

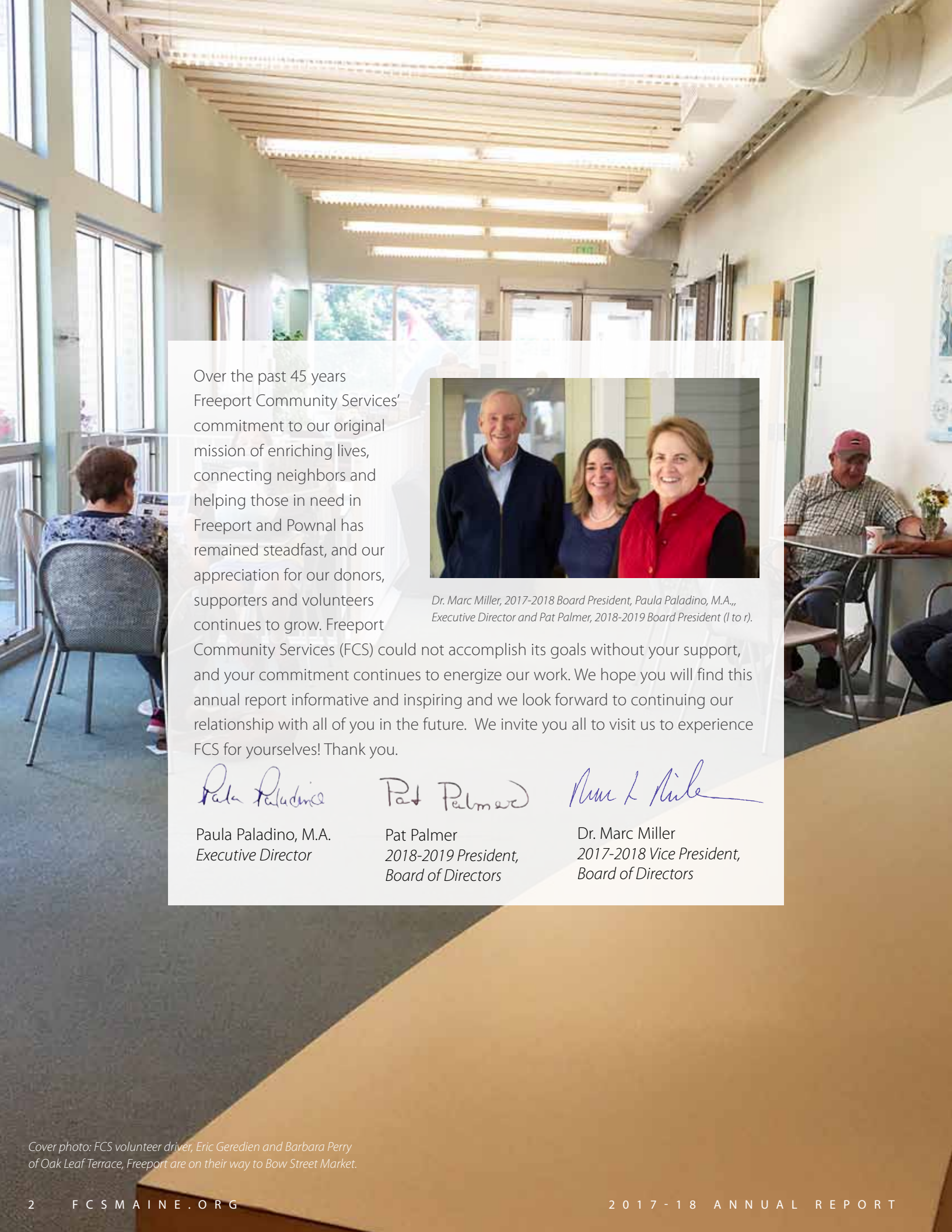


ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18



BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY TOGETHER





Over the past 45 years Freeport Community Services' commitment to our original mission of enriching lives, connecting neighbors and helping those in need in Freeport and Pownal has remained steadfast, and our appreciation for our donors, supporters and volunteers continues to grow. Freeport Community Services (FCS) could not accomplish its goals without your support, and your commitment continues to energize our work. We hope you will find this annual report informative and inspiring and we look forward to continuing our relationship with all of you in the future. We invite you all to visit us to experience FCS for yourselves! Thank you.



Dr. Marc Miller, 2017-2018 Board President, Paula Paladino, M.A., Executive Director and Pat Palmer, 2018-2019 Board President (l to r).

