

MY PLACE TEEN CENTER 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

#### **OUR MISSION**

My Place Teen Center's mission is to provide a safe haven for youth, ages 10-18, sustaining them with comfort, meals, resources, and hope.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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### OUR VISION

All youth will have the academic, job readiness, and life skills necessary to lead independent adult lives filled with stewardship, courage, passion, and joy.

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Mac Waybright Youth Culinary Program Instructor

Alexis Dearborn Program Coordinator

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# From Our Board Chair



### Resilience is the Response

Steve Doughty from an on-line resource of mine, speaks about people he described as the "holy resilient." He said, "When subjected to the fiercest pressures of change, the holy resilient do not just endure or bounce back. They become more: more compassionate, deeper, simpler in their desires, and more focused in how to use their time. Resilience for them is not a matter of getting back to normal, nor is it about adjusting as well as they can. It is about transformation. It is about moving beyond where they were at the start of the change. It is about becoming new persons. This is so whether the change broke upon them through a diagnosis, pink slip, an unexpected phone call, a technological innovation, or cherished patterns of working with others."

We, too, are in this process of adjusting as well as we can.

We're adjusting to:

- the pandemic with all its inconveniences, economic impact, and mounting grief
- a new fervency for racial justice and its mounting grief
- an election on the near horizon that will stoke anxiety across the country

We can choose to meet these challenges with granite-like immovable resistance against the rushing waters unwilling to accept what is or will be, or we can meet the challenges with the resilience of a deeply-rooted reed that bends as the waters push against and surround it.

I truly believe that the leadership and staff at MPTC coped with COVID-19 as **that reed that bent but refused to break**. After schools were shut down in the middle of March and the staff realized that no kiddos would be entering their red doors, anxiety set in with the following questions: How will we take care of our kids? How will we help our neighbors? How will our funders respond? Will the Center come out whole on the other side of this? As the anxiety rose, the stress was palpable. MPTC was at a crossroads.

Within 48-hours, our fearless leader, Donna Dwyer, reached deep and I quote, "we have a kitchen, a cook, a van, and staff." Immediately a list was compiled of the Center's clientele and their families and daily meals were prepared for 50 at the curbside and 200 out for delivery — 250 people served each and every day for nine months. Old funding sources were tapped and new funding sources were discovered. The business model was transformed so as to meet the immediate need in the community.

Many other Westbrook residents besides regular attendees of the Center have been served.

A remarkable story of adjustment, transformation, and resilience.

Your Board of Directors will continue to monitor the present situation and look to the possibility of adjusting our very liquid business plan — based on the needs of the community. We thank you all for your ongoing support of MPTC and we invite you to continue that support in any way possible.

Sincerely yours,

Tim Higgins, Chair of the BOD

Twothy J. Mayy

### WHO WE ARE

My Place Teen Center is a nonprofit southern Maine organization based in Westbrook with a second location to be opened in Biddeford, 2022.

Opened in 1998, we are a year round, free, out of school time, evidence-based, positive youth development program specializing in cultivating grit and alleviating hunger and trauma. We are open five hours per day, five days per week, year-round. Everything we do for the kids is free.

My Place Teen Center is at the forefront of some of the most crucial issues of our time.

- We fight to keep kids safe from the devastation of the opioid epidemic.
- · We combat poverty and food insecurity.
- We create real, authentic communities with kids from diverse backgrounds, teaching them how to be good citizens and good neighbors.
- We show teens from broken homes that there is a better way to live life with accountability, personal responsibility, and self-care.
- We are not just raising kids, we are raising the next generation of adults, and they are headed your way. It matters who they are now, and whom they become as adults.

