

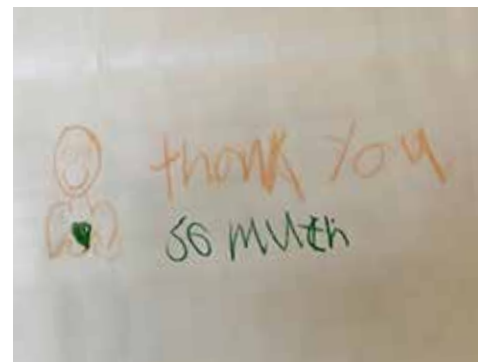
## SUMMER CAMP HELPS KIDS FLOURISH



Many children in our community are getting set to attend the summer camp of their choice thanks to the Freeport Community Services' Carol Southall Summer Camp Scholarships program.

This important opportunity will inspire kids to pursue their interests and give them experiences that help shape their futures.

Camp scholarships are more sought after than ever, as the cost of attending summer camp increases. **In 2023, FCS awarded grants to 52 children. This year, we have already awarded grants to 62 children, and applications are still being accepted.**



"SUMMER CAMP IS IMPORTANT TO ME BECAUSE I GET TO BE OUTSIDE AND PLAY ALL DAY. I GET TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS TOO."  
- AGE 12

"It is an amazing, incredible program," said Amy Liechty, FCS Director of Programs, who administers the summer camp scholarships. "There are many happy parents, and kids are excited to explore activities that they are interested in and to make new friends."

The camp scholarship program is a success thanks to individual donors and the many community partners who help make it all come together.

**L.L.Bean** has long been an important partner in the program, reserving 6 scholarship spots for campers at its **Kids Camp/Teen Adventure week**. FCS

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FCS HAS BEEN AWARDING CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NEARLY 50 YEARS.

## MISSION STATEMENT

To enrich lives, connect neighbors and help those in need in Freeport and Pownal.

## 2023-2024 BOARD MEMBERS

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*Director of Programs*

Marie O'Donnell  
*Age-Friendly and General Assistance Coordinator*

Miriam Tanner  
*Thrift Shop Program Manager*

Andy Wyatt  
*Food Programs Supervisor*



## GREETINGS NEIGHBORS!

Incredible moments of connection are sprinkled into the day-to-day magic that makes FCS such a hive of activity. Whether folks are coming together to volunteer in one of our programs, have a warm meal, or learn a new hobby, these connections continue to strengthen our community and provide real opportunities to enrich one's life.

For 50 years, FCS has been the go-to place to ensure basic needs are being met. Its incredible to witness the growth and evolution of FCS over the years and to recognize how we have remained grounded in our founding principles. Thanks to technology and social media, we are expanding the reach of our mission to connect with more people in creative, new ways.

The other day, I connected with a woman through Facebook whose friend needed a ramp built so her husband could safely return home from the hospital. We contacted the Rotary Club of Freeport, which does home repairs, and they were able to follow up with the family.

I look ahead to the next 50 years of FCS, and I am filled with so much hope and appreciation. As I stood alongside my 9-year-old niece at our Freeze Out event in February, I was filled with Auntie pride and undeniable optimism that younger generations understand the importance of community. I am confident in our community and the compassion we have for one another.

Thank you for all that you do for FCS and for your neighbors.

Warmly,

Sarah Lundin  
*Executive Director*

## CONTACT US

**207-865-3985**

Main Office x202

Executive Director x204

Thrift Shop x207

Food Pantry x211

Programs x205

Volunteers x206

Age-Friendly Freeport & Pownal x222

Communications x220

Development & Events x221

General Assistance x239

[fcsmaine.org](http://fcsmaine.org)



# MAKING OUR COMMUNITY STRONGER

The unique combination of programs and spaces at Freeport Community Services offers Freeport and Pownal a way to be more sustainable, more community-oriented, and more resilient for the future.

"It's the fun," said Patti Vernon, FCS volunteer, on why she keeps coming back to FCS. "It's being around people who share your values. It's a social event for me when I come in on Tuesdays" to work in the Food Pantry.



## Thrift for Good

You bring us your no-longer-needed items, which hopefully helps you declutter while doing good for the community and supporting FCS. We offer those goods to willing buyers, who will reuse or repurpose them, at great prices. **The revenue directly funds our community center and various programs.**

The Thrift Shop receives an average of three tons of goods each week, which we sort and curate and put into the shop or distribute to other channels. These goods are kept out of the landfill and serve a new purpose.

"It's a beautiful store," said Thrift Shop Volunteer Deric Ebert. **"People love to come in and shop.** Some people come in two or three times a week. It's lovely."

