The spirit of *Giving*

By Robert Lauer
rlauer@mainetoday.com

"This plain white package wrapped with bright red ribbon doesn't glimmer or gleam, but have great appearance. It's the perfect for things sharing water." Thus begins a poem about looking packages on the makeshift Christmas trees decorate for the holiday by Bar Harbor Housing Authority.

Bedecked with toy trinkets and Barbie dolls joins with handcrafted baubles and ornaments, the trees are straight branch, and bind their very stalks Christmas trees in season up for sale. Each tree is a tangible result or part of a charitable program that allows families to provide gifts to their children when they can't afford to do so themselves.

Now in its fourth year, this magical holiday effort has been made possible by the good people at Bar Harbor's Maine Seacoast Mission.

This year is no exception to that tradition. The organization will distribute in 2011 more than 1,300 gifts from Mainiacs blind to Gardiner self-tracks gift handles, more than 100 families and individuals expanded to include families in central towns through Washington County, Hancock County and Waldo County.

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"It's not just about having something under the tree. It's about meeting the needs of the community while at the same time instilling hope."

– Heather Condon

work, a lot of hard-boiled and hearty and caring people, that's what we try to "bring" Rev. Planning and Program Coordinator Heather Condon. "It's a lot of work and a lot of hard effort put into each child."

Condon, who has been doing this – giving Christmas gifts to children of Maine island families on their ships, the Seacoast, more than 100 families and individuals expanded to include families in central towns through Washington County, Hancock County and Waldo County, said, backed by countless donations, endless volunteer hours, and truly earthy-angel-like