



PHOTO: MAINE TINKER PHOTOGRAPHY.

CAN JAM CREATORS PATTY KENNEDY AND MIKE HILL.

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## HOW A MILESTONE BIRTHDAY INSPIRED AN ANNUAL COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING EVENT

In 2024, when Freeport resident Mike Hill was approaching his 70th birthday, he wanted to celebrate with intention. Inspired by a friend who held an annual benefit concert for hunger, Mike decided to try the same in Freeport. With the support of his partner Patty Kennedy, local musicians, and volunteers from Meetinghouse Arts and First Parish Church, Mike organized a community concert called the Freeport Can Jam, where admission is a donation of canned goods or a monetary gift to FCS' food and fuel programs.

During that first year, Mike and Patty reached out to eight different musicians to volunteer their time and talents. Everyone enthusiastically said yes. The music ranged from bluegrass, country, and folk, and the couple kept the evening casual. People could come and go as they pleased during the four-hour event, and the bands could improvise as much as they liked. At the end of the night, Patty said she encouraged Mike to pick up a penny on the floor for future good luck, raising \$1,500.01 for FCS.

"CAN JAM" CONTINUED ON PG. 6



2026 NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR AWARD

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

## 2025-2026 BOARD MEMBERS

Gary Goodrich  
*President*

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*1st Vice President*

Deborah McLean  
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Barton Seaver

Christina Semanyshyn

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## FCS STAFF

Sarah Lundin  
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*Volunteer Coordinator*

Rihanna Antoine  
*Donation Curator*

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*Facilities Assistant*

Christine Force  
*Development Director*

Michele Guillette  
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*Donation Curator*

Marie O'Donnell  
*Age-Friendly Program Manager*

Parker Pepper-Jones  
*Donation Curator*

Tina Randall  
*Events Manager*

Miriam Tanner  
*Thrift Shop Program Manager*

Ellie Thornton  
*Donation Curator*

Andy Wyatt  
*Food Programs Supervisor*



## DEAR NEIGHBORS,

When the weather app starts promising warmer days, it's hard not to feel a little hopeful. Our Maine winters are long. For many neighbors, the challenge of keeping food on the table and heating their homes hasn't let up. As costs continue to rise, more people are turning to FCS as a resource. And while these challenges are not new, neither is the response from our community.

Over the years, we have shared openly about the growing need in our area. You consistently show up for your neighbors with generosity, compassion, and care. What inspires me most is not only that people give, but they do so with creativity and heart.

When Mike and Patty host their annual Can Jam food and fuel fundraiser, they share their love of music while supporting local families. When Robin phones clients with reminders for their appointments during tax season, people recognize her caring and dedication. We also see teachers like Kyle Goodrich and his eighth grade JMG students work together to create a super fun community Trivia Night, and then proudly bring the proceeds to FCS – all smiles and big energy.