## Food for All

Another example of sustainability and positive community impact is how the Food Pantry works. Local businesses and individuals help keep our shelves stocked with fresh, diverse items that get distributed to those who need it most. What isn't utilized by patrons gets routed to local livestock farmers.

**Many tons of food are kept out of the waste stream every year.** "We continue to see strong demand for food, and we see new people all the time," said Andy Wyatte, FCS Food Programs Supervisor. All residents of Freeport and Pownal are welcome to access the pantry.



"STRONGER" CONTINUED ON PG. 5

"STRONGER" CONTINUED ON PG. 5



## REFLECTING ON 50 YEARS

Around 260 people came together to celebrate and support Freeport Community Services on the occasion of our annual gala, A Spring Gathering, on May 17 from 6-9 pm at the new L.L.Bean headquarters on Casco Street.



The program marked the occasion of the organization's 50th anniversary by noting FCS' remarkable achievements and showing a video that narrated the organization's humble beginnings above a garage on East Street, where services were offered by word of mouth and folks connected with FCS through a telephone helpline.

**"It fascinates me as I reflect on FCS' past how relevant the resources our neighbors put into place 50 years ago remain.** The food pantry, the clothes tree, transportation, camp scholarships... are all programs that continue to positively impact those in need within our community to this day," FCS Executive Director Sarah Lundin said at the event.

FCS Board President Victoria Winters also addressed the crowd, as did former board president and long-time FCS volunteer and supporter Liza Moore. Liza spoke about the new Legacy Circle that has been created to recognize people who leave a gift to FCS in their will. Such legacy gifts are aimed at making FCS strong for the next 50 years and beyond. Our goal is to have 50 members by the end of 2024.

Marje Cernigliaro addressed the crowd about the importance of volunteerism, in remembrance of her mother, Marjorie Perkins, who was a longtime FCS volunteer.

The event received widespread community support. Founding partner L.L.Bean accepted an award from FCS. The company was the first business to support FCS in 1974. Many individuals and couples joined the Community Sponsor Circle, purchasing tickets at a higher level to further support the organization. Several businesses sponsored the event as well.

Freeport Community Services is excited for what the future holds and looks forward to moving ahead together. "Thank you so much for believing in all that we do here at FCS. We appreciate each and every one of you!" Sarah said.



# KEEPING FCS STRONG FOR THE FUTURE

We are so proud to be celebrating our 50th Anniversary this year, and we could never have made it without the generous and heartfelt support of neighbors like you.

We try to make it easy for you to support FCS and have been expanding opportunities for you beyond the Annual Appeal, Freeze Out and our on-line, PayPal access to give a Single or Monthly Gift.

- We are pleased to announce that you can now join our **Legacy Circle** by making a planned gift to FCS. Any size planned gift from your Will, as a Beneficiary of your Retirement Account or Life Insurance Policy, or as a Beneficiary of a Charitable Trust, Revocable Trust, or Charitable Remainder Unitrust will make you a part of this special group. Just like FCS, the Legacy Circle also accepts donations like Appreciated Securities, Closely Held Securities, Real Estate, Cars, Boats, Airplanes, and even Oil, Mineral or Gas Rights.
- You can also take advantage of a **Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA, 401K, 403b, or Deferred Compensation Plan**; even in lieu of a Required Minimum Distribution. Current IRS rules allow you to donate up to \$105,000 (\$100,000 for 403b) a year from these plans.



## Freeport Community Services

- FCS also has an **Endowment** which accepts donations to be held in trust and managed by the Maine Community Foundation so that the income produced from your donation can be used to support FCS in perpetuity. A gift to our endowment is a forever gift to your community.
- Through our relationship with the Maine Community Foundation, you can also make contributions to their **Pooled Income Fund**, naming FCS the beneficiary of the income produced by your donation.

Please speak with your financial advisor or estate planning attorney about these opportunities. We would be happy to discuss these creative options with you so that you may find the right vehicle for your charitable gift. Feel free to call Christine Force, FCS Development Director, at (207) 865-3985 with any questions.

**Thank you once again for all you do to support Freeport Community Services.**

"STRONGER" CONTINUED FROM PG. 3

## Give Back

Volunteers knit the whole operation together, creating an interactive community network and accomplishing the work that staff alone could not realize. Freeport Community Services is a classic "third place" for many folks – where they find connection and purpose at critical times in their lives.

"We have an incredible opportunity to work with a diverse range of generations," said Miriam Tanner, FCS Thrift Shop Program Manager. "High school students and retirees are working as volunteers in our program, and I think it's incredible to span that generational divide."