In short: Adverse childhood experiences and the lifelong consequences of trauma can be counterbalanced with protective factors such as increasing cognitive capacity, healthy attachment of relationships, the ability to regulate emotions and behaviors, and creating safe environments. **This is our calling card.** 

### The Three Most Important Things We Do:

- 1. Provide food daily meals and snacks
- 2. Offer a teen oasis five hours per day, year-round
- **3.** Instill GRIT via character development, academic support, mentoring, civic engagement, and life skills. The mettle of a kid's heart and will is IT. #tinySTRONG

### **Our Hallmark Programs:**

- **1.** Youth Leadership Academy a specialized positive youth development program designed to increase developmental assets to reduce risky behaviors. Youth attend year-long units on Health and Wellness, Leadership and Social/Emotional competencies, STEAM, Workforce Readiness, and Character Education/Civic Engagement.
- 2. Restaurant Job Training Program (RJTP) embedding life skills, work-force development modules, accountability protocols, STEM principles, and financial literacy practices, the RJTP gives teens the opportunity to train as proprietors, cooks, servers, bussers, hosts, hostesses, and dishwashers in a restaurant-like environment, preparing meals in the teaching kitchen, and serving 9,000 meals to their fellow teens in MPTC's dining room.
- **3.** Get Urban Kids Outside! getting city kids to explore and maintain the woods and local trails, breathe in fresh air, share, listen, and problem-solve teen angst, practice healthy lifestyle choices, glean and forage fresh produce, and engage in ecology studies.





We're not just raising kids here, we're raising the next generation of adults, and they're headed your way...

### WHY DOES MY PLACE TEEN CENTER MATTER?

According to the 2019 recommendations from the National Commission on Social, Emotional & Academic Development, "...children require a broad array of skills, attitudes, and values to succeed in school, careers, and in life. They require skills such as paying attention, setting goals, collaboration, and planning for the future. They require attitudes such as internal motivation, perseverance, and a sense of purpose. They require values such as responsibility, honesty, and integrity. They require the abilities to think critically, consider different views, and problem solve. And these social, emotional, and academic capacities are increasingly demanded in the American workplace, which puts a premium on the ability to work in diverse teams, to grapple with difficult problems, and to adjust to rapid change." http://nationathope.org/report-from-the-nation/





The long-term impacts of poverty on children have been extensively researched and documented. Among the disturbing consequences:

- According to the American Psychological Association, child poverty is linked
  with a range of negative developmental conditions and outcomes, including poor
  academic achievement, school dropout, abuse and neglect, behavioral and
  socio-emotional problems, physical health problems, and developmental delays.
- Over time, child poverty contributes to chronic stress, lower levels of working memory, a weak foundation for later learning, behavior, and health, and poor adolescent and adult outcomes, according to the Urban Institute's research report, Child Poverty and Its Lasting Consequences.
- Perhaps most concerning is that poverty impacts a child's brain development, leading to long-term behavioral and cognitive difficulties.

In response, we provide academic assistance through Science, Technology, English, the Arts, and Math (STEAM) programs. We have our Restaurant Job Training Program where youth are learning front-of-the-house and back-of-the-house restaurant job training skills. We offer instruction in character development, leadership development, life skills, and financial literacy. We focus on aspects of healthy, responsible moral development that builds strong character, self-esteem, academic, and leadership skills. We run a youth-led store based on an earned point system. All this, and we provide daily, healthy, complete meals and snacks.

### HISTORY OF MPTC AND TODAY

In 1996, Westbrook community leaders, shocked by a local teen's suicide and the increase of drug and alcohol abuse by teens, started a dialogue on how best to keep the city's 1,700 teens safe. They created an after-school teen drop-in center, the "Mission Possible Teen Center," which opened its doors in 1998 in the Dana Warp Mill. Westbrook soon became a vital community resource, the city's first no-barrier program for all kids, regardless of socio-economic status or background, to hang out in a fun, safe, and learning-filled space.



By 2004, demands for teen services increased and the Center realized it needed more space. The Board of Directors made the courageous decision to relocate the Teen Center and purchased the former United Methodist Church for its new home located in the heart of Westbrook. In 2013, and in celebration of our fifteen-year anniversary, the Board changed the name from "Mission Possible" to My Place Teen Center to recognize the kids who often referred to the Teen Center as "My Place..."

