



Jumpstart Our Youth



Year TEN Report

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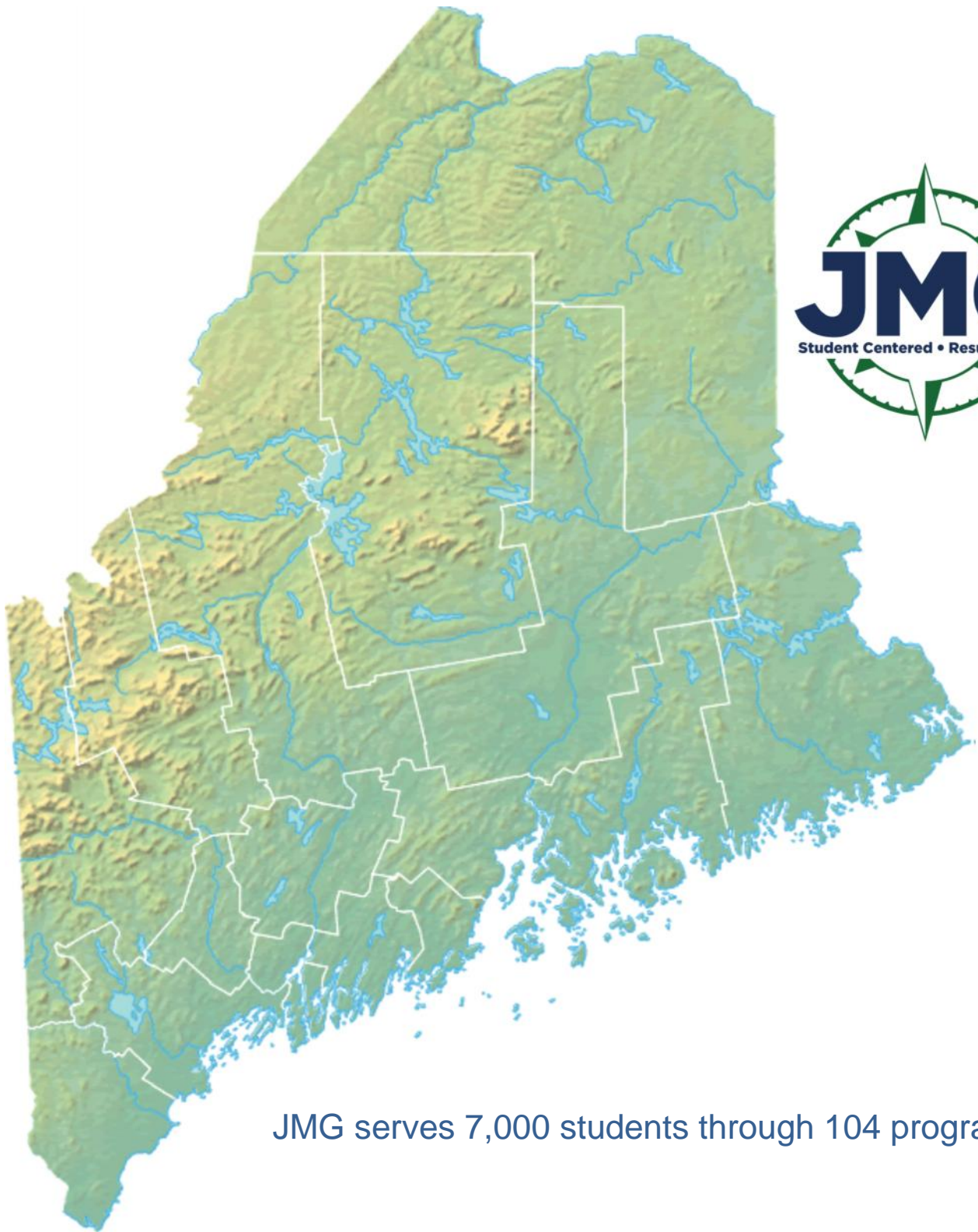
Jackson Lawler-Sidell, Taylor Nile, Ariana-Lee Dunton, Annika Carey, Skyler Chipman, Ashley Cates, Caitlin Crawford, Gabby Hughes

Students pose inside the storage building at the Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers once they finished sorting items for their annual yard sale to be held in June.



To advance youth philanthropy in Maine with the intent to build and strengthen communities through youth involvement

JOY's mission is met by increasing student awareness about the critical role of nonprofits in meeting overwhelming community needs and development an understanding of community service as hand-on volunteerism paired with thoughtful grantmaking and stewardship.



JMG serves 7,000 students through 104 programs

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Brewer Community School
China Middle School
Durham Community School
Freeport Middle School
Lewiston Middle School
Mahoney Middle School
Memorial Middle School
Mt. View Middle School
Ridge View Community School (Dexter)
Rose Gaffney Elementary School
Sanford Middle School
Vassalboro Community School
Warsaw Middle School
Waterville Jr. High School
Wiscasset Middle/High School

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Bangor High School
Belfast Area High School
Biddeford High School
Bonny Eagle High School
Brewer High School
Brewer High School MELMAC
Calais Area High School
Caribou High School
Carrabec High School
Cony High School
Deering High School
Deering High School Pathways
Dexter Regional High School
Erskine Academy

Fort Kent Community High School
Foxcroft Academy
Freeport High School
Gardiner Area High School
Gorham High School
Greenville Consolidated School
Hall-Dale High School
Hampden Academy
Hermon High School
Hodgdon High School
Houlton High School
Jonesport-Beals High School
Lawrence High School
Lewiston Regional Tech. Ctr. (3)
Lewiston Dropout Recovery
Lisbon High School
Machias Memorial High School
Madison Area Memorial HS
Maine Central Institute (MCI)
Messalonskee High School (2)
Monmouth Academy
Morse High School
Mt. Ararat High School
Mt. Blue High School
Mt. View High School
Narraguagus High School
Nokomis Regional High School
Northern Penobscot Tech.
Oak Hill High School
Oceanside High School - East
Old Town High School
Old Town High School MELMAC

Orono High School
Penquis Valley High School
Portland High School
Portland High School Pathways
Richmond High School
Sanford High School
Shead High School
Skowhegan Area High School
South Portland High School (2)
Spruce Mountain High School
Thornton Academy
Washington Academy
Waterville Sr. High School (2)
Windham High School
Windham High School MELMAC

