



Access to Health Care Improved for Residents of Swan's Island

The Swan's Island Health Clinic opened its doors to the island population on November 15, 2007. Last year the Town of Swan's Island approved the use of \$200,000 of town funds for the renovation of a building for use as a health clinic. The Mission challenged islanders to donate \$27,000 which the Mission would match for a total of \$54,000 for equipment and furnishings for the health clinic. The match was met in late December 2007. The clinic will use telemedicine technology to connect island patients to land-based clinics and hospitals so they can receive specialized medical diagnosis and treatment. The telemedicine line is being moved from the dock, where the *Sunbeam V* has been using it, to the clinic, with the requirement that the Maine Sea Coast Mission would continue to be responsible for the service.



Swan's Island Health Clinic
Exam Room

The Mission's nurse, Sharon Daley, will continue to make visits to Swan's Island on a biweekly basis, but will now be seeing patients at the Swan's Island Health Clinic, rather than on the *Sunbeam V*. The clinic allows more services to be offered to islanders and provides easier access, particularly for the elderly who found getting on and off the *Sunbeam V* challenging.

In addition, the Mission is working with the Maine Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to create a new level of certification for island Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) called "Island Certification". This certification will require an additional 50 hours of training, so that the EMTs can learn how to perform more complicated procedures and services some of which would be under the direction of a physician through the use of the telemedicine unit on the island.

EdGE Develops Mentoring Program for High School Freshmen



EdGE student, Cody Smith, working on a communication activity with mentor Harry Seavey.

At the request of Narraguagus High School principal, John Sawyer, the Mission's EdGE program has begun a mentoring program for 18 incoming high school freshmen who were identified as needing additional support. The program objectives are to help the students connect with other students, increase their organizational skills, learn to set obtainable short and long term goals and, as a result, have a successful high school experience. The freshmen were assigned mentors from grades 10-12, many of whom are former EdGE students. They meet for group and individual activities once a week for 45 minutes. This program was so well received that Principal Sawyer has requested that the EdGE expand the program next year and provide all incoming freshman with a mentor.

Strategic Plan is Approved by Board of Directors

The Board of Directors approved a new three year strategic plan in August 2007 after an exhaustive nine month strategic planning process, led by vice president and treasurer, Lee Judd. The strategic plan establishes five major objectives for program areas and targets for finances and fundraising. There are a total of 49 implementation strategies to ensure that the objectives are met. The purpose of the objectives and implementation strategies is to increase the effectiveness and strengthen the impact of Maine Sea Coast Mission programs. The 2008 and future budgets will include funding for the objectives and implementation strategies.

"We're not looking to add new programs as much as developing indicators to measure and track our impact and success," said Rev. Gary DeLong, Executive Director of the Mission. "Programs are only as successful as the staff who implement the programs, but determining impact is closely tied to conversations with our constituents." Under the leadership of Rev. DeLong, key staff and board members are developing outcomes for each major objective. The outcomes will be measurable, challenging, and will focus upon the impact desired in each area.



5th Annual Holiday Open House Wows Hundreds and Raises Money For the Christmas Program



Gary DeLong, Executive Director, announces the winner of a raffle as Sarah Clemens, Development Associate, enjoys the moment.

On December 7, 2007, the 5th Annual Holiday Open House was held at the Colket Center in Bar Harbor. The Holiday Open House is a fundraising event for the Mission's Christmas Program and a festive holiday gathering for community members. This year it featured music by Jessie Holladay, hors d'oeuvres provided by volunteers and a local caterer underwritten by a donor, beverages, and tours of the decorated Colket Center.

Through its annual Christmas program, the Mission receives and wraps, in its signature white paper and red string, 15,000 gifts. The gifts help bring hope and joy to 3,000 children, families and elderly in Downeast Maine and on coastal islands. "The presents provided through the Mission's Christmas Program are all new with their original tags and packaging. We also make every effort to select gifts that match each person's identified interests," said Julie Patton, director of the Christmas Program. "Many people, who are now adults and supporters of the Mission, have written to tell us how important the presents they received were to them as children."

The Mission Newsflash will be sent periodically as noteworthy events occur.

Buy Stamps - by Mail... Help Island Post Offices

Small island post offices are constantly in danger of being closed down by the U.S. Postal Service, because their volume is small. Selling stamps by mail is one way these important community institutions can keep up their volume, and stay in business to serve island communities. Go to the Maine Sea Coast Mission's website at, www.seacoastmission.org, and mail in the form to one of Maine's small island post offices.

Planned Giving Opportunities!

Please remember the Maine Sea Coast Mission in your will!

Check out our website at www.seacoastmission.org for planned giving information, gift calculator, brochures, and more! Learn how you and the Maine Sea Coast Mission can benefit from your planned gift.