In 2014, Biddeford champions and stakeholders requested discussions about how to bring our business model to Biddeford. Originally we were functioning in a consultant mode – how THEY could operate such a facility like ours, but early 2017 discussions turned to: Would WE bring our business model to Biddeford and run a second site/MPTC for them? Given that expansion was already part of our strategic plan, this was an easy answer due to the positive relationship already developed with city leaders and a similar demographic and landscape between both cities.

Since then, we have been working closely with Biddeford Housing Authority/Southern Maine Affordable Housing and city leaders regarding establishing a second site at 75 Bacon Street, Biddeford; the former St. Andre's Church. Our target opening date is 2022. Additionally, the St. Andre's former rectory houses a high school alternative education program and the former convent is affordable senior housing.



Every child who winds up doing well has had at least one stable and committed relationship with a supportive adult.



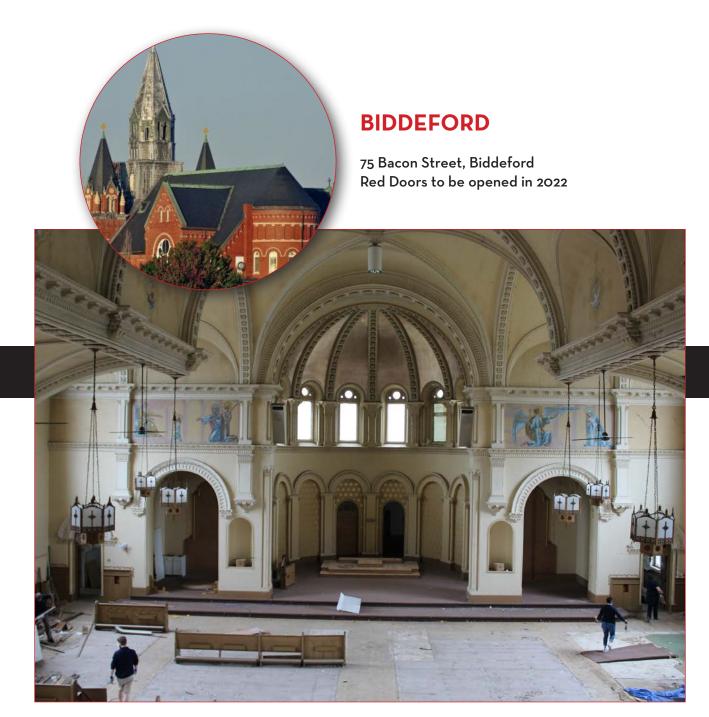
### **WESTBROOK**

755 Main Street, Westbook Red Doors opened in 1998













### THE RED DOOR CAMPAIGN ASK - \$4MM

Campaign gifts will go towards (1) 75 Bacon Street renovation and furnishings, (2) Van used for Biddeford's transport needs, (3) facilities' upkeep and reserve fund for both sites, and (4) programming/operations for two years for both sites so we can prudently open both locations.

### 1. 75 Bacon Street Biddeford Renovation and Furnishings - \$1.4MM

- White box condition: roof repair/steeple, flooring, heating-ventilation system, windows/doors, interior improvements, plumbing, security/electrical upgrades, sprinkler updates, fire alarm, additional materials and labor - \$750K
- Commercial kitchen and dining area \$250K
- Furnishings \$400K
- 2. 15-Passenger Van for Biddeford \$50K
- 3. Facilities' Upkeep and Operating Reserve Fund \$350K
- 4. Programming and Daily Operations Westbrook and Biddeford Sites \$2.2MM
  - Fiscal Years 2021/2022 2022/2023

Your gift can either be restricted or unrestricted. If unrestricted, <u>funds expended will have the flexibility</u> to meet the demands and quirks of a full-scale renovation of the former St. Andre's Church at 75 Bacon St. as well as the nimbleness to scale our business model to a new community while maintaining the status quo of the original community. Please indicate your restricted or unrestricted preference.