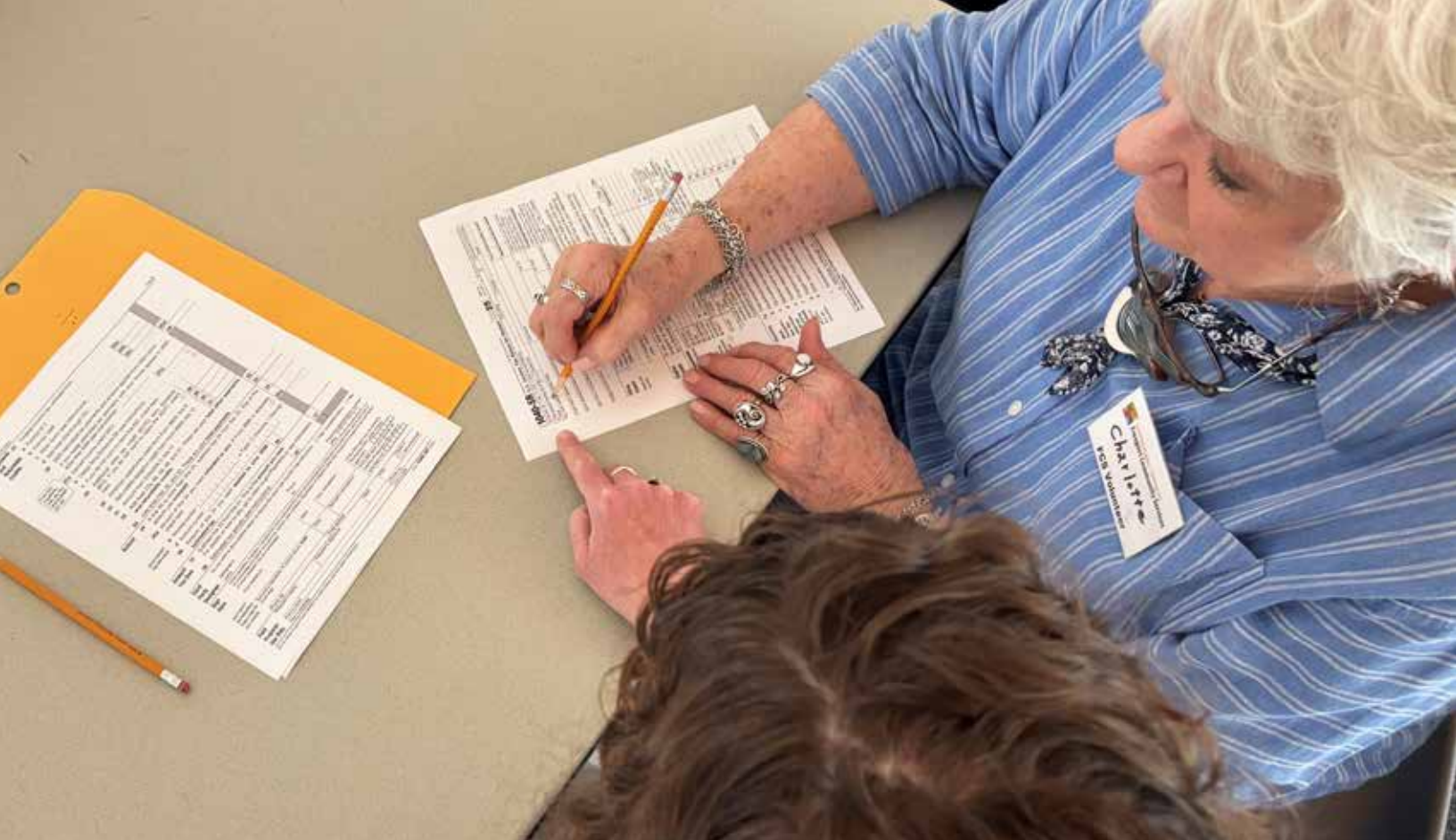
These acts of kindness show that caring for each other doesn't always look the same. Sometimes it sounds like music. Sometimes it grows in a garden. Sometimes it is simply people sharing a piece of themselves to make others feel supported.

I invite you to think about what brings you joy and how that passion might also support your neighbors. I love gardening, though I will admit I hate weeding, and this spring I donated vegetable seedlings grown in my greenhouse to our food pantry. Whether you love cooking, music, gardening, building, or bringing people together, there is room for all of us to contribute in meaningful ways.

At FCS, we are always inspired by our community's creativity and compassion, and we are excited to keep finding new ways to care for one another together.

Thank you for all that you do,

Sarah Lundin, Executive Director



TAX AIDE AT FCS BEGINS IN EARLY FEBRUARY AND RUNS THROUGH TAX DAY IN APRIL.

## TAX PREP MADE BETTER WITH ROBIN HARRIMAN

After an 18-year stint as Property Manager, Robin Harriman retired from FCS in 2024, but retirement hasn't slowed her down. From the first week in February to Tax Day in April, Robin schedules client tax-aide appointments, and then she makes sure they have everything ready for the tax preparer. To help, she explains what clients should be getting in the mail, what information to include, and what to have on hand just in case.

Robin is a bit of an anomaly in a world where most adults bemoan tax preparations. Instead, it's reconnecting with old FCS acquaintances, and providing the help they need to get their taxes done that she enjoys most. "If I don't hear from a client by a certain date," she said, "I call them and say, 'Hey, this is Robin. I haven't heard from you. Do you still need to have your tax appointment?'" It's personal touches like these that make Robin special.

When she's in the building, Robin also approaches people in the lobby, who are waiting to shop at the Food Pantry, or she'll stop in the Freeport Elders to remind everyone to sign up for an appointment. "They usually know me," she said. "When I come in, people say, 'Oh, she's here! We're

going to schedule."