Winslow High School
Winslow High School MELMAC
Woodland Jr./Sr. High School

COLLEGE SUCCES PROGREAMS

Eastern Maine Community College
Kennebec Valley Community College
Southern Maine Comm. College
Thomas College (2)
University of Maine at Augusta
University of Maine at Fort Kent
University of Maine at Machias
University of Southern Maine
Washington County Community College

FUNDING AND SERVICE LEARNING/VOLUNTEER IMPACT OF JOY

| | 2018 | 10-Year TOTAL |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| JMG Students Participating | 2,638 | |
| # of JMG sites | 77 | |
| # of Grants Awarded | 105 | 1,002 |
| Amount distributed | \$ 76,000 | \$ 649,414 |
| | <u>\$ 3,500</u> | <u>\$ 39,360</u> |
| TOTAL: | \$ 79,500 | \$ 688,774 |
| Average grant award | \$ 762 | \$ 691 |
| # of Volunteer Hours | 20,498 | 202,492 |
| Minimum wage | <u>7.50</u> | <u>7.50</u> |
| TOTAL: | \$ 153,735 | \$ 1,518,690 |
| TOTAL (Grants + Volunteer Hours) | \$ 233,235 | \$ 2,207,465 |

Subsector

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Arts/Culture | \$ 4,000 | \$ 18,833 |
| Community Development | \$ 10,350 | \$ 107,058 |
| Developmental Disabilities | \$ 5,700 | \$ 52,367 |
| Domestic Abuse Awareness/Advocacy | \$ 3,840 | \$ 28,858 |
| Early Childhood Development | \$ 9,750 | \$ 81,032 |
| Education/Life Skills | \$ 14,400 | \$ 164,162 |
| Fitness/Sports/Recreation | \$ 7,910 | \$ 75,350 |
| Homelessness/Food Pantry | \$ 19,150 | \$ 113,154 |
| Substance Abuse Awareness/Advocacy | \$ 1,400 | \$ 8,600 |
| # of Youth impacted by grants | 784,652 | 2,264,015 |
| # of towns receiving grants | 49 | |
| # of Organizations receiving grants | 75 | |

A Partnership of



Unity Foundation's mission is to support sustainable, mission-driven nonprofits through capacity-building initiatives, programmatic grantmaking and nonprofit management education.



Maine Community Foundation, To strengthen Maine by working in partnership with donors and other partners to improve the quality of life for all Maine people.



UniTel, Inc. is a local independent telephone company serving approximately 5,000 customers in all or part of eleven towns in Waldo, Penobscot and Kennebec Counties.



Jobs For Maine's Graduates' mission is to identify students who face barriers to education, and to guide each one on to a successful path toward continued education, a meaningful career, and productive adulthood.

PARTNER CONTACT INFORMATION

Unity Foundation

Larry Sterrs, CEO/Chairman of the Board

(207) 948-9988

Lori Roming, Research & Program Officer

(207) 948-6499

info@unityfdn.org

Maine Community Foundation

Cherie Gaylean

(207) 412-2017

cgaylean@mainecf.org

UniTel, Inc.

Laurie Osgood, President

(207) 948-9952

Jayne Sullivan, Director of Internal and External Support

(207) 948-3100

jsullivan@uninets.net

Jobs for Maine's Graduates

Debbie Bechard

Special Projects Manager

dbechard@jmg.org

(207) 620-7180 ext. 212

When I was introduced to the Pittsfield Theater as a choice, I thought, “perfect”. I saw it as a perfect way to help out my community because I know how much my community enjoys the theater.

-Shelby Ostrowski, 8th grade

The JOY Grant was a fun experience. To be able to give money to a person or group of people is a really cool opportunity.

-Logan Stock, 8th grade



Warsaw Middle School

“One of the things that I find so rewarding about working on the JOY Grant is seeing the students find the piece of the puzzle that speaks to them. This year my students awarded the JOY Grant to the Pittsfield Community Theater, our town-owned movie theater and performance space. The grant will enable the theater to continue its tradition of putting on a free holiday movie for local children and their families. Learning about this proposal resonated with my JMG students on different personal levels. Some remembered going to the holiday movie when they were young while others had siblings who would be able to attend this year. Some students could step back and see the bigger picture of what this would mean for many families, while others focused on the fact that they would be able to volunteer at the holiday movie and be a part of the magic. The steps that make up the JOY Grant process allow my students to connect to their community in an invaluable and personal way.”

-Carolyn Collins, JMG Specialist

Celebrating a Decade of JOY!

JMG students and Specialists from Maine middle schools, high schools and colleges launched the TENTH year of Jumpstart Our Youth (JOY) in the fall of 2017. A variety of curricula and research typically begins with the question, “What is philanthropy?” and evolves into a student lead understanding of giving, the work of community organizations, and the difficult decision-making process of being a grant maker. Through the JOY program, many students experience growth of their own personal commitment to community service.

YOUTH PHILANTHROPY BY THE NUMBERS

The numbers below provide a quick snapshot of JOY in 2017/18 school year:

- Grant awards totaled \$76,500
- 72 JMG programs across Maine participated, including several college programs which participated for the second year
- 2,638 JMG students had an active role in the JOY project
- Those students dedicated a total of 20,498 hours to JOY in the form of classroom and community service time;

Of this total 3,563 hours were direct community service to youth-serving nonprofits.

- 105 grants were awarded to 84 distinct organizations across the state
- Student-led fundraising efforts yielded over \$3,500 in additional funds for distribution.



Brewer High School JMG Students

Partners for Peace is an organization dedicated to serving people affected by domestic abuse, stalking and dating violence. Its *Knowledge Empowers Campaign* distributes three carefully chosen books promoting positive social support to every municipal library in Piscataquis and Penobscot counties, as well as many school libraries in the area. Additionally, plans are being developed for **Foxcroft Academy** JMG students to help with the selection and distribution of *Knowledge Empowers Campaign* books during the 2018-2019 school year.

TIMELINE

Fall 2017-18 marked the beginning of the 10th year of the JOY program. For both new and returning JMG Specialists and students, November was the start of this exciting youth philanthropy project that stretches over most of the school year. The program established benchmarks for core components of the project while allowing flexibility for schools following either a semester or trimester schedule.

Beginning in November, high school and middle school students received instruction on philanthropy including definitions, history, and examples of philanthropy within their communities, across Maine, and around the world. The JMG internal web drive offers a wealth of resources for students as well as new and experienced JMG Specialists. It is impressive to see just how informed JMG students are about their community needs and the nonprofit organizations that work to meet those needs. Older students who participate in JOY for more than one year were enlisted as leaders for research and discussion.

