



**Midcoast
Youth
Center**

Serving youth ages 5-24 in Sagadahoc County, Brunswick & Harpswell



4 Old Brunswick Road
Bath, Maine 04530



(207) 443-8750 phone
(207) 389-6238 fax



info@midcoastyouth.org
www.midcoastyouth.org



Midcoast Community Alliance becomes Midcoast Youth Center!



So much has happened over the last year, the fourth since our founding in 2016.

As families face back-to-school challenges in the midst of the pandemic, we are now providing remote learning assistance, a crucial support to student academics and emotional well-being.

Our Merrymeeting Homeless Youth Project, with Outreach Coordinator Donna Verhoeven at the helm, continues supporting at-risk and homeless youth who need assistance with housing, basic needs, and mental health support, now more than ever.

In the last year, we've received generous funding from sources like John T. Gorman Foundation and received the honor of being named Difference Maker of the Year by the New England Patriots Foundation!

Most recently, a significant grant from the Maine Department of Education has allowed us to become a 21st Century Community Learning Center, offering free after school programming for Bath Middle School students.

Thanks to a giving community, our Meal Train continues to serve up hearty dinners to hungry kids.

Our vision still focuses on improving the lives of youth and preventing youth suicide. Our coalition has been a powerful force for good, and will remain the driver of all that we do. And, the Bath Skatepark continues to be just the right fit for active youth, and a rapidly growing organization.

Yet, as we continue to expand and develop programs and services to meet the increasing needs of youth, we realize we have outgrown our name. It is with great pleasure that I introduce you to **MYC: Midcoast Youth Center!**

We have become a thriving youth hub in midcoast Maine; one that hears the voice of our youth, that adapts and adjusts based on their needs, that loves and supports them, unconditionally, through the turbulence of adolescence and early adulthood.

This year brought with it great highs and very deep lows. Yet, with a tenacious spirit, and backing from our supporters, we were able to surge ahead and meet youth needs at a level never seen before. Thank you!

Jamie Dorr
Jamie Dorr
Executive Director/Founder

IN THIS ISSUE

The New CCLC Staff

"15to30" Challenge!

Youth Profile: Meet Mason

Donna Verhoeven: Outstanding!

Volunteer Test Driving

The Bath Skatepark: Where it Fits

MYC offers youth development, mental health and wellness outreach, distance learning and academic programs, life skills, scootering & skateboarding, art & music, and even HiSET (high school equivalency) assistance.

MYC observes proper health & safety protocols including mandatory masks, hand washing, social distancing, and attendance limits.

MYC becomes 21st Century Community Learning Center

A highly collaborative and mindfully coordinated approach to support the whole child.



Students enjoy time outside playing a strategy game

Thanks to a grant from the Maine Department of Education, our new 21st Century Community Learning Center provides a variety of “out-of-school” learning experiences to Bath Middle School students four days a week. From playing charades to building Rube Goldberg machines, students have an opportunity to learn in hands-on, interactive ways.

Using a highly collaborative and mindfully coordinated approach to support the whole child with academic success, and complete physical and social-emotional wellness, Midcoast Youth Center, in collaboration with RSU1 and community partners, will deliver critically-needed afterschool and summer programming for eligible youth to:

- create a culture of mattering, ensuring each student feels significant and finds success through youth leadership and mentoring from caring adults;
- improve physical/mental health through accessible recreational activities, yoga and mindfulness;
- improve academic performance through support/enrichment from highly qualified educators;
- explore interests with diverse Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math enrichment (STEM) and access to visual and performing arts;

- strengthen student families through prevention programming and adult educational opportunities.

We are pleased to announce the hiring of leadership staff! We welcome new 21st CCLC Program Director Rose McDonnell.

Rose is passionate about bringing the arts and humanities alive to children and adults alike. Her background is in theatre education, which she taught in both Chicago and Cape Cod for many years. She was a regular guest lecturer of a social justice series at a high school in Massachusetts. She is “thrilled” to be working with such “vibrant, creative kiddos and a dedicated staff of big hearts at MYC.”

When kids encourage one another at the youth center – cheering when someone masters a new skate trick, checking on each other when they fall – Rose knows without doubt that it’s an impactful, positive environment to watch children experiment and grow.

