



this is what
community
looks like

Click the image above to watch our new volunteer recruiting message.

Message from the President

BAR HARBOR, ME -- Greetings from Maine. As my mother-in-law, Nancy, says when we're all together as a family, "We're making memories." A few memories from the early days of COVID-19 will forever stay with me: a welcoming "Drive-Thru" Food Pantry sign made with love; a photo of a single smiling volunteer in a well-stocked food pantry; a gallery full of resilient and helpful Mission staff on my computer screen.

Change and uncertainty are the constant in COVID world. Restrictions evolve in response to the progression of the disease and Mission programs adapt almost as quickly. What seems certain is that the new Mission initiative we call "Project ReachOut" will play an important role in the days ahead.

ReachOut is based on a simple idea; we are all better off when we connect. A kind word and a simple "how can we help?" can make all the difference. Through

Project ReachOut, Mission staff and volunteers call Mission friends and neighbors to check in, offer a word of support, and find out how we can help. Sometimes the call is enough. Sometimes we can help in other ways. Always, the personal connection is important. So far we've made about 150 calls—150 connections—and we've got many, many more to make.

[Learn More](#)



*Director of Island Outreach Douglas Cornman,
reading with his Isle au Haut book buddy.*

Physical Distance, Social Connection

NORTHEAST HARBOR, ME -- While regularly scheduled island travel is suspended, Douglas Cornman, Director of Island Outreach and Chaplain, continues to support the spiritual, social, emotional, and mental health of islanders and island communities. Douglas notes that, "What changed is how I approach my work. Before COVID-19, my time was spent mostly face-to-face with islanders -- two,

three, four islands weekly. Now, we do everything remotely, via phone calls, Zoom, and email," said Douglas.

Douglas gave examples of his adapted Island Outreach services:

- Twice each week, an Isle au Haut school student and I read books together via Zoom.
- Weekly Coffee Chat Zoom meetings that bring together residents of multiple islands. We chat, check-up on one another, swap stories, and laugh.
- “Live” Zoom church services begin Easter Sunday, then on the first Sunday of each month.
- A Zoom guided meditation group, available to residents of seven islands, occurs weekly.

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Students, Families Take to Virtual EdGE Center

CHERRYFIELD, ME -- While on-premise after-school programs are suspended, we have moved into a virtual EdGE Center. Offerings include a daily after-school activity from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., where EdGE students and families can drop in for support, tutoring, educational play, and to socialize.

EdGE staff have created various online learning and engagement opportunities including a “Where’s Charlie” guessing game, and developed videos to keep students connected such as “Fitness with Everett” and “Card Games with Rick and

Lilly.” As one student responded to a virtual activity invitation: “Don’t worry, I will be there, it is the best part of my week right now. We have so much fun and laugh.”

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Mission Scholarship Director Terri Rodick at home, using her laptop to network with Pathways students.

Navigating Disruption in Scholarship Students' Lives

BAR HARBOR, ME -- The Mission's Student Pathways programs provide support, community, and scholarships for high school and college students. With the current disruption in students' lives, Pathways staff provide a source of continuity through phone and virtual engagement with Pathways students.

Our in-progress 2020 scholarship application season has a May 1 deadline but,

allowing for the education disruption, the deadline is flexible. Applicants needing more time to submit supporting documents are asked to email Scholarship Director Terri Rodick. Most Mission Scholars must work to stay in school and almost all have lost their jobs, so the Mission created a special grant opportunity to help to Mission Scholars transition back home and into online learning.

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With the help of amazing volunteers, and local food providers, our [Food Pantry](#) in Cherryfield, ME continues to have fresh food available for our local food and commodities patrons.

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Maine Seacoast Mission is committed to working with people's strengths and honoring the capacity of individuals to choose their own course in life.