Through the end of January students researched potential grant recipients, learned about and distributed a request for application, and in many cases invited those potential grantees to the classroom for informational presentations or connected via the internet. The final grant selection process was determined, and community service plans were underway.

The timeline was developed differently for JMG college sites. Because final exams are taken in early December, and winter break extends to mid-January, JOY instruction didn't begin until mid-February. Because each student has a unique schedule, arranging a common weekly meeting time with this student group presented a scheduling challenge. As former JMG high school students, all students participating at the college level were familiar with JOY, so there was less time spent on introductory JOY components and more time focused on research and review of past grant recipients, and the decision making process.

The months of February and March were the decision making period for high school and middle school students as well, as they reviewed all applications for funding and began narrowing the selection to those that would receive grants. As youth philanthropists, they developed an understanding of how great the need is in each of their communities and how impactful their decisions would be.

The months of April and May were a time of celebration for JOY and other student achievements. Many students and their Specialists combine the presentation of the large symbolic JOY checks with end-of-year celebrations, awards ceremonies and senior pre-graduation recognition. In addition to parents of JMG students, invitations were extended to JMG board members, legislators, and community members.

SELECTION PROCESS

With guidance from Specialists, JMG students implemented a variety of strategies to select final grant recipients. These included blind balloting, a debate format, a scoring rubric or some combination of these.

The decision-making process, as with other aspects of the JOY project, is truly student driven. Students were encouraged to continue researching and debating as the applications were reviewed. Using JOY website resources students reviewed lists of past awards, learned whether a

past grantee submitted an evaluation report, and which other programs in the area have been funded. Some JMG students and their families have been the beneficiaries of the good work done by grant applicants – the JOY program gives them a whole new perspective into the world of nonprofit organizations in and around their communities.

CHALLENGES

JMG Specialists are credited with streamlining the logistics of the JOY program to make it an engaging and meaningful experience for their students. Challenges were typically related to technology or sometimes the seeming lack of non-profits in a school's immediate vicinity. These were simply bumps in the road, and the Specialists incorporated the process of resolution into lessons for their students. Through peer mentoring, regional meetings and frequent communication with program management, the Specialists worked through these minor challenges and allowed their previous nine years of JOY experience to simply shine through.

NEW STAFF TRAINING

As in years before, JOY training for new JMG classroom Specialists was done in coordination with regional managers as part of training sessions scheduled throughout the year. The majority of new hires receive training in the fall, before the official November launch of the program. Training covers the history, goals and objectives of JOY, exploration of the website and resources, and sharing of past JOY successes. Individualized JOY database (Collaborative Studios) training took place via conference call with the program manager. Every new Specialist at JMG was paired with a seasoned Specialist who served as a mentor through the first year and beyond – this mentoring relationship has become an important source of support and guidance for the JOY project.

PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION

Awarding JOY funds was often paired with community service. During the 2017/18 academic year, over 2,600 JMG students were actively involved in 3,563 hours of community service. Without a doubt, youth philanthropy in Maine is making a difference to many children and families served by non-profits across the state.

IN CLOSING

It is clear that the impact of JOY is tangible beyond the classroom and beyond the direct impact of funding dollars. It is the hope that past and current JMG students are engaged, productive community members and that some will even become Maine's future philanthropists!

And, it is of utmost importance to remember that nearly a decade of thoughtful grant making and community service in the form of JOY, would not have been possible without the dedicated partnership between the Unity Foundation, the Maine Community Foundation, and Unitel, Inc. Across Maine, JMG Specialists and students are very appreciative of this amazing partnership opportunity.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

After TEN years, we wanted to share the stories directly from students and Specialists who continue to bring JOY to others.



From Maria Morris: some of my students with Jamie Dorr of Midcoast Community Alliance and Nate Pelsma at the Hope Garden we planted with them.

The 2018 recipient of the JOY grant at **Morse High School** is Midcoast Community Alliance (MCA).

In June 2016, after yet another suicide by a young person living in Bath, community member, Jamie Dorr, rallied for change. Through her grassroots effort MCA was created, which includes community members from the public and private sector seeking to reduce the stigma of mental illness and increase help seeking behaviors from those impacted. Their vision is to create a suicide free community.

Maria Morris the Specialist at Morse High School says, “JOY is a great program to teach students, not only about philanthropy and the grant process, but also how to think critically and use the decision making process. Students discover their personal values. I’m stunned each year by how passionate students are with this project. They are making real life decisions that impact others in a meaningful way and they take it very seriously.”

Brie Pinkham, JMG senior says, *“When choosing this year’s JOY grant the choice for me was easy. Through past experiences I have learned just important knowledge of mental health can be. As a teenager I have lost two childhood friends, a feeling/experience no one that age should go through, feeling that hopeless. These videos could have helped us with the signs of depression and how to help.”*

Awarding the grant to MCA is just one aspect of how the Morse JMG students and MCA collaborate. Last fall they partnered to plan the Hope Garden of yellow tulips, which was inspired by the Yellow Tulip Project an organization that uses the yellow tulip as a reminder that spring brings with it hope and light. This spring representatives of the MCA, which include the Bath Police Department, and JMG students took to the streets of Bath to raise awareness of suicide and the mission of MCA as well as to distribute posters with the statewide suicide crisis hotline number.

Jamie Dorr, MCA founder says, *“MCA is honored to be working with JMG students to make a positive impact, not only in our community, but throughout the state of Maine, through normalizing discussion around suicide and mental health and educating students and families on warning signs. Partnership with students is vital - we need their input, their ideas, and their voice to address this public health crisis.”*



Orono High School

“The JOY program has opened my eyes on how many non-profit organizations are in surrounding towns. JOY can benefit the community and classroom and so many ways. JOY has given our school community service opportunities as well as learning opportunities. Everyone gets joy from giving back to the community.”

-Dreamaleigh Pearsall, student

“Working through the JOY process with students was not only eye opening for them, but for me as well. Hearing from students as they go through the decision making process was interesting because they wanted to make the biggest impact possible on the most local non-profit. People pour their heart and soul into non-profit work and it was great for students to see that!”

-Kelsi Whelden, Specialist

Ridge View Community School

This was the first year for JMG at Ridge View Community School, therefore, it was the first year that students were able to participate in J.O.Y.! The Dexter area has limited resources for youth and families and the students determined that they wanted to maximize the opportunity to give to area agencies by partnering with the Dexter Regional High School JMG students. In doing so, the concept of community was emphasized even further through the opportunity to engage with students from higher grades, in a different school.