Paula Paladino

Paula Paladino, M.A.
Executive Director

Pat Palmer

Pat Palmer
2018-2019 President,
Board of Directors

Dr. Marc Miller

Dr. Marc Miller
2017-2018 Vice President,
Board of Directors

Building blocks for the future – FCS early education outreach and summer camp scholarships

When we instill a love of books and reading in preschool children we begin to establish lifelong literacy skills and a solid foundation for learning. Freeport Community Services' award-winning Read to Succeed is an outreach literacy program that recruits, trains and places volunteer readers into daycares and preschools. Each week, FCS volunteers choose from a wide variety of books selected with the help of the Freeport Community Library. In 2018 seven volunteer readers shared 360 hours of time with their young readers.

We know that teaching social skills and building confidence in a fun, safe environment is all part of growing happy, well-rounded children. FCS has collaborated with the Town of Freeport and Freeport Housing Trust to provide more than 3,000 camp experiences. Victoria Winters credits her FCS Summer Camp Scholarship with helping her grow into a happy and confident adult. She recalls the way going to camp made her feel – cared for by a community focused on helping her mom provide a future of opportunity and hope. These memories inspired Victoria and her family to return to Freeport to become part of a community where neighbors take care of neighbors and giving back is what we do.



“Nancy’s become a part of our lives” says Lani Gepford, a teacher at Pine Tree Academy in Freeport, to describe Nancy Gunn, the school’s Read to Succeed volunteer reader for the past 6 years.

45 years of neighbor helping neighbor

45 years ago, a small group of Freeport citizens recognized that some of their neighbors lacked basic needs such as adequate food or clothing. Operating from a space above a volunteer’s garage, they collected furniture and clothing to distribute to those in need. Their effort has evolved and grown over the years into today’s Freeport Community Services.

Today’s FCS is a vibrant 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that owns and occupies the Freeport Community Center. The center is unique in the state of Maine as it is run by a private non-profit organization. Over 70% of FCS funding is derived from our thrift store income, annual fundraising events, donations, and rental income. FCS’ close relationship with individual donors, foundations and business sponsors and the Freeport and Pownal town governments is critical to our continued success.

FCS carries out its mission through a range of programs including a food pantry, fuel assistance, summer camp scholarships, summer lunch, holiday meals and Holiday Helpline program. Our new school Backpack Program provides weekend and holiday food for students facing food and nutrition challenges at home.

Today, FCS’ mission and programs are carried out by a stalwart staff of 12 supported by over 600 committed community volunteers. From sorting donations to the thrift store to managing the annual budget to serving nutritious lunches to schoolchildren, these 2 groups form the heart and soul of FCS. Every day the community center is a beehive of activity and energy that makes all of us involved with FCS very proud.



FCS founding mothers (l to r): Carol Southall, Vaughndella Curtis, Sherri Smith and Janice Fogg.



FCS volunteers deliver boxes of food to neighbors like Nancy Cardoza who can't get to the FCS Food Pantry. Photo courtesy of the Portland Press Herald.

Changing lives every day – FCS food pantry and delivery

Food insecurity continues to be a significant challenge in many Maine communities. 45 years ago, a handful of Freeport residents started a tradition of delivering food to neighbors who were struggling to feed their families. Over the years their dedication and commitment to helping those less fortunate spurred the formation of a community services organization and the establishment of a food pantry. Today, for our neighbors in Freeport and Pownal who find it difficult to access nutritious meals for any reason at any time, FCS answers the call – with compassion and without judgement. On average over 400 members of our community rely on the FCS Food Pantry each month to access a variety of food staples suited to preparing nutritious meals. Volunteers routinely deliver food from the FCS pantry to those in our community who are homebound or find it difficult to get to us. In the summer months we provide free lunches to children and maintain the Elm Street Garden in Freeport, making about a dozen plots available to people interested in growing their own food. Once a month, FCS hosts a community luncheon, and all are welcome.

FCS Backpack Program: it started with a conversation. Over the years, Freeport



Community Services has built a groundswell of support, engaging hundreds of local citizens, volunteers, local businesses, schools, grocers, supermarkets, restaurants, and farms, as well as organizations like the United Way and Good Shepherd Food Bank in the fight against hunger, all pulling together to address the challenges of our neighbors in Freeport and Pownal who are facing food insecurity.