“I’m humbled by the love the kids show towards us and each other,” she says. “And I hope to grow with the organization until my hair turns white and beyond!”

We’ve seen such astounding results from our new 21st Century Community Learning Center. As the pandemic subsides, we will work to expand these opportunities to even more students!



Rose McDonnell spends free time with a student





Jun 2018 Morse High School Graduation



Feb 2020 Certificate of Readiness SMCC



Sept 2020 First Day of Work at BIW

Student Spotlight: Mason Medeiros

Finding hope for the future

We met Mason when he was 16, as he walked around late one night, in the raw drizzle of a Maine spring, with no place to go. He had just gotten into a fist fight with a man who was living in his home at the time. With no family in the area, very limited resources and literally no place to sleep, MYC founder Jamie Dorr brought him to her family's home for the night.

For the following year, as violence and substance misuse continued to invade his homelife, he bounced between his home and staying with friends. That's when his guidance counselor at Morse High School introduced him to Donna Verhoeven, Youth Outreach Coordinator for Merrymeeting Homeless Youth Project.

For the last 6 months of his senior year, Mason found stability by working with Donna to receive mental health care, dental care, and Mainecare. He began staying regularly with the Dorr family and successfully graduated high school in June 2018.

After high school, Mason moved in with a family member who had recently moved to the area. He tried a handful of different jobs, working at a fast-food restaurant, dishwasher and maintenance worker, but was finding it hard to make ends meet.

In January 2020, MYC connected Mason with Southern Maine Community College and a paid Workforce Training position offered by Bath Iron Works. With no reliable transportation, MYC staff would pick him up each morning, feed him breakfast, hand him a packed lunch, and drop him off at the Brunswick Campus training.

There were many days he questioned his ability to complete the training successfully. He had doubts, because life had taught him that usually bad things happen. There were days he wanted to quit. Yet, weeks later, after sticking with it through those hard times, he proudly walked across the stage and received his Certificate of Readiness from a General Dynamics executive.

Then the pandemic hit. Then the strike. Mason moved to Connecticut to try and find work, not knowing what might happen next. Finally, in September, BIW called and Mason was hired. He was apprehensive, but excited, and could not wait to start!

On his first day, he stood inside the main yard, near the bottom of the iconic red and white crane, the one he has looked at from afar for so many years. "It's so much bigger when you see it from that perspective," he shared. "There are a lot of moving parts at the Yard and hundreds of people, each with their own job, yet all working toward the same goal. And now, I get to be a part of that."

Of his support he says, "Without the support of Jamie, her husband, and Donna, there's no way I could be in the position I'm in today, and there's no way I would be going in the direction I'm headed."

We know, however, that it was Mason's determination for a life better than the one he was given that helped him develop his resilience and his perseverance when all he wanted to do was quit.

“15to30” Challenge

Help us turn \$15K to \$30K by making a donation of any amount by December 31st!

An incredibly generous donor has pledged to match up to \$15,000 in donations received by the end of the year. Your donation of any amount will help us reach that goal!

Join the Challenge

Text **15to30** to **41444** to donate

Send donations to:

MYC, 4 Old Brunswick Road, Bath ME 04530

Your support goes to:

Emergency Services: temporary housing for homeless youth and basic needs

Youth Needs: drivers ed, sports, etc.

Materials & Supplies: from toilet paper to art supplies, printers to chairs

Transportation: MYC needs a van!

The Fun Stuff: supplies for workshops, cooking bike repair, art-making.

COVID Safety: hand sanitizer, masks, paper towels, plates, napkins, and cutlery

THE BATH YOUTH MEETINGHOUSE AND SKATEPARK: Where Does It Fit In?

Maine’s largest indoor skatepark offers over 6,000 sq.ft. for skateboards, inline skates, scooters & BMX bikes. Daily sessions & rentals available.

This past July, MYC assumed the operation of the Bath Youth Meetinghouse & Skatepark, run for many years by the Bath Rec Department. The Park is the largest indoor skatepark facility in the state, and has, for the last four years, served as the headquarters of our organization. Revenue from the skatepark helps to cover a portion of keeping the doors open and provides a safe place with an array of youth programs and services.

