



Island Eldercare Conference

NORTHEAST HARBOR, ME -- In this longstanding and much appreciated event connecting those who care for and connect island seniors, seventeen representatives from eight islands gathered via Zoom for the Mission's annual Eldercare Conference on January 28 and 29. Islanders shared their community updates and helped talk their island peers through specific challenges. On day 1, representatives from several State agencies discussed State level eldercare and Covid policy, and addressed questions from the eldercare home administrators. In addition, Dr. Anand Viswanathan, MD, PhD Neurologist from Mass General presented about dementia and Covid. Adrienne Gallant, Community Wellness Specialist at Waldo County General Hospital, gave a presentation about fall prevention and tai chi. It was a day full of information and connection in such a trying period.

The following day, Danielle Fossa CCC-SLP, Speech Language Pathologist at Waldo County General Hospital presented about speech and swallowing issues related to dementia. Lastly, non-profit program consultant Mary Terry shared insightful information about non-profit board development. As always, the annual gathering provided a blend of practical information, scientific insights, and an opportunity to connect to share experiences and insights. While we were unable to convene in-person, Zoom did allow the islanders to connect with each other, learn from other experts, and to share resources concerning island eldercare.

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Before and after photo of a "Friends and Family" Housing Rehab project completed in 2020.

Friends and Family Housing Rehab

CHERRYFIELD, ME -- This summer, the Mission's Housing Rehab Program will likely roll out a modified version of our *Friends and Family* Housing Rehab Program. We have decided to err again on the side of caution for the health of our incredible volunteers and neighbors. Safety has always been our main concern.

Last summer, with limited funds, we assisted fifteen families by providing building materials. These projects were completed by clients' families and friends. Mission oversight ensured the work was done on time, and the building materials used efficiently.

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Whatever Floats Your Boat - Island Reader 2020 is a beautiful anthology reflection of Maine island life and culture.

The Island Reader 15th Anniversary Ahead

NORTHEAST HARBOR, ME -- The Mission's Island Outreach Director and Chaplain, Douglas Cornman, is one of seven co-editors of *The Island Reader* and provides administrative oversight. He tells us submissions for the upcoming 15th Anniversary Edition are fantastic, as always. He and the other co-editors are perusing submissions now and will soon begin the exciting process of putting the edition together. Look for it on the Mission's website June 1, 2021. The 2020 edition of *The Island Reader* is still available. [Click here](#).

"The Maine Seacoast Mission does a lot for people in Down East communities and on our islands. And one thing they do that benefits all of us is publish books of poems, stories, and beautiful photos by Maine islanders. Their latest book, published in the summer of 2020, is really great," Maine columnist and outdoor enthusiast George Smith wrote about the Mission's 2020 edition of *The Island Reader*. (*Bangor Daily News*, 8/7/20).

We changed our distribution method for *The Island Reader* in 2020. Print copies of the multi-arts anthology showcasing Maine's unbridged island writers and artists, were free for the asking, donations accepted and welcome. We also offered a PDF version for people to download or read online.

While we don't have a count for *Island Readers* downloaded, we did ship copies to people in Maine, Texas, New York, Missouri, New Hampshire, Vermont, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Virginia, Idaho, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, and the United Kingdom. And people graciously donated a total \$750 which helps to cover costs associated with creating and printing the anthology.

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The Sunbeam crew aboard Moonbeam in 2019 as it is lowered into the water for its maiden Mission voyage.

Thank You, *Moonbeam*

NORTHEAST HARBOR, ME -- Last month, *Moonbeam*, was sold to a wonderful organization, [OceansWide](#), whose mission is to put students and scientists together at sea in the Gulf of Maine. *Moonbeam* did a great job for the *Sunbeam* crew members and island communities as the Mission's interim boat during the refit.

Moonbeam will forever remain among the Mission's list of hard working, dependable, boats. Thank you, *Moonbeam*.

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Pre-Covid photo of Mission Journey students exploring the great Maine outdoors.

Mission Job Opening – Journey Program Manager

CHERRYFIELD, ME -- The Journey Program Manager (JPM) supports the Maine Seacoast Mission's 7th-12th grade youth mentoring program, Journey, and nurtures its growth. Journey is one of six Maine sites funded through the Lerner Foundation to raise and sustain the post-secondary aspirations of students in rural Maine. The program upholds the Trekkers 10 Youth Programming Principles and the Maine Seacoast Mission goals of raising aspirations, improving academic performance, promoting responsibility for individual health and wellness, and contributing to the development of strong and nurturing family relationships.

Working within a collaborative team model, the JPM provides guidance, direction, and delivery for the entire Journey program, managing program logistics, administration, and community relations. The JPM offers leadership in college and career preparation and supervises the Journey Program Coordinator. In addition to Journey responsibilities, the JPM serves on the Downeast Campus and Student Pathways teams to support the Maine Seacoast Mission's overall commitment to middle school, high school, and college students.



Director of Administration Ann Cox Halkett and Frenchman's Bay.

Mission People & Places - Ann Cox Halkett

CHERRYFIELD, ME -- I started working for the Maine Seacoast Mission in 2015, though the Mission has been a part of my life in one way or another since I moved to Cherryfield in 1985. Now I live on Mount Desert Island.

What drew me to Maine originally, and the place that continues to sustain me, is my family's place on Frenchman's Bay in Gouldsboro. It's beyond beautiful—peaceful, and yet filled with the energy of the tides and seals, osprey, and cormorants. I was a city kid, but growing up I spent part of every summer there. When I graduated from college, I realized Maine was home.

Living here year-round is of course different than being on vacation, but I have never regretted my decision to stay.

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