



Social Services Committee

MAY 2025

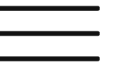
What we do:

THE FUNDS AWARDED TO
CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS
WILL SUPPORT THE BASIC
NEEDS OF BRUNSWICK
RESIDENTS.

BASIC NEEDS: FOOD, SHELTER, CLOTHING, TRANSPORTATION,
HEALTH, & SAFETY RELATED NEEDS.



Our FY24 Grantees



The Gathering Place

WELCOME IS OUR MISSION



Volunteers of America®

NORTHERN
NEW ENGLAND



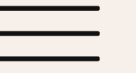
Bedford Housing

BATH-BRUNSWICK
RESPITE CARE
ADULT DAY SERVICES FOR THE MIDCOAST AREA



First Parish Church
BRUNSWICK, MAINE

Fiscal Year 24: \$20,000



Fiscal Year 25 Request: \$50,000

Current Budget
Allocation: \$45,000





Questions?



May 7, 2025

30 East Coxon Rd
Brunswick, ME 04011
www.growingtogive.farm
(207) 504-3489

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Managing Director

Lindsay Wasko
Farm Director

Co-Founders

John Newlin
Patty Carton
Theda Lyden

Dear Members of the Brunswick Town Council and Social Services Committee,

My name is Ellen Rodgers, and I am the Managing Director of Growing to Give, a non-profit, grow-for-donation farm and education program in Brunswick. Our mission is to harness the power of our community to grow organic vegetables and give them to those in need while practicing, teaching, and promoting climate-friendly farming.

We believe that thriving communities require healthy people, and that overall health depends on access to nutritious food - food that all people should be able to provide to their families but is cost prohibitive for many. The organic vegetables we grow are donated to people facing food insecurity through food banks, Head Start centers, Meals on Wheels, low-income elderly housing complexes, community kitchens, health clinics, and other locations, many of which are in Brunswick.

In addition to donating more than 10,000 pounds of organic vegetables annually, we share our knowledge with schoolchildren, interns, volunteers, and farm-job trainees to encourage others to grow their own food, understand food access issues, and steward our planet responsibly. In 2023 and 2024 we collaborated with the Cathance River Education Alliance – now part of the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust – to bring **all** fifth-grade students in the Brunswick Public School System to our farm for hands-on learning to complement their classroom studies of soil nutrient cycling.

With under 3 full-time-equivalent (FTE) staff, we rely on volunteers to sustain our operations. Last year more than 300 volunteers donated over 4,000 hours of their valuable time to support our mission. In addition to the manpower our volunteers provide, we also rely on individuals, businesses, private foundations, and others to support us financially. Last year we received funding from the Town of Brunswick's Social Services Fund, and we are truly grateful for this municipal support.

In these uncertain times, we anticipate a greater need for the food we grow and the educational opportunities we provide. We would like to express our support for the continuation and expansion of the Social Services Fund.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Ellen Rodgers
Managing Director

Growing to Give's mission is to harness the power of our community to grow organic vegetables and give them to those in need while practicing, teaching, and promoting climate-friendly farming.



Testimonial Letter to the Brunswick Town Council on Social Services Spending
May 8, 2025

Thank you to the Town of Brunswick for your commitment to serving our neighbors in need through the social services budget in 2024. I'm writing on behalf of Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program (MCHPP) to support the proposed increase in funding for the 2025 budget year to \$45,000 from \$20,000. .

The mission of MCHPP is to offer dignity and empowerment by providing all members of our community with access to healthy food. Funding support from individuals, foundations, and government sources are all critical to meeting this mission. With federal funding cuts to The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) greatly impacting our ability to source food, local support is more critical than ever.

In 2024, over 8,000 people in our community accessed food assistance through one or more of MCHPP's programs. This included over 16,000 free grocery shopping visits to our food pantry- the largest number of annual visits in our 40+ year history. You can see the staggering increase in need demonstrated by the below chart tracking pantry visits from 6,710 in 2019 to 16,301 in 2024.

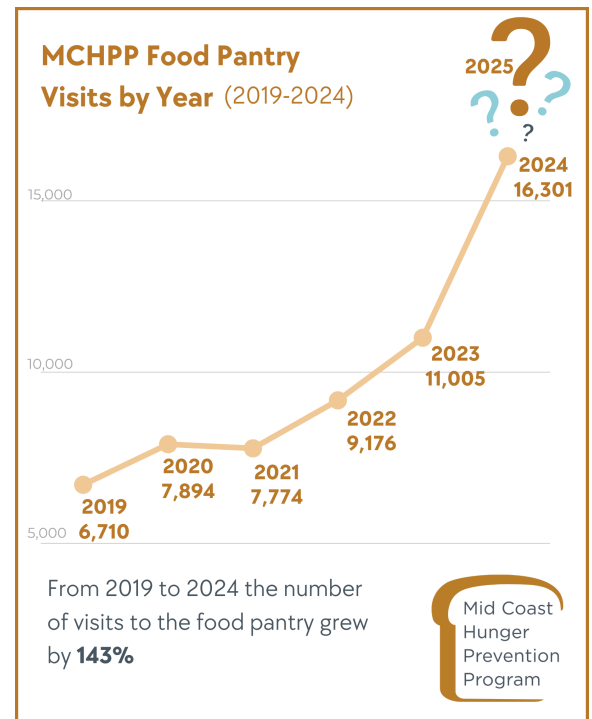
During the current budget year, MCHPP received a grant of \$5,000 from the Town of Brunswick via the social services fund. This grant, and others like it, help ensure the critical programming described above.