Most of the students were unaware of the nonprofit agencies in their area and the services that they provide for youth and families. While the students had already been involved in volunteering for different programs right at our school, it was a whole other experience to think about contributing to their greater community. However, it took very little time for the students to become engaged in the process! The students checked in regularly about the status of applications and excitedly asked when we would be selecting the grant recipients. When the day finally arrived for the middle school JMG students to present the grant money alongside the high school JMG students, the impact of what they were doing truly set in. The two JMG programs presented a total of \$2000 to three deserving agencies.

In the words of eighth grade JMG student, Buddie Rider, *"The J.O.Y. program was a memorable experience that helped me understand the importance of giving back to my community. It made me feel great to know that I helped someone who cannot provide for themselves."*

Mount View Middle School

Specialist Chard Larrabee:

"As we started the JOY Project it became very evident that our middle school students were unaware of what a "non-profit" organization was and how they helped our community. Throughout the journey of researching non-profits in our area students became more excited helping these organizations, because they were able to directly relate how these organizations impact their peers, families, and communities.

It became much more than giving away money at that point- it became a journey to better our community."

"It feels good knowing that we made an important decision that will have a huge impact for a family in our area. Knowing that "Habitat for Humanity" will be using our funds to help build a house for a family that has kids in our area makes me feel proud that I was a part of this process."

- Mount View Middle School student



Oak Hill High School students presenting to Tree Street Youth

Washington Academy

“As a student in the JMG class I can say that giving money to an organization leaves you feeling more complete as a person.”

~ Bradley Lenfestey, Grade 10

“JMG has taught me about Community Service. It has shown me to care for others, and how caring for others gives me satisfaction.”

~ Cameron Jones, Grade 12

“This school has changed so much in the past four years, and one of the only things that I am still passionate about here is the JMG class. I appreciate the help that it gives to the communities and how it makes kids involved feel like they’re part of something bigger than themselves.”

~Tyler Matthews, Grade 12

Lisbon High School and Middle School

This year Lisbon was invited to participate in the Philanthropy Walk to benefit their JOY recipient. Both Lisbon High School and Middle School gave to the Dempsey Center for their JOY Project totaling \$1,500. Both programs raised an additional \$150 each and thank those who gave and supported them in this endeavor. The PWS middle school gave an additional \$250 each to the Mid Maine Homeless Shelter in Waterville, Maine and Lewiston area's Tree Street Youth. Both connect with students and their families and the JMG students felt best spoke to the Jumpstart Our Youth mission of benefitting youth and supporting non-profits in our area.

Tish Caldwell, our Dempsey Center representative, visited both schools educating us about the center's background and the free services they offer to those impacted by cancer. This year our JMG students also participated in a funds matching program with Positive Tracks <http://www.positivetracks.org/>. A big thank you to both Liz Gray from Positive Tracks and Tish at Dempsey for making this JOY year spectacular!

Josh Cronin, 7th grader at PWS researched about The Dempsey Center, listened to Tish's presentation, fundraised personally and at our MVC track event, and then participated in the philanthropy walk in Portland. He said. *"Seeing everyone's smiles at the walk made my day!"*

Sierra Moore, LHS sophomore says *"Being able to go on the walk to help the Dempsey Center raise money for those who are fighting their battle of cancer and their family members who care for them, was an amazing feeling. To lose family to cancer is hard to experience. Also, being the Positive Tracks representative was amazing as well. To know that I was able to make a connection with someone in another state to help me and the other Lisbon JMG students to fund raise was great. The funds raised, the match, and the JOY money that each JMG program is given to grant to a nonprofit that helps children in Maine yearly, LHS & PWS gave \$2,100 to the Dempsey Center. Thank you to everyone who gave generous donations to make this all possible!"*

- Specialist Jessica Porter

The learning that JOY promotes is best stated by students:

"JOY has taught me the value of community and helping youth develop." - Eli C.

"Just knowing that you were part of the reason that a kid got what they needed is a great feeling." - Emily B.

"JOY has taught me how giving to local organizations can help the community, specially one as small as ours." - Kathleen B.



China Middle School - Kelly Couture presenting from Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers.

This year at **China Middle School** 7th grade students spearheaded the JOY project, conducting research on local non-profits, inviting in guest speakers and then making a decision on funding.

A piece we added this year was to include a handwritten note with the grant application. We got positive feedback from this from Maine Children's Home, as Kelly Couture, Development Coordinator at MCH, responded with a very appreciative phone call in regards to the letter as well as a thank you card. She states, *"thank you for your personal invitation to apply for CMS JMG's grant. It's been submitted, and I look forward to meeting the class in March."*

Grant Awards went to the Sexual Assault and Crisis Support Center for \$600 and \$400 went to Maine Children's Home.

7th grader Reiana Gonzalez explained the impact, *"it helps us to improve the lives of our youth. We learned about how non-profits serve our community, focusing on young people. I know how I can improve the lives of people in my community and it will positively influence my community involvement for the rest of my life."*

MACHIAS MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

The JMG students look forward to JOY every year. They enjoy learning more about the non-profits in their area and feeling like they can make a difference. Sometimes the students struggle with all the populations in need and identifying which one would most benefit from the grant, but in the end through great, meaningful discussions they are always proud of their choice.

JOY allows the students to make an impact locally and shows them the importance of supporting non-profits. The JMG students went on many field trips and had several speakers come to the school. Ultimately the 2018 recipient was the Porter Memorial Library in Machias. The Library will be using the funds to kickstart their upcoming renovations to make the building more accessible to everyone and expand the children's section.

The students visited the Library and as they ascended the extremely steep stone steps one student remarked, "How are people with disabilities or the elderly supposed to use this library?". After a tour and a discussion of who the library serves and how the money would be used, the students talked all the way back to school about how they were so deserving of the grant.

It wonderful to see the students show such empathy and make these types of connections. JOY is a highlight of our year.