We will be in a shared ownership contract with Southern Maine Affordable Housing. My Place Teen Center will own the main floor and the balconies above the main floor at 75 Bacon. We are the sole owner of our Westbrook location.

Please partner with us to serve upwards of a 1,000 kids and 20,000 meals. Let's open 75 Bacon in Biddeford and sustain 755 Main in Westbrook = Red Doors in two vibrant communities!



# DONOR RECOGNITION & NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

All donors who make a gift to the campaign (except those who wish to remain anonymous) will be recognized on a donor recognition wall, prominently located near the entrance of the building. Specific gift amounts will not be indicated. There are several opportunities to sponsor specific areas around My Place Teen Center Biddeford. These sponsorships will be acknowledged through signs or plaques in the corresponding area. Gifts may be paid over three to five years and may be made in memory or in honor of a loved one. All opportunities are exclusive.

#### LEGACY NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

**\$1,000,000** (or \$200,000/yr)

• Biddeford Building and Complex

**\$100,000** (or \$20,000/yr)

- Restaurant Job Training Program Kitchen & Dining Room (culinary arts education curriculum)
- STEM Education and Gaming Center
- Youth Leadership Academy
- First Floor Atrium

**\$50,000** (or \$10,000/yr)

• Transportation Van

**\$30,000** (or \$10,000/yr)

- Garden and Grounds
- Recreation & Entertainment Center (ping-pong, billiards, television and gaming area)
- Arts & Creativity Workshop
- Chat Room

#### \$15,000

- Bathroom & Shower
- Laundry Facilities

### \$2,500

• Front Entrance Paver (12" x 12")

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

Our CEO, Donna Dwyer, has 24 years in social services, 13 years of nonprofit executive director/CEO positions, and holds three graduate degrees including an MBA with a focus on Entrepreneurship, a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Leadership, and a MS.Ed. in Special Education. Our Director of Operations has extensive social services case management experience and seventeen years of non-profit accounting and office management.

In addition to our Board of Directors, in 2015, we formed an Advisory Council to help advance the mission of the organization through their individual and collective expertise and relationships in the community. This statewide group consists of a diverse pool of individuals that serve a variety of tasks such as raising the organization's profile, monitoring community needs and organizational trends, suggesting ideas, assisting with fundraising resources, linking to other groups of stakeholders, and offering informed guidance.

### MPTC RESPONDS TO COVID-19

As of March 16th, normal operations at MPTC drastically changed. We knew we had to continue to support our teens and their families, so within 48-hours (March 13 – March 15), we pivoted from our mission, to what we imagined would happen, and did happen, to meet the surging and urgent demand for food and home care — Plan B. Six staff members prepared and delivered over 1,250 homemade, restaurant-quality dinners and 200-300 snack/hygiene/household staples kits per week. We became a daily, mobile food pantry for 70 families (70 households that we delivered to every day) and 60 or so individuals, or 250 persons in total per day. We served anyone — kids, people who are elderly, people without transportation, people with disabilities, people who are immuno-compromised, those who are experiencing a significant loss of income, etc. — without qualification — via our mobile food pantry and curbside pick-up — any age, from anywhere. We also handed out \$7,125 in gift cards from Hannaford/Walmart/Target.

Why fresh dinners? Why serve anyone, any age? Why delivery? Why curb-side? Our pandemic philosophy was to support basic needs and to provide comfort, ease, dignity and respect. By not placing any limitations, by allowing for anonymity with curbside pickups, by delivering – to ease lack of transportation issues AND to allow us to provide wellness checks/daily phone calls, by offering full, delicious, attractive dinners prepared by a professional Chef with a focus on quality proteins and lots of veggies and fruit – all of this effort was to **provide restaurant-quality meals with warmth and care**. There's so much volatility and scarcity inherent in our community/State that we wanted to be a no-barrier, compassionate, dependable, basic needs' resource via good food and in-person interactions for anyone, any age. In addition, we kept a vigilant watch for unhealthy, potentially dangerous situations as described below by these recent headlines.

- Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Will Rise During Quarantines.
   So Will Neglect of At-Risk People.
- Mental Health Crisis Looms
- Hunger in Maine Expected to Soar 40%

Finally, we continued to think about the kids' future. And the vitality and health of My Place Teen Center. So securing funds to not only meet emergency needs then, as well as to ensure the Red Doors reopened once it was safe, was tantamount.

No matter what happens, we WILL find a way. There's always a way.



We are humbled to share our bursting gratitude for those who partnered with us during the pandemic and continued to help us procure, produce, and deliver 250 homemade dinners per day.



# The Red Door Awards

My Place Teen Center is a lot of things to a lot of people. It's a red door on Main Street. It's a place to get homework help after school, or take a guitar lesson. It's a table with a warm meal at the end of the day — or a dinner delivered to a family's home. So much of it is possible thanks to the many companies and volunteers who believe in us. We'd like to highlight a few who really stepped up this year.

# **Corporate Partner of the Year**

# IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.

The Corporate Partner of the Year award honors IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. for their responsive, compassionate, and beneficial community-wide and nation-wide actions, during a period of extreme duress. Thank you for standing alongside ALL of us. Congratulations!

# Community Champion of the Year

### **DMM**

The Community Champion of the Year award honors DMM for their notable and compassionate actions during a period of extreme duress. Thank you for standing alongside ALL of us. Congratulations!

# Neighbor of the Year

# **Rosemont Market & Bakery**

The Neighbor of the Year award honors Rosemont Market & Bakery — the business that said yes and kept giving and giving. Way to walk the talk. Way to show your neighbors — ALL your neighbors — you care. Your heart is so huge. Congratulations!

### **MVP of the Year**

# Hannaford

Our MVP of the Year award honors Hannaford. A hero locally. A hero nationally. Stepping up, and in, is clearly in your business DNA. Kudos for caring about your community, no matter the zip code, and demonstrating all heart. Congratulations!

# MPTC's Ride or Die of the Year

# Tim Higgins

MPTC's Ride or Die of the Year award honors Tim Higgins. With you, MPTC flourishes. With you, magic happens behind the Red Doors. With you, we can handle anything! Congratulations!

### **Volunteer of the Year**

### Anita Johnson & Rhonda Green

The Volunteer of the Year award honors Anita Johnston and Rhonda Green for their relentless commitment to My Place Teen Center and their efforts supporting teens at risk and the MPTC staff. Compassion, goodwill, and work ethic are values Anita and Rhonda uphold and display regularly, and thus, are surely deserving of this accolade. Congratulations!

# Westbrook's Greatest Ally of the Year

### **Cornelia Warren Community Association**

The Westbrook's Greatest Ally of the Year award honors the Cornelia Warren Community Association for sticking by it's non-profit partners and businesses in good times and bad, for being a a strategic resource, and for making the City gleam with pride! Thank you, Cornelia Warren, for your far-reaching, beautiful gifts.

# Donors

### **CORPORATE DONORS** GOVERNMENT

#### HERO \$100.000 & Above

**FOUNDATIONS** 

Department of Health and Human Services

#### CHAMPION \$50,000 - \$99,999

Cornelia Warren Community Association New York Life Foundation

### MENTOR \$10,000 - \$49,999

Androscoggin Bank's MainStreet Foundation Calpine Corporation Child and Adult Care Food Program City of Westbrook Coulombe Family Foundation Elmina B. Sewall Foundation Full Plates Full Potential Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Idexx Laboratories, Inc. John T. Gorman Foundation Libra Foundation Biddeford Savings/Maine Community Bank McGoldrick Family Fund Morton-Kelly Charitable Trust Sadie and Harry Davis Foundation Sam L. Cohen Foundation TD Charitable Foundation

#### ADVOCATE \$5.000 - \$9.999

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Allagash Brewing Company Bank of America Charitable Foundation Barrett Family Fund Calpine Foundation Emergency Food and Shelter Program Good Shepherd Food Bank of Maine Maine Community Foundation Machias Savings Bank Onion Foundation Ross Gerard LaJeunesse Charitable Fund The Agnes M. Lindsay Trust The Greg Altman Foundation, Inc.