On Wednesdays during tax season, people will find Robin in the Bradley Room, where her dedication shines. "I come in at 8:00 in the morning, and I don't leave until clients have left, and they're filing taxes," she said. "If somebody has not completed their return because they're missing something, I need to know, so I can get them back on the schedule."

This tax season, Robin managed up to 60 appointments monthly. Thanks to her regular reminders, there were few no-shows. Never one to leave a stone unturned, she will even reach out to transportation volunteers to help people get a ride to FCS for their tax prep.

Robin's proactive nature and generosity with her time have created a Robin Fan Club. She's often recognized when she is out and about in the community. "I'll see people in the grocery store," she said, "and they come up and give me a hug."

A sweet reward for a job well done.

To learn more about the Free Tax Assistance Program, offered in partnership with AARP, visit: AARP Maine - File Your Taxes for Free.

# FREEPORT MIDDLE SCHOOL JMG STUDENTS HOST AN EPIC TRIVIA NIGHT

It's Trivia Night at Freeport Middle School, and Kyle Goodrich is dressed as his alter ego, DJ Dragon. Wearing a mullet wig and colorful clothing, he enters the room to Timmy Trumpet's beloved baseball walk-out theme, making him the evening's designated hype man.

When he's not pumping up audiences, Kyle also leads the Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG) Specialist program at FMS, where 6-8 grade students are encouraged to learn practical life skills, including team building, problem-solving, and healthy communication.

**"Raising \$875 for the Freeport Community Center made me very proud. Not only was I proud of myself for all the hard work I put into it creating posters, making cupcakes, and helping set up, but I was also very proud of my peers for what they did to help make this happen. Our Trivia Night was awesome thanks to my peers and most of all, my JMG teacher, Mr. Goodrich. I'm very glad to have helped raise this money for the Community Center and knowing I helped people."**

**-Ella Andrews, Grade 8, FMS.**



KYLE GOODRICH AND HIS 8TH GRADE JMG STUDENTS RAISED \$875.00 FOR FCS.

A former baseball and basketball coach, Kyle said he regards his JMG students as a close-knit team. His students listen to one another, respect each other's ideas, and learn what it means to support their community inside and outside of the classroom.

In April, his 8th grade JMG students asked to bring back a popular Trivia Night fundraising event. In previous years, proceeds from Trivia Night typically went to larger, nationwide nonprofits. This year, Kyle's students wanted to keep their efforts local. After a class vote, they decided event proceeds would go to FCS.

To prepare for the event, Kyle created a spreadsheet of tasks for each student, ranging from cold

calling and emailing businesses for raffle donations, designing a flyer to promote the fundraiser, and developing questions for the evening. On the night itself, a student MC hosts, while their classmates take turns with trivia questions, ranging from movie quotes to "name that song" to listing a series of pop culture connections.

Students tally each team's correct answers on a scoreboard and raffle winners are drawn throughout the evening. This year, winnings included gift certificates to Brickyard Hollow, The Met Coffee House, and more great prizes. "We make it super fun," Kyle said. "The students are on the stage dancing, there is a DJ between sets, and servers are handing out baked goods and drinks."

"JMG " CONTINUED ON PG. 6



PHOTO: MAINE TINKER PHOTOGRAPHY.

L-R: FREEPORT ELDERS PRESIDENT LIZA MOORE, MAINE BEER COMPANY CEO STEVE MILLS, VOLUNTEER CHRIS O'NEIL, AND FCS ED, SARAH LUNDIN.

## SPRING GATHERING 2026: CELEBRATING NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR

Another Spring Gathering is in the books, and it was an evening to remember. The event took place at L.L.Bean Corporate Campus Headquarters with a special May Day theme – Together We Bloom. Guests could select handmade flower crowns to wear for the festivities, and enjoyed delicious bites, local beer on tap from Maine Beer Company, a cocktail from Maine Oyster Bar, and a dessert bar.

The real treat was hearing from FCS board member, Barton Seaver, on his inspiring food journey that led him to Freeport, as well as Neighbor Helping Neighbor award winners, Chris O'Neil and Maine Beer Company.

Thank you to our volunteers, staff, Bess Jacques for her music, Maine Tinker Photography for capturing the evening, all our generous sponsors and of course, our Freeport and Pownal neighbors!