University of Southern Maine

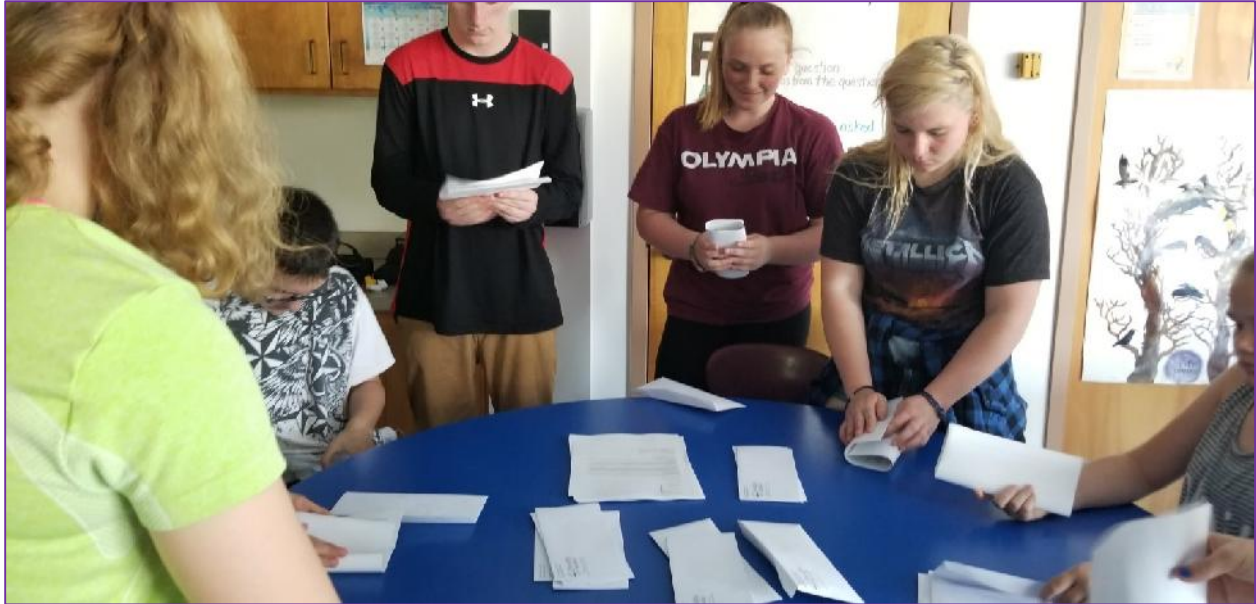
Rick Riordan once said, “Young people don’t always do what they’re told, but if they can pull it off and do something wonderful, sometimes they escape punishment.” Jumpstart Our Youth (JOY) teaches the next generation of nonprofit, civic and business leaders how philanthropy supports community needs and goals. This program holds a special place in my heart because they trusted me and many other at-risk youths during extremely vulnerable times. They gave me and so many others a voice in the community, confidence, and power. What I gained from them led me to my current career in social work, and I will never forget this is where it all started.

I was asked to be in Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG) when I was 12 years old and remained in the program through my four years at the University of Southern Maine. My first JMG teacher Jeff Kazaka introduced our class to the JOY Project in the 7th grade. I was shocked adults actually trusted a class of 7th-grade students to choose a local charity of our choice to work with and donate too. My class spent an entire year learning about nonprofits, researching the nonprofits in the community, interviewing nonprofit applicants, and working together to decide which recipient we wanted to donate our money to. By the end of the year, I was a different 12-year-old. I finally felt heard, my opinions were validated, I was a confident young woman, and even my parents recognized my growth.

This year the University of Southern Maine JMG program awarded \$1,000 to Planned Parenthood. This non-profit organization is one of the largest reproductive health services in the United States. Planned Parenthood provides a large variety of healthcare services. The most utilized services are for preventative care which includes; unintended pregnancies through contraception, reducing the spread of sexually transmitted diseases with testing and treatment, and checking for cervical cancer.

Planned Parenthood is so unique because it provides low-cost services and support to women and men of all ages without any strings attached. They give safe access for underage youth without consent, which is so important as many other facilities require the consent of an adult. Planned Parenthood is also one of the only organizations that fight for reproductive health care and sexual health care for everyone. This is a very important topic of conversation today within our politics. Within this organization, men, women, and children are able to access safe and affordable health care.

-Mia Smith, college student



Students pack DELC registration and informational forms in envelopes for potential future campers.

Mt. Ararat High School

"Jumpstart Our Youth has shown me that there are many people in our communities who care about other people and it's amazing to learn about these organizations and all that they do for the young people of Maine".

-Emma Skelton (Junior)

"JOY actually started my first year working for JMG, so it has been synonymous for me with the work that we do in JMG every day and serving the youth of Maine. It never ceases to amaze me when students are researching non-profit organizations that we have right in our own backyard and they make the connection between these groups and their own life. It is like a light bulb goes off in their head, and they realize how important these groups are to them, their communities, and Maine".

-Tyler King (Specialist)



Lawrence High School

JOY has taught me about giving money to organizations and how the process works. It was fun to determine a nonprofit organization and see them accept it. The Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter was really happy to be getting the \$1,000.

-Eran Dowd, Junior

WATERVILLE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Each year, it's incredible what freshmen learn about their community just by being part of our JMG program. Many of these non-profits that we consider, students may have unknowingly driven past hundreds of times or have benefited from in the past in some way, shape, or form. As we dig into the missions and histories of these organizations, it isn't uncommon for students in the program to realize who the non-profit is, what they do and someone close to them who have benefited from the organization's services.

The JOY Project has not only served its original purpose of teaching about philanthropy but has acted as a jumping off point for other discussions where students learn about the greater community that they are a part of. As our freshmen get to know more students in the building, they expand their network and sometimes realize that non-profits that we have considered in our JMG classroom for the JOY Project has served individuals that didn't realize.

Since it has been almost a decade since the inception of JOY, many of the businesses and organizations that we work with during the school year are previous applicants/ winners if they aren't again in the running for a grant. When we are able to tie guest speakers and non-profits that we do community service work to previous years of JOY, it adds a dimension of understanding. With the connections that our classroom has made with outside organizations, it allows us to discuss whom in Waterville we would like to work with and more often than not, the business or non-profit already has a history with JMG, usually through the JOY Project.

"The JOY Project is not only about teaching students about philanthropy, it gives them a new perspective on their community as a whole."

– Matt Gilley, 9th grade Specialist

"I had no idea most of the non-profits existed in Waterville. I was surprised at all of the different services that (the non-profit organizations) cover. It seems like everyone we've worked with in class for community service has been involved in the JOY Project at some point."

– Michael Fitch, 9th grader

Mahoney Middle School

My second favorite JOY moment was when we were making Christmas ornaments for the Giving Tree. This was super fun because we got to use hot glue guns and be super creative. I made a hat and a mitten. The hat looked like a cat head and the mittens had cool little yarn balls on it. A few other things we did were Stuff-A-Bus, the talent show and the Charity walk. These were just a few of my favorite things from JOY. All of JOY was super fun and completely worth the time it took to do these things.