## Find Your Niche

The many free workshops, lunches, and socials FCS offers each month are another key component of how we think about our community's future as we shape our approach to services. Age-Friendly Freeport and Pownal is a way for everyone to connect across generations and access free, high-quality programs like yoga, learning opportunities like playing an instrument or creating mosaic glass, and workshops led by experts on important topics.



**"You can find your niche at Freeport Community Services," said FCS Executive Director Sarah Lundin. "We are the community's third place, and we hope more and more people will find us."**



# INNOVATING TO IMPROVE SERVICES

Collecting and managing information about the individuals and families who access resources at Freeport Community Services is getting an innovative boost with the implementation of a new data management program.

“Once we complete the conversion to the new software, it’s going to be easier to capture data across all programs,” said FCS Director of Programs Amy Liechty, who is leading this project. “That will allow us to better serve all stakeholders – clients, funders and the community.”

**Good Shepherd Food Bank** is helping us spearhead this

project by working with us to convert to their new software, Services Insights on MealConnect, and by providing ongoing technical support and education.

**In the end, FCS will have one database that captures all program data so that we can better measure our impact.** The new database will generate reports about community demographics that will help us improve programs and services and strengthen requests for support.

The Food Pantry has been converted to the new system and other programs will be converted in the coming months.

CAMP CONTINUED FROM PG 1

is responsible for 50% of tuition and L.L.Bean covers the other half.

**Seeds of Independence** is also a crucial support connecting campers with FCS to apply for the scholarship. Willo Wright, Seeds’ director, works with RSU5 school staff and families to apply for FCS scholarships. Seeds also offers scholarships to assist with summer camp costs and provides transportation to some scholarship awardees, with the help of long-time FCS volunteer Liza Moore.

**RSU5 Community Programs** is another key partner. FCS and RSU5 have a shared camp scholarship application to facilitate connection with families and camps. In 2024, half of all scholarships awarded have been

to children attending a camp through RSU5 Community Programs.

**Carol Southall**, an FCS founder and program namesake, helped launch the camp scholarship program in the late 1970s after leading a youth summer camp and witnessing the impact of camp on young people. “I’m a big camp person, and we created this program for children in the community,” Carol said.

Families can request a scholarship for their child to attend any camp of their choice. Participating camps include **Bridgeton Sports Camp, Camp Jordan, Camp Seaside, L.L.Bean Outdoor Discovery Programs, Mad Science, Summer Drama, Through the Trees**, and many more. From

dance camps to sports camps to outdoor camps, each child can find a camp that lights up their interest.

Families are asked to pay for a portion of the camp, and a scholarship is awarded for the remainder of the unmet need up to \$650.

**Camp scholarships from FCS helped one young man discover an interest in photography**, according to his mother. He was “inspired by a photography summer camp at MECA, receiving an invitation to exhibit some of his prints at the Holocaust and Human Rights Center in Augusta, and now years later has made photography his major in the Studio Arts program at Colby College,” she said.

# YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY BIRTHDAY BASH!

We will be celebrating half a century of neighbor helping neighbor later this summer, and we hope you will join us.



# Community Day

## Freeport Community Services

- 1-3pm:** Backpack and school supply giveaway  
Games and fun with local organizations
- 5-8pm:** Street dance and birthday celebration  
Live band  
Free Food  
Beer Garden

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**FRIDAY, AUG. 16**



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

# L.L.Bean


THANK YOU TO OUR  
FOOD DONATION PARTNERS


# NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

NEWS FROM FREEPORT COMMUNITY SERVICES

## VISIT US

53 Depot Street  
Freeport, Maine 04032

Freeport Community Services  
Monday - Friday 9-5

## THRIFT SHOP HOURS

Monday - Friday 12-5  
Saturday 10-3  
Closed Sunday

## Donations

Tuesday & Friday 10-3  
Saturday 10-1

## COMMUNITY CENTER HOURS

Monday - Friday 9-5

## FOOD PANTRY HOURS

Monday 11-3  
Tuesday 9:30-11:30  
Wednesday 11-1:30

Freeport  
Community  
Center

Thrift Shop

53-57 Depot St.



**Freeport  
Community  
Services**

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Portland, ME  
Permit #492

## JOIN US

EVENTS FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

- Free Lunch Friday, first and third Fridays 12-1pm
- Age-Friendly Yoga, every Monday, 10am
- Bingo and senior socials every month
- And so much more!

## STAY IN TOUCH

Sign up for our digital and  
print newsletters:

[FCSMaine.org/get-updates](https://FCSMaine.org/get-updates)

