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Maine Sea Coast Mission Completes Capital Campaign; EdGE Program Gets \$5M

The Maine Sea Coast Mission recently held its 104th annual meeting. A highlight of the meeting was the report by board president, Lee Judd, that the mission had successfully completed its \$12 million centennial capital campaign. As of July 17, the mission had raised \$11,775,000—more than 98 percent of the campaign goal. The board felt this was close enough to officially close the campaign. The campaign, which was announced at the mission's hundredth anniversary in 2005, received broad support from all constituencies. Of the 400 donors, Judd observed that many contributed less than \$100.

While all of the mission's programs benefited from the campaign, EdGE, the after-

school and summer program for youth in 17 rural Downeast Maine communities, received about half of the funds raised. EdGE now has a \$5 million endowment—an endowment that ensures the long-term sustainability of the program, which began in 2003. The \$5 million goal was achieved this spring with the help of an anonymous challenge grant of \$450,000 and a \$20,000 donation from Dead River Company. The mission also raised \$660,000 to construct a 3,900-square-foot building on its Cherryfield campus. The new building provides much-needed program and administrative space for EdGE, but also sends a signal to the local communities that the program will be there for the long haul. In addition, \$165,000 was

raised to support the expansion of the EdGE, which has grown from serving two communities through two schools in 2003 to serving 17 communities through 10 schools today.

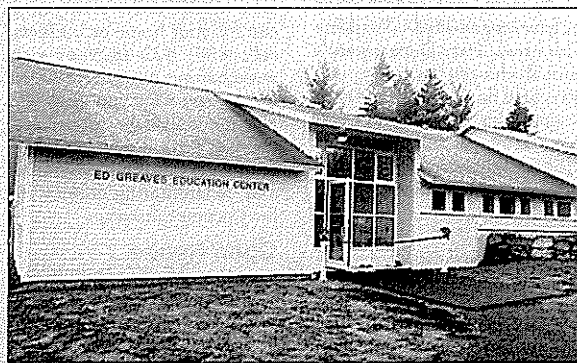
The campaign also raised funds for the scholarship endowment, with \$1,324,000 being added to the mission's scholarship endowment. This will enable the mission to provide more and higher scholarships in the future. For the past couple of years, the mission has provided almost 100 scholarships each year. The scholarships are renewable for all four years of college.

In addition, the campaign raised funds to create a \$2 million endowment for island health services and \$479,000 to expand the program. The campaign also raised funds to establish a \$1 million endowment for the *Sunbeam's* operating expenses.

Treasurer Hank Schmelzer reported that, like other nonprofits, the mission's endowment, which is broadly diversified, was adversely impacted by the downturn in the economy. Although the net value of the endowment dropped significantly, the value has already increased about 5 percent for the first six months of

2009, and Schmelzer expects that there will be additional recovery. He credited the solid business management of finance director Anthony Hessert and development director Steve Richards for the \$133,000 net surplus in operating expenses.

Three longtime board members—Philip Lape, Ansley Throckmorton and Schmelzer—stepped down from the board, and Charles Alexander, J. Clark Grew II, Nancy Ho and Gavin Watson were each re-elected for additional three-year terms. Patsy Fogarty of Southwest Harbor was also elected to the board for an initial three-year term. She brings to the board a wide range of experience in nonprofit management and in serving on nonprofit boards in Southwest Harbor. She was also chairwoman of an



THE ED GREAVES EDUCATION CENTER in Cherryfield is home to EdGE, the after-school and summer program for youth in 17 Downeast Maine communities. The center is named for the late Ed Greaves, a longtime Downeast summer resident whose philanthropic contributions helped launch the program in 2003.

environmental education program in Connecticut and served on the Commission on Aging in Darien, Connecticut.

The Rev. Ted Hoskins, a minister to coastal communities and fisheries and a former minister on the *Sunbeam*, retired after serv-

which Orville Guptill said he was writing these notes at his wife's suggestion and did not anticipate that they would be read by anyone except him.

Both the Rev. Gary DeLong, executive director, and Wendy Harrington, director of service

programs, highlighted the various accomplishments of the mission. Harrington provided a number of examples of how the mission had helped people who had found them-

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**—Gary DeLong, executive director,
Maine Sea Coast Mission**

ing 16 years with the mission. In recognition of his work, the mission presented him with a voucher for a \$500 scholarship to a student of his choice from Monkey River, Belize, where he has worked to improve living standards and education with a dedicated group of volunteers for many years.

"I'm thankful for the scholarship," said Hoskins. "This will continue the type of work that reminds them of how much we think of them."

The mission also officially received the papers of the Rev. Orville J. Guptill, the mission's superintendent from 1925 to 1938. The papers, which will become part of the official mission archives, were presented by Guptill's granddaughter Judith Simmons, who said the family found the papers after the death of her father, Nathaniel Guptill, the son of Orville Guptill. She read an excerpt from an early log in

selves in desperate situations as well as instances in which the mission collaborates with other nonprofits in serving the neediest in rural Downeast Maine.

DeLong thanked the mission staff for their service and commitment while he and EdGE director Charlie Harrington were hospitalized and recovering.

"The work we do at our Downeast campus, both at the EdGE and in all the service programs, are a perfect illustration of all the ways we help people to regain their sense of being human," said DeLong. "If you are walking through the door of a food pantry for the first time, you know the meaning of vulnerable. The way you are greeted, the look someone gives you, the way food moves from one set of hands to the other make all the difference as to whether that experience is one in which your humanity is diminished or affirmed."