-Hannah Arey



Taylor Nile, Annika Carey, and Ashley Cates move items to be sorted and organized to help the Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers prepare for one of their biggest fundraisers of the year.

Richmond High School

Richmond JMG had a hard yet exhilarating time awarding JOY grants to foundations. Many of our students only knew of a few foundations, particularly the ones within their own town, but they were eager to find other charities that went to helping people. One of our freshman students (Zach York) had a very assertive opinion on which charity to give the money to. He only knew specifically of two organizations, the Richmond Area Food Pantry (RAFP) and the Ronald McDonald House (RMH). He wanted to choose those organizations because he “*liked where the money went to*” and was extremely passionate in his opinion.

When charitable organizations applied for our grant to pick finalists, a junior (Ethan McDonald) was fairly surprised at what the organizations asked for, “*They asked for stuff I wouldn’t know they needed help with but now I know they are important.*” He was not the only person surprised. A senior (Nikki Robichaud) was surprised that one of our winners, the Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine (SASSMM), asked for \$700 to purchase a set of puppets. However, he learned that the puppets were going to people who need help/education and became highly invested in giving the money to them. Richmond’s JMG Specialist (Ivy Latendresse) cautioned everyone that “\$1,000 seems like a lot of money at the beginning of this project, but after you see all of the ways you can help, it doesn’t feel like it’s enough.” It made choosing who got the money even more difficult.

Once needs were realized, it was decided that the money would be split, that SASSMM would get the bulk and RAFP would get the remainder. As a group, we all decided that beyond giving money to RAFP like we do every year, we should help the people in need fairly directly, and conducted a food drive based off of requested items from the RAFP. In the end, it was truly difficult to decide which charities needed the money the most, and everyone realized that while there may not be enough money to go around, there are enough helping hands around.

- Kylie Temple Richmond High School student



Erskine Academy

“*The annual JOY program is an aspect of our JMG curriculum that students not only look forward to, but take great pride in,*” stated Erskine Academy JMG Specialist Mitch Donar. “*The JOY program instills a sense of pride within our JMG students towards youth throughout our local communities.*”

Jonesport-Beals High School

This was my first year working with the JOY project, and it was amazing to see the community connection created for my students and our program. The first thing my students established was that they wanted to donate to an organization as close to “home” as possible. With this goal, came our first challenge... finding a nonprofit that served youth in our little Jonesport-Beals community. This challenge put the project on hold until they came up with the idea to start their research by simply talking to people. Face to face communication or “old-school research” worked like a charm and our students were flooded with contacts to reach out to. I believe this is one of the greatest advantages of a small community.

When our final decision was made and we congratulated our recipients, the word spread like wild fire. One recipient was so thrilled to be involved, she had the story put into the local newspapers and on social media almost immediately. We were also contacted right away to see if we had students interested in volunteering for this upcoming summer. My students were amazed at how quickly word got out. Our community may be small, but I believe one connection like this can open up a world of opportunity. I am excited to see how these new relationships carry over to future years and projects.

“It felt good to get more involved in the community and help when it was needed”

--Jasmine Floyd, student



Caribou High School

I am proud to participate each year in JOY. Jumpstart Our Youth – JOY – is a statewide youth philanthropy program that allows more than 3,000 Maine middle and high school students annually to make meaningful grants in their local communities. Without this program, there would be more young adults who feel as if they need to carry the weight of the world on their shoulder. Thankfully JOY is not alone, The United Way of Aroostook and The Aroostook County Action Program (ACAP) are two local programs who wholeheartedly believe in the youth of America and seek out these at-risk youths to lift some of the burdens off of their shoulders. Jumpstart Our Youth and The Unity Foundation have presented the Caribou Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG) program with 1,000 dollars to donate (grant) and based upon their principles it is with great privilege to present both United Ways of Aroostook and Aroostook County Action Program (ACAP) with 500 dollars each. We, the JMG Program at Caribou High School are thankful for The Unity Foundation and Jump Start Our Youth for providing us the funds to support and promote local philanthropic efforts. Caribou JMG looks forward to working with all entities that believe to seek out and help adolescents from all walks of life.

Apollo Grondin

President, Caribou JMG Career Association

Brewer Community School

Students LOVE the JOY program. For many it is the favorite part of their year. It teaches the true joy that comes from getting involved in your community and helping others.

"I like how we can see multiple different non-profits and see what they do."

-Monica Noyes 8th grade student

"It is really exciting to see the people who apply every year, and also getting to choose who receives our money and what they use it for."

- Jessica Wang 8th grade student



Gardiner Area High School

Each year I look forward to JOY and seeing how each students' values shine through the process. They become very passionate over the organization they believe is most deserving of the grant. Although, they may be disappointed if they vote the money to another organization. The students show understanding and a new level of maturity after the decision is made.

- Gardiner Area HS Specialist

"Our JMG class couldn't decide between two organizations to put the \$1,000 towards. Nearly every person wanted to split the money between the Make a Wish Foundation and the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Gardiner. Many of our JMG students have been a child that went to the Boys and Girls Club and they would use the money to support the art and music program to help early childhood children with supporting their love of doing art and learning about music. The other foundation, Make a Wish, was a great choice because the money would go to helping children in need at the hospitals, giving them trips to go anywhere they wanted to go and give them a trip away from the hospital and the money would help a child or two with their Wish. Both organizations are very important to us and they would both give extensive proof that the money went to good use."

-Cassidy Blake '18

"It feels great to help our community!"

-M.K. Wilson '18

Washington Academy

As a first year specialist, facilitating the JOY project in my classroom was a really fun and unique experience for all! My “ah-ha” moment as a specialist was watching my students engage with each representative from the organization we sent an RFP to that came into classroom. Specifically watching my students asking each representative these comprehensive questions that I did not require or prompt them to ask. Questions ranged from asking where the money would be going specifically, what would happen if they got too much money, to ways that the students could then be involved within the organization such as volunteering. Throughout the project and in our discussions some of the kinds of the question topics came up but that was the extent. Watching the students take pride in their work and them knowing that they are the ones who will be making the big decision in the end is beyond powerful to watch but as well as be a part of. As an educator, this project provides an experience in an area that many people do not know much about until they are an adult.

-Rebecca Lefenstey, Specialist

Belfast High School

Doing the JOY project has made us much more aware of the resources available in our community to help area youth. Being in a position to support an organization, instead of always asking for assistance has a completely different feel to it. It feels so good to see how happy the recipients are to win an award from JOY.

