

# LETTERS

## Thank-you for helping to help others

The Maine Sea Coast Mission held its annual Holiday Open House on Dec. 3. This event helps raise money for our Christmas Program, which provides about 16,000 gifts to approximately 3,000 children, families and the elderly in Hancock and Washington counties and the outer islands.

The Holiday Open House could not have happened without the dedicated support of the many volunteers who pitched in to make it a success. Hundreds of people enjoyed the decorations, the music by Jessie Holladay, the food, beverages and conversation, all the while knowing that they were also donating to support a program that raises the spirits of our neighbors who might otherwise have a bleak Christmas.

Erin Fogg served as chairwoman of the Holiday Open House Committee with Mary Anne Griffin serving as vice chairwoman. Mary Anne and Jennifer Worcester co-chaired the all important food subcommittee, which made sure that sufficient food was donated by our volunteers, caterers and restaurants. Shari Roopenian chaired the decorating

subcommittee, which ensured that the Colket Center was beautiful and festive. Other members of the Holiday Open House Committee included Betty Bryer, Helen Caivano, Pat Curtis, Barbara Fox, Nichole Greaves, Tracy Hallett, Kate Jordan, Liz McMullen, Marsha Planting, Penny Read, Ponzi Reed, Kathy Woodside and Karen Zimmermann. All of the committee members provided hors d'oeuvres, as did the following individuals and businesses: August Moon Catering, Skip Basso, Cas Ole, Sarah Clemens, Galyn's, Jean Johnson, Mama DiMateos, Tasha Higgins, Kate Macko, Paul Moulton, and Red Sky.

Wine was donated by Bayside Liquors, Sweet Pea Farm Winery, and Dick and Barbara Fox. Wreaths for decorating were donated by Lori and David Fraser, Valorie Geel, Debbie Skeate, and Nancy Smith.

The following individuals and organizations decorated wreaths: Acadia Corporation, Bar Harbor Fire and Police departments, Bar Harbor Garden Club, Bar Harbor Times, Birch Bay Village, Felicia Denton, Linda Kelly, Patty Kelley, Kid's Corner, Our Country Store, Penny Read, Sarah Stanley, Erika Williams, and Karen Zimmermann.

The following individuals and organizations donated and decorated wreaths: Atlantic Glass, Ruth Brunetti, Bud Connection, The Calico Patch, Church of Our

Father in Hulls Cove, Kathy Colbeth, Cottage Flowers, MDI Lioness Club, Lynam Real Estate Agency, Wanda and Terri Pinkham, Sargent Farms, and Westside Florist.

Queen Anne's Florist donated a table centerpiece and Jessie Holladay donated her music for the evening. Sue Olson was especially adept at tying beautiful bows for the garland lining the banisters leading up to the second floor.

This year, the Silver Bell Sponsor was Kelco Industries and the Green Bell Sponsors were Maine Mountain Man Christmas and Sargent Farms, Home of Sugar Hill Wreaths.

Through the generosity and support of all of the above volunteers and supporters, and our many patrons and donors, those facing hardships this year will have a brighter and happier Christmas in 2010. We are indeed fortunate to live in a community where so many people come together and give of their time, talent and treasure to help their neighbors.

Scott Planting  
Executive Director  
Maine Sea Coast Mission  
Bar Harbor