What a fantastic perk it is to have this facility, offering over 6,000 sq.ft. for skateboarding, scootering, and biking activities, all under the same roof. An even better perk is that we have hired Bobby Gray, an educator and skater himself, as the Youth Programs Coordinator. Bobby splits his time tutoring teens, encouraging them in skateboarding, and being everyone’s favorite friend.

“I love my job because I feel like I am making a positive difference in the lives of young people,” says Bobby. “The more I work at MYC, the more I understand the needs that must be met for the kids in our community. It has also been rewarding to build a skateboarding community again, and see some amazing skilled people surface.”

The Park is open six days a week, Monday through Saturday, with Sunday hours likely coming this winter. To observe COVID protocols, time slots must be booked ahead of time, so that we can more easily manage the number of people inside the facility at one time.

Half Pipes for Half Pints

For ages 5-10, this session allows young riders to get acclimated in a relaxed environment.

Birthday Parties

All-inclusive birthday parties include scooter, skateboard, and helmet rentals!



Middle school students enjoy free skate time



Bobby Gray
Educator & long-time skateboarder

Fall Volunteer Test Drive for Distance Learning Support



Did you know that students come to the youth center to complete their school work on days they cannot be in school due to COVID-19? During the morning hours, staff and volunteers assist with tutoring and help with technology. After lunch, students participate in a variety of activities and use the skate park to stay active.

Students do best with one-on-one assistance, or when working in very small (safely masked and distanced) groups. Our volunteers are a crucial element in supporting our three different rotating groups of learners. More volunteers are always needed to provide tutoring, and skill training,

Are you finding you have time on your hands? Are you a college student learning at home? Are you a retired person, who is healthy and comfortable with COVID safety precautions such as masking, hand-washing, and distancing?

Test Drive with us!! Try it for two weeks, no commitment beyond that, and see if it works for you. Maybe you're a knitting guru, or a carpenter, or the owner of a truck who likes to move furniture and skateboard ramps! Maybe you love to paint, or would love to tutor middle schoolers? We are interested!

We all know there is much more to volunteering than just knowing we are "helping out" for any particular cause. Volunteering has a ripple effect within our community...it's good for everyone.



"I know where [my son] is, he's making good choices, and he's with people who care about his safety and success."

Jennifer Hallowell, parent

DONNA VERHOEVEN: "Outstanding Woman"



Well, we knew it all along! But we're delighted that radio station Coast 93.1 FM recently spotlighted 20 Outstanding Women who are making a difference in their communities, and our Merrymeeting Homeless Youth Outreach Coordinator, Donna Verhoeven, was honored on-air September 29th.

Youth in RSU1, MSAD75, and Brunswick who have worked with Donna over the years also know she is outstanding! Catch her interview online, and if you see her around town, give her a virtual hug of congratulations!

www.coast931.com/twenty-outstanding-

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS:

Bath Savings Institution
United Way of Mid Coast Maine
Davenport Trust Fund
City of Bath
John T. Gorman Foundation
Maine Community Foundation
North Woolwich Methodist Church
Mid Coast Hospital
Bath Rotary Club
Maine Women's Giving Tree
Burgess Technology Services
Five County Credit Union

MIDCOAST YOUTH CENTER NEWS

Issue No. 1, Vol. 1
Fall 2020

Jamie Dorr
Executive Director/Founder

Donna Verhoeven
Youth Outreach Coordinator

Bob "Bobby" Gray
Youth Programs Coordinator

Rose McDonnell
21st CCLC Program Director

MYC TRUSTEES:

Mike Field, President
Larry Bartlett, Vice President
Melissa Field, Treasurer
Karen Curley, Secretary
Andrea Babbins-Wood
Maury Bohan
Aurora Hodgkins
David Ouellette
Deb Young
Deb Hagler, MD
Joel Merry
Jim Peavey
Whitney Taggart

Lorry Fleming
MYC News Editor

Marie Lamere
Meal Train Coordinator



4 Old Brunswick Road



(207) 443-8750 phone



info@midcoastyouth.org

Visit midcoastyouth.org to:

- Become an Annual Partner
- Purchase from our Wish List
- Sign up for our Meal Train

We are a 501(c)(3) organization



Text **15to30** to **41444** to donate
midcoastyouth.org/support