-Jesse (senior) and Jessica (junior), students

The JOY project is one of my favorite parts of the school year. Students look forward to this unit, taking on multiple awards in each of the last 3 years. I have seen my students enthusiasm and motivation rise dramatically when it comes to getting involved with our community. They have built and fostered numerous productive and beneficial partnerships as a result of the JOY efforts over the years.

- Tom Hart, Specialist

Hodgdon High School

“To be a part of the Career Association and being given the privilege of helping to make the decision on which recipient receives the JOY Grant funds is a very uplifting opportunity. The JOY Grant interviews brought to light a few of the many small organizations in and around our community that deserve so much more recognition than they currently get. Myself and others from the student leadership team got to see and hear about the experiences leading up to the formation of the organizations. We listened to all the hard work that they have done to build it up into the outstanding programs that they are today, and for me the stories warmed my heart. I’m proud of the community members that take the risk to start these organizations and our Career Association for coming together, respectfully listening, and making a decision together.”

---Written by Samantha Faulkner

Houlton High School

We decided to give our JOY money to the Closet of JOY at Houlton Middle School. This is a project that our staff started last year. We recently have added a space for students to go and get things they need however the quality and quantity isn't where we need it to be. The JOY money will help those students get the necessary clothes, shoes, personal supplies, and the food they need to have a comfortable learning environment.

"I didn't realize how great a need we had in our school until talking with Mrs. Tweedie (guidance counselor). She had two girls that literally did not have shoes to wear that didn't have holes in them, it was December. The JOY money will directly help those students that need it. Nobody should have to go through this."

-Addy Michaud-JMG Career Association President



Portland High School



As a project for Young Adult Abuse Prevention Program (YAAPP), PHS JMG students took class time to write “Survivor Love Letters” for those who use YAAPP services. The love letters were beautifully designed and colored with hopeful messages for those going through hard times. The “ah-ha!” moment that really inspired me was how a group of diverse youth--from loud class clowns, to quiet corner students--came together and very sensitively wrote letters to other youth. Every single student undertook this task completely seriously and with class.

Old Town High School

This was my first year as the Old Town High School Specialist. This was the first time any of my students had to go through this kind of decision-making process. I believe both myself and my students gained a great deal on knowledge about the grant process, and different nonprofit organization in our area. It was a fun learning experience for everyone involved.

Old Town has gotten a chance to give this grant out before but it was many years before any of my students were even in high school. I believe this project has, in fact, given my students more knowledge about nonprofit organizations in general. Some did not know what it meant to be a nonprofit organization. Before we research local area nonprofits, the students got a chance to research any nonprofit organization that interested them. Once they got to see what some different nonprofits were out there in this country, we started to look more closely at our very own county.

The students chose Maine Youth Fish and Game Association as the receiver of our grant. This was a nonprofit organization that I was unaware of. The students, however, were all very familiar with the organization. This is because a lot of them participated in this organization when they were in middle school and even a few students were part of the youth board for the association! The students wanted to give it to them because they had great personal experiences going there and believe they could really use the extra donations because they are not very well known. This has most definitely sparked an interest in the students to go future volunteer work, especially since they got to hear from a few other organizations and ways they can be involved. The students really want to help out this summer and see the money stay very close to home for them.

“There is no greater feeling than to give back to a place you all call home”

– Ms. Withee Specialist

“Being a part of Maine Youth Fish and Game has been awesome so it is great to see that I am able to help give back so close to home.”

– Keenan Lee JMG Junior

University of Maine Augusta

Nicole Lazure, College Success Specialist at UMA mentioned the club is really excited to support this worthwhile organization [The Zeimer Sisters]and looks forward to providing direct volunteer support into the future.

“It was an amazing process to see the students carefully assess the applicants and make thoughtful decisions. We let them take the lead and they did a really great job”, said Lazure.

2017-2018 JOY Grantees

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| Bangor High School | Make-A-Wish Maine | 1,000 |
| Belfast Area High School | Head Start 4 Hunger | 1,000 |
| Biddeford High School | YMCA of Southern Maine | 1,000 |
| Bonny Eagle High School | Outdoors Again | 1,000 |
| Brewer Community School | Partners for Peace | 500 |
| Brewer Community School | Shaw House | 500 |
| Calais Area High School | Eastport Arts Center | 500 |
| Calais Area High School | Irene Chadbourne Ecumenical Food Pantry | 500 |
| Caribou High School | Aroostook County Action Program, Inc. (ACAP) | 500 |
| Caribou High School | United Way of Aroostook | 500 |
| Carrabec High School | Good Will Hinckley | 550 |
| Carrabec High School | Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers | 450 |
| China Middle School | Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers | 400 |
| China Middle School | Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center | 600 |
| Cony High School | Augusta Literacy For ME | 1,000 |

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| Deering High School | Million Meals Maine | 1,000 |
| Dexter Regional High School & Ridge View High School | Partners for Peace | 500 |
| Dexter Regional High School & Ridge View High School | Penquis C.A.P., Inc. | 500 |
| Dexter Regional High School & Ridge View High School | SAD 46 | 1,000 |
| Durham Community School | Maine Fallen Heroes Foundation | 500 |
| Durham Community School | Wolfe's Neck Center for Agriculture & the Environment | 500 |
| Erskine Academy | Maine Fallen Heroes Foundation | 1,000 |
| Foxcroft Academy | Partners for Peace | 40 |
| Foxcroft Academy | Piscataquis Regional YMCA | 960 |
| Freeport High School | Dempsey Centers for Quality Cancer Care | 1,000 |
| Freeport Jr High School | Make-A-Wish Maine | 1,000 |
| Gardiner Consolidated School | Boys & Girls Clubs of Kennebec Valley | 500 |
| Gardiner Consolidated School | Make-A-Wish Maine | 500 |
| Gorham High School | Gorham High School-Giving Tree Project | 1,000 |
| Greenville Middle/High School | Camp Sunshine at Sebago Lake | 1,000 |
| Hall-Dale High School | Dempsey Centers for Quality Cancer Care | 1,000 |

