

Mount Desert Islander

Mission honors Bordeaux, Dimond



Friday, August 29, 2008

BAR HARBOR — Charlotte Bordeaux of Bar Harbor and Richard Dimond of Southwest Harbor were honored at the Maine Sea Coast Mission's 5th annual Sunbeam Awards Gala at the Bar Harbor Club on Aug. 22.

Mission president Gary DeLong said the award to Ms. Bordeaux was in recognition of her extensive philanthropy and long-time commitment to improving the lives of island residents and those living in coastal Down East Maine. As a child, Mrs. Bordeaux summered here, and after she married in 1959 moved here as a year-round resident and raised her four children on Cromwell Cove. Three of her children, Peggy, Lynn and Tom, live here year round with their families, while her daughter Joan and her family summer here.

Ms. Bordeaux traces her philosophy of giving to a spiritual journey she began in 1984, for sharing her wealth, she believes, is God's will. She principally supports charities or organizations that help or service other human beings. When there is a disaster such as the earthquake in China or the tsunami in Myanmar, she funnels her contributions through organizations such as the Red Cross, UNICEF, Care – organizations that are on site and can jump on board to help those in need, she said.

On a more local level, Ms. Bordeaux has been most active in supporting the Mount Desert Island Drug and Alcohol Abuse Group, the Acadia Family Center, Open Door Recovery, YMCA, YWCA, the Sea Coast Mission and scholarships for island residents to attend the Summer Festival of the Arts.

In accepting the award, Ms. Bordeaux said that the focus should be on the people and organizations locally that were working to help break the cycle of addiction. She said turning her life over to God made all the difference. She joked that two areas she didn't turn over to God were her sex life and her money. "The first is none of his business and he doesn't need the money," she quipped. "Although I probably should have as those were the two areas I had the most trouble with," she added.

A former U.S. Army physician and researcher, Dr. Dimond has been coming to Maine since 1947, started summering in Southwest Harbor in 1978 and moved here as a year-round resident in 1994 when he retired from the Army. Dr. Dimond was honored for the pivotal role he played in organizing and ensuring the viability of the Hancock County Deferred Sentencing Project, an initiative of the Mount Desert Island Drug and Alcohol Abuse Group.

While he was the recipient of a gala award, Dr. Dimond pointed out that he is just one person among many. With help from others, particularly district attorney Mike Povich and a retired Superior Court judge, Paul Pierson, they formed a steering committee, raised money through grants and private contributions to establish the sentencing project in 2004, and maintained it for four years. On July 1, it became one of 16 state-operated deferred sentencing programs. These are court-ordered substance abuse treatment programs – programs that place drug offenders in the community, not in jails. Selected participants in the program are placed in community-based treatment programs and are monitored closely for at least one year by a multidisciplinary team, including a judge.

In accepting the award, Dr. Dimond thanked the mission for its help and he urged continuing support for anti-addiction programs and the deferred sentencing project.

Both Ms. Bordeaux and Dr. Dimond have provided extensive community service, including serving on the board of directors to the MDI Alcohol and Drug Abuse Group – a group that is celebrating its 30th anniversary.

This gala, a fund-raising event, was headed by Stacy Smith with the help of co-chairman Shari Roopenian and a committee of 19 others. Proceeds from the gala and other fund-raising initiatives allow the mission to continue its programs to residents of offshore islands and Downeast Maine, a spokesman said. With the Sunbeam's telemedicine facility, residents of Frenchboro, Matinicus, Swans, and Isle au Haut receive high quality health care – care that includes screening clinics for diabetes, cholesterol, prostate and skin cancer; in the last year more than 60 people participated in these clinics and vaccination programs.

Another mission program, funded by donors and events such as the gala, include the highly successful EDgE program, an afterschool program servicing middle-school students in 10 towns in Washington and Hancock counties.



Sunbeam Award winner Dick Dimond, left, gives a peck on the cheek to fellow honoree Charlotte Bordeaux during the Maine Sea Coast Mission's annual gala at the Bar Harbor Club on Aug. 22.—EARL BRECHLIN PHOTO

The gala's lead sponsors were Bar Harbor Bank Shares and Bar Harbor Bank and Trust.

No one has commented on this article.



Sunbeam Award winner Charlotte Bordeaux, left, of Bar Harbor is congratulated by Steve Richards of the Maine Sea Coast Mission.—EARL BRECHLIN PHOTO