Two years ago, a group of parents and teachers got together to talk about the growing number of children in our schools who were finding it difficult to concentrate and learn because they were hungry. A small task force raised funds



through private donations from concerned citizens and businesses to start a weekend school Backpack Program which FCS agreed to administer. During the 2017-2018 school year, volunteers discreetly delivered weekend backpacks to 65 students in grades K through 12 to

support healthy eating over the weekend. In 2018 the Backpack Program became a formal program of FCS.

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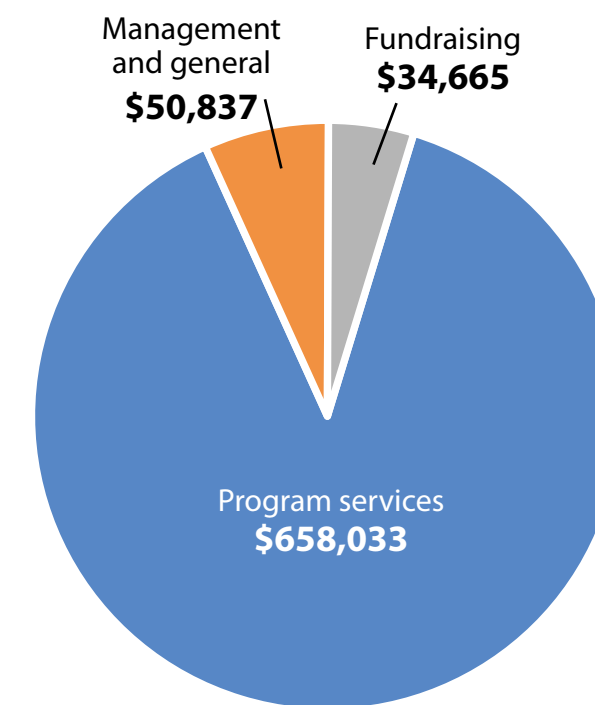
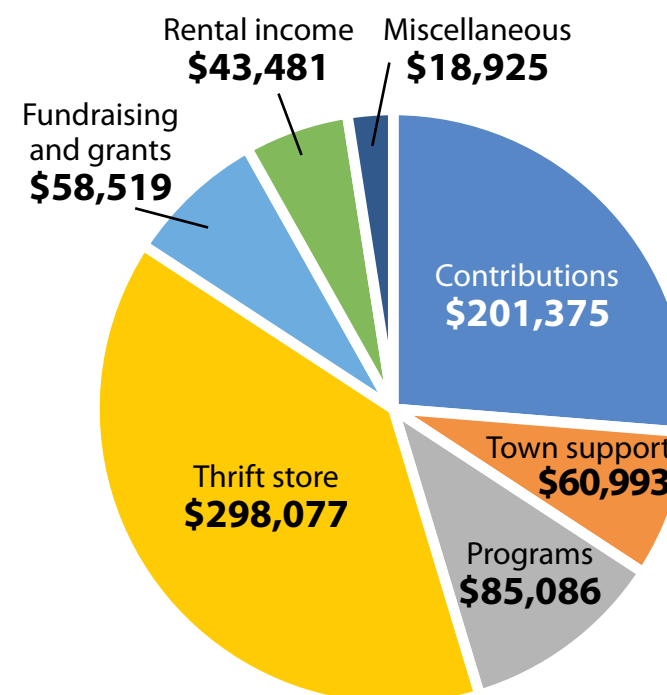


2017/18 financial report

FCS revenue increased by 6% for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 and the revenue has increased by 15% over the past three years. Below are the fiscal year 2018 revenue and cash expenses.



FY18 revenue Total revenue: **\$766,456** **FY18 expenses** Total expense: **\$743,535**





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Your support makes possible everything we do.

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Are you an online shopper? Shop via Amazon Smile and they will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to FCS. Go to: **smile.amazon.com**.

Thrift Shop

Drop off donations at the loading dock at FCS 24/7 or in the building during business hours. Contact **Marian Desrosiers at 865-3985 x 216**. Or go to: **fcsmaine.org/what-we-do/thriftshop** for a list of accepted items.

Volunteer

The volunteer opportunities are endless here at FCS! Contact **Debbie Daggett at 865-3985 x 206**, or at **ddaggett@fcsmaine.org**. Visit our volunteer page and download the application at **fcsmaine.org/how-to-help/volunteer**.

Bottles

Returnables donated to FCS provide UP TO \$15,000 of annual income. Drop off your returnable bottles and cans at one of two locations: South Freeport by the "silver bullets," or in town by the public safety building. Bottles also accepted via Hannaford Clynk.