#### **ROLE-MODEL \$2.500 - \$4.999**

Saco & Biddeford Savings Charitable Foundation Saccarappa Lodge 86

#### BUDDY \$1,000 - \$2,499 Acadia Insurance Group, LLC

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#### FRIEND \$25 - \$999

A E C Engineering Alpha Delta Kappa Beta Chapter AmazonSmile Baird Foundation, Inc. Bank of America Matching Gifts Bill Dodge Employees Black Tie. Inc.

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We are deeply grateful for the generous support of our donors.

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Donna Dwyer Katherine Goepp

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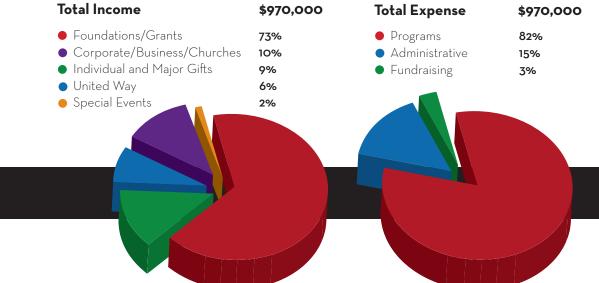
To The Memory of Barbara F. Libby

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Operating Budget 2020/2021 (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021) Ordinary Income/Expense Marc & Allison Drouin Marie Pike





#### **THE 500CLUB DONORS**

#### MPTC serves 500+ kids each year. Members make a recurring annual gift of \$960 to Fund-A-Kid (or kids) for one year.

Anne Vaillancourt Casey & Doug McKeown Cathy Gaw Savage Charles Oransky Dave Sherman & Moey Burchenal David & Lynne Champoux Deborah Shangraw

Doug & Mary Nelson Duck Fat Inc. In memory of Beth Murphy J. Opal Staudenmaie James Eric Heintz Jennifer & Jacob Drouin La-7-Boy Furniture

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Rosse Family Charitable Foundation Saccarappa Lodge 86 Theresa Patten Todd Davidson Trinity Lutheran Church

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IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. Junior League Of Portland

Individual Volunteers Anita Johnston Bernie Danis Kim I 'Heureux Mallory Lemieux Marie Sullivan Nick Dver

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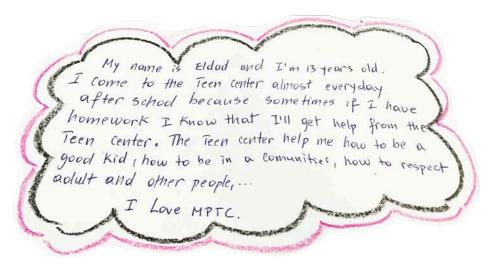
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The Erickson Family - Patty & Dave, Debbie and Ron, and Kathy and Holly The Farm Stand/Jordan's Farms The Original Frog & Turtle Gastro Pub The Rock Church of Greater Portland Tom's of Maine Tricia and Trevor Emery Unitil UNUM Veronica Bates Wayside Food Programs Westbrook & Gorham Chamber of Commerce Westbrook Public Services Westbrook City Hall



Home is where the heart is. Our home, in a renovated church on Main Street in Westbrook, and a new one in a former church in Biddeford, is where we nurture, inspire, and safeguard at-risk teens, many of whom have nowhere else to go. With steely resolve, and a passion for grit and accountability, we keep kids safe, fed, loved, and shown a different path. Join us as we change lives.





Check out the magic behind our red doors!

For more information, please contact:

Donna Dwyer, president/CEO donna@myplaceteencenter.org 755 Main Street, Westbrook, Maine 04092 TEL 207-854-2800 • FAX (207) 856.2109

www.myplaceteencenter.org