

## Maine Sea Coast Mission

# EdGE Update

Spring 2008



## 21st Century Grant Helps Fund EdGE Expansion

The Maine Sea Coast Mission has received a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center award in partnership with three school systems (SAD 37, Union 96, and Union 103) for its EdGE after-school and summer program for children in grades four through twelve. The total amount of the five year grant is \$1,305,000. This is the second 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant that the Maine Sea Coast Mission has received for its EdGE program.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant will help fund the expansion of the EdGE program from nine communities in six schools where it is currently being run (D. W. Merritt, Cherryfield, Columbia Falls, Harrington, Milbridge, and Ella Lewis) to an additional seven communities in three schools (Mountain View, Peninsula, and Jonesport-Beals). In addition, the EdGE will be expanding its programs at Narraguagus High School.

Gary A. DeLong, Executive Director of the Maine Sea Coast Mission, said, "We are gratified by the confidence shown in our EdGE program by the decision to provide us with a second 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant. We believe that this program is having a profound impact upon the children it has been serving over the past five years of its existence. We are committed to doing all possible to ensure the long term sustainability of the EdGE for future generations of children."

## Staff Updates

- Charlie Harrington, EdGE Program Director, fulfilled a lifelong dream and spent the month of May biking from Eugene, Oregon to Pueblo, Colorado. He biked over 1200 miles, met great people, and saw amazing sites.
- Wendy Harrington was a member of the Maine delegation to Washington D.C. for the Afterschool Alliance's Afterschool Challenge. Afterschool practitioners, administrators, youth, and public officials visited with the congressional delegation to advocate for afterschool funding and support.
- Allison Ouellet, Lead Site Coordinator, has been accepted with a full scholarship into Leadership Maine.

To visit the EdGE Program, please contact Charlie Harrington at 207/546-4466 or [charrington@seacoastmission.org](mailto:charrington@seacoastmission.org)



## American Idol Gives Back

The EdGE received a \$1,000 grant from Charity Projects Entertainment Fund (CPEF) for their Backpack Program. CPEF teamed up with Fox and *American Idol* in the April 2007 television special *Idol Gives Back* to raise awareness and funds for organizations that focus on providing resources for young people affected by poverty.



The EdGE was chosen for the grant based on the program's dedication to feed and nurture the children of Maine. The EdGE will use the grant for its Backpack Program which sends backpacks, filled with food, home with children every Friday throughout the school year. All EdGE children who qualify for free or reduced lunch are eligible to enroll in the Backpack Program.



Milbridge EdGE student, Harry Rossi, enjoying the high ropes course.

## Family Adventure Day

On Saturday, May 17th, over 50 EdGE students and family members attended Family Adventure Day at the Ed Greaves Education Center. Activities included the high ropes course, zip line, croquet, badminton, volleyball, and trail hiking. Despite light rain during the day, everyone had a great time trying new activities.



Hannah Gignoux, Pink Club member, volunteering at the Silent Shoe Auction.

## Students Serious About Service

The EdGE Pink Club, a service learning group at the Ella Lewis School, hosted Cinderella's Silent Shoe Auction at the Ed Greaves Education Center on Friday, May 2. Over thirty people attended the event and took part in bidding on student decorated shoes.

In addition to embellishing the donated shoes, students also designed the flyer and shoebox covers and created a poster with biographies on each student artist. Between the auction and the bake sale, the group raised over \$260 for their selected charity – the Ark Animal Shelter in Cherryfield. Also, student volunteers helped set up and staff tables during the auction.

Another ongoing service project has been taking place at the Milbridge Elementary EdGE program. Students sewed over fifty fleece hats that were donated to Families United, the Department of Human Services, and to the Maine Children's Cancer Program, a division of the Maine Medical Center in Portland's Barbara Bush Children's Hospital.

## Trip to Philadelphia

Twenty-three high school staff members and volunteers traveled to Philadelphia for a five-day trip on April 18-22. Students who had committed over 40 hours of time working with the EdGE program were invited.

Highlights included visiting the Franklin Institute, attending a major league Phillies game, exploring the historical district, touring Gettysburg and Valley Forge, and staying at the Philadelphia Zoo.



High School students at the Liberty Bell.

## EdGE Hosts Chess Tournament

The EdGE held its first Chess Tournament on Saturday, May 3 at the Ed Greaves Education Center in Cherryfield. Eleven children representing all six elementary sites learned about the game of chess and how to compete. Dennis Rathbun from Columbia Falls took first place after five challenging rounds and two tiebreakers. Each student received a certificate of participation for taking part in the tournament.



Chess Tournament: (from left to right) Dennis Rathbun, 1st Place, Sam Duenas, 2nd Place, and Chelsi Libby, 3rd Place.

## EdGE Summer Camp

The EdGE is accepting registration for summer programming. There are 20 weeklong day camps and one overnight camp being offered to students in grades 3-8. New camps offered this year include Step into the EdGE (for 3rd graders), Soccer Camp, Theater Camp, Arts & Media Camp, and Wildfiber. 76% of the camp slots are filled. Contact Maria at 546-4466 to register.

Summer Camp parents' afternoons will be from 2-3pm on June 27, July 3, July 11, July 18 (Theater Camp performing "The Apple"), and July 25.