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| Hampden Academy | Camp CaPella | 1,000 |
| Hermon High School | Hermon Recreation | 500 |
| Hermon High School | Shaw House | 500 |
| Hodgdon High School | Community Living Association | 500 |
| Hodgdon High School | LP Miracle Mile | 500 |
| Houlton High School | Closet of Joy | 1,000 |
| Jonesport-Beals High School | Beals Historical Society | 500 |
| Jonesport-Beals High School | Make-A-Wish Maine | 500 |
| Lawrence High School | Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter | 1,000 |
| LearningWorks | Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland | 500 |
| LearningWorks | Riding To The Top Therapeutic Riding Center (RTT) | 500 |
| Lewiston Regional Tech Ctr 9th/10th | Dempsey Centers for Quality Cancer Care | 600 |
| Lewiston Regional Tech Ctr 9th/10th | Lewiston High School/ The Store Next Door project | 1,600 |
| Lewiston Regional Tech Ctr 9th/10th | Tree Street Youth | 600 |
| Lewiston Regional Tech Ctr 9th/10th | Trinity Jubilee Center, Inc. | 1,200 |
| Lisbon High School & Oak Hill High School | Dempsey Centers for Quality Cancer Care | 1,500 |

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| Lisbon High School & Oak Hill High School | Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter | 250 |
| Lisbon High School & Oak Hill High School | Tree Street Youth | 250 |
| Machias Memorial High School | Porter Memorial Library | 1,000 |
| Madison Area Memorial High School | Travis Mills Foundation | 1,000 |
| Mahoney Middle School | Maine Cancer Foundation | 1,000 |
| Maine Central Institute | RMHC Maine | 500 |
| Maine Central Institute | Somerset County Off Road Educators | 500 |
| Memorial Middle School | Violence Prevnetion Network | 1,000 |
| Messalonskee High School | Messalonskee Music Boosters | 1,000 |
| Monmouth Academy | Natural Resources Council of Maine | 1,000 |
| Morse High School | Midcoast Community Alliance | 1,000 |
| Mt. Ararat High School | Seeds of Independence | 1,000 |
| Mt. Blue High School | Safe Voices | 500 |
| Mt. Blue High School | Success & Innovation Center at MBC | 500 |
| Mt. View Jr. High | Habitat for Humanity of Waldo County | 1,000 |
| Narraguagus High School | Arise Addiction Recovery | 1,000 |

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| Nokomis Regional High School | Penquis C.A.P., Inc. | 300 |
| Nokomis Regional High School | Riding High For Kids | 700 |
| Oak Hill High School | Tree Street Youth | 1,000 |
| Oceanside High School East | The Parent Program of Mid-Coast Maine, Inc. | 500 |
| Oceanside High School East | The Salvation Army | 500 |
| Old Town High School | Maine's youth fish and game | 1,000 |
| Orono High School | Maine Discovery Museum | 500 |
| Orono High School | Orono Paddlers | 500 |
| Penquis Valley High School | Milo Ecumenical Food Cupboard | 1,000 |
| Portland High School | Family Crisis Services- Young Adult Abuse Prevention Program | 1,000 |
| Richmond High School | Richmond Area Food Pantry Incorporated | 300 |
| Richmond High School | Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine | 700 |
| Rose Gaffney Middle School | Healthy Acadia | 400 |
| Rose Gaffney Middle School | We Care Community Baby Center | 600 |
| Sanford High School | SSYAA | 1,000 |
| Sanford Junior High School | Right Brain Club/ a program of Strategies for a Stronger Sanford | 500 |

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| Sanford Junior High School | York County Shelter Programs, inc (YCSP) | 500 |
| Shed High School | Cobscook Experiential Program for High School Students | 1,000 |
| Skowhegan High School | Pine Tree Society | 1,000 |
| SMCC | RMHC Maine | 650 |
| SMCC | Wayside Food Programs | 350 |
| So. Portland High School - 9th/10th | Camp Sunshine at Sebago Lake | 1,000 |
| So. Portland High School - Multi | Maine Youth Court | 1,000 |
| Thornton Academy | Dyer Library Association | 1,000 |
| University of Maine at Augusta | The Ziemer Sisters Foundation | 1,000 |
| University of Southern Maine | Planned Parenthood of Northern New England | 1,000 |
| Vassalboro Community School | 47 Daisies | 250 |
| Vassalboro Community School | The Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers | 250 |
| Vassalboro Community School | Vassalboro Community School (Viking Strong Backpack Program) | 500 |
| Warsaw Middle School | Pittsfield Community Theatre | 1,000 |
| Washington Academy | Community Christmas Giving Tree | 250 |
| Washington Academy | Machias Area Little League | 250 |

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| Washington Academy | Shaw House | 500 |
| Waterville High School | Hardy Girls Healthy Women | 500 |
| Waterville High School | Maine School Garden Network | 500 |
| Waterville High School | Natural Resources Council of Maine | 1,000 |
| Waterville High School | Pine Tree Society | 1,000 |
| Windham High School | Camp Sunshine at Sebago Lake | 1,000 |
| Winslow High School | Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter | 1,000 |
| Wiscasset High School | Wiscasset Church of the Nazarene | 1,000 |
| Woodland Jr-Sr High School | Town of Baileyville, Parks & Recreation Dept. | 200 |
| Woodland Jr-Sr High School | Volunteers Of America Northern New England | 800 |

Brewer Community School

It was another wonderful year doing JOY! This year the Brewer Community School students have decided to split our money between two great local non-profits.

\$500 of our JOY grant money is going to the Shaw House, a local homeless shelter for youth in the Bangor area. They also work hard to provide outreach programs all through Northern and DownEast Maine. Originally their JOY proposal was asking for money for a new van for their street outreach program, but they were able to find local funding to buy a new vehicle. Instead, our \$500 went towards buying backpacks and supplies to fill them, so that the outreach team can distribute them to youth in need.

The other half of our JOY money was awarded to Partners for Peace (formerly Spruce Run), a Bangor area non-profit that helps to end domestic violence. They will be using our grant money to renovate and makeover the community center space in their transitional living community. Often when people need to flee a domestic violence situation they are taken into the Partners for Peace shelter. Last year our JOY grant money helped renovate that area and it came out beautifully. When families are ready to get back on their feet and gain a little more independence, they often move over to the transitional housing facility. The community center space there is a place where mothers meet for counseling groups and children of all ages get together to play and also celebrate monthly birthdays. Our grant money will go towards new toys, furniture and decorations. In addition to the \$500 JOY grant money, the Brewer students also decided to gift Partners for Peace a \$250 amazon gift card that they earned through doing another community service project this year!

Students LOVE the JOY program. For many it is the favorite part of their year. It teaches the true joy that comes from getting involved in your community and helping others.



Before and After

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Community
space makeover

