

# THE DOWNEAST COASTAL PRESS

Maine — The Way You Remember It<sup>®</sup>

Vol. 20 No. 34

PUBLISHED IN CUTLER  
PRINTED IN ELLSWORTH

For the week March 4-10, 2008

ENTERED AS SECOND-CLASS MAIL  
AT CUTLER, ME 04626 (USPS 003-038)

75 Cents



## Take a Stroll Along the Board Walk

Middle school students, teachers and principal at D.W. Merritt School in Addison are working on an anti-bullying program. Studies show that if trust, respect and confidence can be built between and among the students there is a much greater opportunity to curb bullying. Charlie Harrington with the largely privately funded after-school EdGE program has visited the school on several occasions to help with team building. Here, Josh Hachey walks on "the ladder" in a situation where trust in his fellow students is a must.

## EdGE Program Receives \$450K Challenge Grant

### \$5 Million Endowment Sought to Support After-School Programs in Western County

Gary DeLong, executive director of the Maine Sea Coast Mission, recently announced that a \$450,000 challenge grant has been made to its capital campaign to support the EdGE endowment.

DeLong said that an adequately funded endowment is critical to sustaining the EdGE, the award-winning, after-school, in-school and summer program for children in grades 4-8 in six communities in coastal Washington County, where there is no YMCA or YWCA or Boys and Girls Club to provide enrichment activities for children.

*PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 14*

## EdGE Program Receives \$450K Challenge Grant; \$5M Endowment Sought (from page 1)

The goal of the Maine Sea Coast Mission's centennial capital campaign, which was launched July 11, 2005, is \$12 million. Almost \$10.5 million has been raised to date. Of the \$12 million, an EdGE endowment of \$5 million will be created to support the EdGE. An anonymous donor has committed to match all new donations for the EdGE endowment up to a total of \$450,000. Almost \$200,000 has already been raised against this match.

"We are pleased to have received this generous challenge which reflects confidence in the leadership of the program and in its importance to the children in Downeast communities," DeLong said in a press release.

"We encourage anyone who is interested in helping children achieve their full potential in the sixth poorest county in the United States to consider making a gift to the EdGE endowment. This is an especially good time to make such a gift

as it will effectively be doubled through the generosity of this anonymous donor."

The EdGE was named the most outstanding after-school program in Maine out of 37 programs receiving any state funding by the Maine Afterschool Alliance in October 2006. Charlie Harrington, director of the EdGE, was one of three people invited by the Afterschool Alliance to speak February 11 at a rural after-school congressional briefing held at the White House.

The other speakers were Mark Shriver, vice president for U.S. programs of Save the Children, and Jim Cunningham, superintendent of Danville Public Schools in Arkansas.

DeLong said, "The EdGE has become a national leader in rural after-school programs. Leaders in Washington and elsewhere are looking to the EdGE for answers on how children in poor rural communities can overcome multiple barriers to success."