BESS JACQUES



BARTON SEEVER



BOARD MEMBER MAUREEN LITTLEFIELD  
PHOTOS: MAINE TINKER PHOTOGRAPHY

# I'M YOUR NEIGHBOR BOOKS DONATES TO OUR FOOD PANTRY LIBRARY

Based in Maine, I'm Your Neighbor Books is an organization that increases access to Immigrant and New Generation children's literature to create a sense of belonging in communities. In March, they teamed up with Freeport Oyster Bar for a fundraiser. For every donation made to their organization, I'm Your Neighbor donated a book to FCS! Our Food Pantry bookshelf now includes some lovely board books and picture books in French, Spanish and Chinese. We are so grateful to them for their kindness!



CAN JAM CONTINUED FROM PG 1



That good fortune has led to Can Jam's continued popularity and some unforgettable moments. In 2025, American Idol finalist Julian Gagnon, who was in the audience to support her music teacher's band, Borderline 207, surprised everyone to an impromptu performance of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" from the Wizard of Oz.

In April, Can Jam celebrated its third anniversary, treating the community once again to an afternoon of live performances. Thanks to new event sponsor, Dube's Music, the ongoing support of local musicians, First Parish Church, Meetinghouse Arts, and more dedicated volunteers, Can Jam raised \$1,600 for FCS' food and fuel programs, along with six shopping bags of non-perishable goods for the Food Pantry.

Patty and Mike said they hope the event will continue to see growth with the help of more community sponsors, and they are also looking forward to filling all 180 seats in First Parish Church with concert goers in the future. With their hopeful outlook, something tells us a sold out Can Jam 2027 is entirely possible.

JMG CONTINUED FROM PG. 4

Twenty-four teams joined Kyle and his eighth grade JMG students for Trivia Night, making the fundraiser a huge success. According to him, teachers and parents were equally impressed by how well the evening was organized. "Afterwards," Kyle said, "the night was the buzz of the school. I was so proud of my eighth graders."

JMG students raised \$875 for FCS and visited the center to deliver the check. Kyle said he loves that the success of Trivia Night has built momentum for his seventh-grade students to continue the tradition next year. Collectively, he said, his class loved seeing the impact of their work. "They told me, it just feels really awesome giving back."

# SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING EVENTS AT FCS



## Sip & Shop

Wednesday, July 15  
5:30-7:00 p.m.

Featuring Brickyard Hollow, Maine Beer Company, Mast Landing, Well & Good Brewing, and Freeport Oyster Company. Evening shopping at Thrift Shop with "Upta" Camp theme.



## Get to Know FCS: Party and Building Tour

Thursday, June 25  
5-7 p.m. in the Bradley Room

Join FCS Executive Director, Sarah Lundin to learn more about getting involved with FCS. Appetizers, wine, and a tour. RSVP to Christine Force (cforce@fcsmaine.org).



## Community Day

Friday, August 21  
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Join us for our backpack and school supply giveaway for RSU5 students, snacks, lawn games and more fun for kids! Rain date: Friday, August 29.

## Age-Friendly Freeport & Pownal Events July-August 2026



**YOGA**  
Mondays at 10am



**STRENGTH & STRETCH**  
Tuesdays at 10am



**BINGO**  
2nd Tuesdays, 1pm



**SOCIALS**  
4th Tuesdays, 1pm



**MONTHLY MINDFULNESS**  
3rd Wednesdays, 10 am



**YIN YOGA**  
Thursdays at 2 pm



**ART VAN**  
2nd & 4th Thursdays  
10:30am



**FREE LUNCH FRIDAYS**  
1st & 3rd Fridays  
Noon



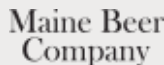
### JOIN US!

All events are free and take place at 53 Depot Street, Freeport, ME  
fcsmaine.org/age-friendly  
(207) 865-3985 ext. 222



## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

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Jensen Financial Services LLC



## THANK YOU TO OUR FOOD DONATION PARTNERS



## 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 - Saturday 10-3

## COMMUNITY CENTER HOURS

Monday - Friday 9-5

## FOOD PANTRY HOURS

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

# NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

NEWS FROM FREEPORT COMMUNITY SERVICES

## 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

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



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



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