active members; 3,000+ program participants; 120+ volunteers

Organization's Annual Operating Budget: \$1.1M

Organization Summary: https://thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/64/organization_summary

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers have provided critical support to Wild Seed Project from the very beginning. Volunteers support WSP with seed cleaning and packing; outreach events; and nursery and plant care projects.

Donation's of Goods:

Name of Contact Person for the Organization: Jess Gildea

Contact Person's Email Address: jess@wildseedproject.net

Organization's Mailing Address: [21 Memorial Highway](#)

North Yarmouth, Maine 04092

Contact Person's Phone Number:

Name: Jess Gildea

Title: Director of Community Engagement

Date: 2026-02-27



Rachel Davis <rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us>

Application results

Thomas Memorial Library <no-reply@thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com>

Fri, Feb 20,
2026 at 9:44
AM

Reply-To: sofia.reali@windowdressers.org

To: rdavis@thomas.lib.me.us

Name of Organization: WindowDressers

Date Organization was established: 2010

Organization's Website: {formfield=organizations_website}

Organization's Tax ID Number: 46-0843033

Documentation of Organization's 501 (c)(3) Status:

https://thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/52/documentation_of_organization

Approximately how many people benefit from the organization's work each year?: Between 1,500 - 1,700 households benefit from our program each year.

Organization's Annual Operating Budget: \$695,191

Organization Summary: https://thomasmemoriallibrary.libconnectpro.com/forms/results/file/52/organization_summary

Volunteer Opportunities: Our inserts are built at 5-7 day "pop-up" events, where over 100 volunteers come together to build inserts for their community. Participants help assemble around 250 inserts for about 30-40 households who have requested them. It's like an old-fashioned barn-raising for window insulation. Each person learns a simple step in an assembly process, with different jobs for a wide range of abilities and mobility levels. The Community Builds happen during the fall, and we usually have 20-25 Builds in Maine throughout the state. The schedule of Community Builds and volunteer opportunities can be found here: <https://windowdressers.org/community-builds-maine/>

Donation's of Goods: N/A

Name of Contact Person for the Organization: Sofia Reali

Contact Person's Email Address: sofia.reali@windowdressers.org

Organization's Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1135

Rockland, ME 04841

Contact Person's Phone Number: (207) 596-3073 x 1

Name: Sofia Reali

Title: Communications & Outreach Coordinator

Date: 2026-02-20

Please attach a brief summary describing the organization and the impact it has on the communities it serves. Please share specifically what any funds raised through this program would be used for, and the impact that any donated funds, goods, or volunteer activities would have in furthering the organization's mission.

Our Mission:

WindowDressers brings community volunteers of all economic and social situations together to improve the warmth and comfort of interior spaces, lower heating costs, and reduce pollution associated with burning fossil fuels, by producing low-cost insulating window inserts that function as custom, interior-mounted storm windows.

Our Program: A volunteer driven approach

WindowDressers provides affordable window weatherization and community-building opportunities to Maine residents of all income levels, ages, and abilities. WindowDressers warms homes, builds community, and saves energy by manufacturing insulating window inserts through local, volunteer-run Community Builds. 30-35% of the inserts are given at no cost or whatever they can afford to low-income households through our Special Rate Program.

Our collaborative Community Build model brings diverse residents together in what we describe as an old-fashioned barn-raising for window weatherization where an all-volunteer crew works to produce these reusable window inserts. The “Community Build” has a dual meaning. First, members of the community gather to build inserts. Second, the event helps build community among residents who might not otherwise meet each other. Everyone who receives inserts is expected to participate in the Community Build alongside community volunteers to help build the inserts within about a week.

Impact of Donated Funds:

Funds raised through the Community Spotlight Program would directly support our Special Rate Program, which provides insulating window inserts at no cost to households that are struggling to afford their heating costs. These inserts significantly reduce heat loss, lower energy costs, and improve comfort during Maine’s cold winter months.