

Press Release from the Maine Sea Coast Mission

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Maine Sea Coast Mission Announces Two Key Staff Selections

Gary A. DeLong, Executive Director of the Maine Sea Coast Mission, announced two key staff selections on November 16. Anthony (Tony) Hessert has been selected as the Director of Finance and Administration. Anthony replaces Elsa Teal who retired from this position earlier this fall. Wendy Harrington has been selected as the Program Director of Weald Bethel, the Mission's community outreach center in Washington County. Mr. DeLong stated: "We are very pleased to have two people of the caliber of Tony Hessert and Wendy Harrington in these key positions. They will be instrumental in moving the Mission forward as we implement our new strategic plan recently approved by the board."

Mr. Hessert is responsible for managing the following areas: budget and finance, human resources, information technology and property management. Mr. DeLong observed: "Tony brings a strong operations background which will be very helpful to the financial stability of our various programs." Most recently, Mr. Hessert was the vice president of administration and controller of the Maine Potato Growers where he had financial responsibility of a number of its divisions. He has worked in several other Maine companies including Maine Packers, Inc., Kevlaur Industries and Expanets, Great Northern Paper, MacDonald Page/Haverlock, and Estey and Curran, LLC, CPAs.

Mr. Hessert received a B.S. in Business Management and Accounting from Husson College. He has been very involved in the Caribou Rotary Club and played an active role in its Youth Exchange program. His family is currently hosting an exchange student from Slovakia.

Ms. Harrington will oversee the following programs based at the Mission's 60 acre campus in Cherryfield: Thrift Shop, Food Pantry, Summer Housing Repair, and Senior Companions. Mr. DeLong noted: "Wendy will be leading an impact review of all programs and partnerships for programs in Washington County developing an integrated approach aimed at identifying and improving service to the Mission's core low income constituency." Ms. Harrington previously served as Adult and Community Coordinator for the EdGE program, the Mission's highly acclaimed in-school, after-school, and summer program in western Washington County. She will continue working at the EdGE part-time for the immediate future. Ms. Harrington previously worked at Camp Kieve in Nobleboro, Maine, where she also served as Adult and Community Director for its Leadership Decision Institute.

Ms. Harrington received a B.S. in Education from Framingham State College. She is a member Maine School Health Education Coalition, the Maine Project Against Bullying and the Volunteer Maine Leadership Network. She is also a board member of the Washington County One Community. She was the recipient of the Maine Children's Alliance Giraffe Award for meaningful work with children.

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