MCHPP is grateful to the Town of Brunswick for their commitment to supporting social service organizations like ours in our efforts to make sure the basic needs of every member of our community are met.

We are delighted to see a proposed increase in funding of the critical social services that so many in the Town of Brunswick depend upon every day.

Thank you for your attention and consideration,

Alyssa Schoppee
Development Director
Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program





VOA NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND

14 Maine St, Suite 100, Brunswick, ME 04011

2025 May Brunswick Town Council Testimony

Dear members of the Brunswick Town Council:

On behalf of VOA Northern New England, a community nonprofit organization headquartered in Brunswick, I submit this written testimony in support of a proposed increase to the Social Services budget. For over 30 years, VOA has been providing affordable housing, residential treatment, and support services to underserved, under-resourced, and under-represented communities throughout Maine. Our mission is to help people take on the most difficult tasks and provide opportunities for individual and community involvement. We provide access to tools and resources that help our neighbors claim their independence and live safe, successful lives.

Most notably, in the Brunswick area, we have focused our efforts on addressing the needs of young adults and their families facing homelessness and other dangerous situations. We work toward finding permanent housing for young adults and their families by providing housing vouchers and helping them locate safe, appropriate, and affordable housing. In collaboration with a network of willing landlords, we are keeping people housed in their hometown, where they work, near family, friends, and support networks, with access to services that help them learn independence and accountability. Our small, but mighty Young Adult Rapid Rehousing program is the only statewide program helping people 18 -24 years old and their families address the systemic issues that make it difficult to obtain and maintain housing.

Funding from the Town of Brunswick's Social Services Fund has been of critical importance in focusing our efforts on outreach to young adults and offering daily living supplies. These funds have put emergency kits in the hands of youth and young families living in places unfit for human habitation. Kits include first aid supplies, hygiene supplies, space blankets, and ponchos. These critical safety supplies are simply a short-term resource for youth who are taking intentional steps to secure housing. Funding from the town also gets young adults and their families in the door of their new homes; helping to cover the incidentals that often cascade individuals back into homelessness.

This increase to the social services budget is an increase in support for your neighbors. It is keeping people housed, connected to the services they need to thrive, and to contribute to the community.

Thank you for keeping Brunswick a welcoming and safe place to live,

Dante Granatiero, CFRE

Development Manager

VOA Northern New England

BATH-BRUNSWICK

RESPITE CARE



ADULT DAY SERVICES FOR THE MIDCOAST AREA

You know a caregiver, you are a caregiver, or you will be a caregiver.

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Michelle Maynard

Ashley Butterfield
Executive Director

Bath-Brunswick
Respite Care

P O. Box 668

Bath, Maine 04530

Tel 207-729-8571

www.respite-care.org

May 7, 2025

Dear Members of the Town Council,

My name is Ashley Butterfield, and I am the Executive Director of Bath-Brunswick Respite Care, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting MidCoast families who care for loved ones with dementia and other age-related challenges. I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed increase to the Social Services Committee budget in this year's town budget.

Bath-Brunswick Respite Care has served the MidCoast community for 36 years, with 30 of those years spent at the Methodist Church in Brunswick. As the demand for services grew, we moved to Bath in 2020; however, approximately 60% of the families we serve are still Brunswick residents.

Being a caregiver is an incredibly challenging role, and as long-term care facilities close or become increasingly expensive, more Brunswick residents are stepping into caregiving roles. Many of these individuals face heightened health risks, elevated stress levels, and are often unable to maintain employment or community involvement due to their caregiving responsibilities. Our organization provides support groups, educational programs, and services like our adult day program, which offers a safe, engaging, and supportive environment for individuals with dementia. Knowing their loved ones are safe and cared for allows caregivers the opportunity to work, run errands, maintain social connections, or simply take a break that allows them to continue in their role.

We are extremely grateful for the support we've received from the Social Services Committee, which has allowed us to continue providing this vital service. However, we are just one part of a broader network of organizations that work to care for our community. Increasing the Social Services Committee's budget will strengthen this network, ensuring that programs like ours, and others that support Brunswick's most vulnerable residents, receive the resources they need. This is how we build a connected, sustainable, and resilient community.


Thank you for considering this testimony and for recognizing the critical role that the Social Services Committee plays in supporting our town.

Ashley Butterfield
Executive Director

A collage of various activities and people at Bath-Brunswick Respite Care. The collage includes images of people socializing, participating in arts and crafts, gardening, and playing music. A central banner reads "Bath-Brunswick Respite Care" and "Caregiver Support".

Bath-Brunswick Respite Care

Caregiver Support



Join us at
9 Park Street in Bath



CAREGIVER CONNECT

EDUCATIONAL SERIES

Tuesday, May 6th @ 4:15 PM: Contingency Planning

If something happened to you, what would happen to the person you care for? Join Amy Berube for an insightful discussion on contingency planning. She'll cover key strategies for maintaining continuity of care, navigating legal and financial matters, and helping families find peace of mind during uncertain times.

Thursday, June 5th @ 4:15 PM: Maynard Law Offices – Round 2!

We're thrilled to welcome elder law attorney Michelle Maynard back after her hugely popular first session, which drew nearly 40 attendees! This follow-up talk will take a deeper dive into specific elder law topics, offering valuable guidance for families planning for the future.

Wednesday, September 4th: Comfortably Home

Comfortably Home is a program through Bath Housing and serves those in Sagadahoc County and Brunswick. From replacing light bulbs to installing grab bars and improving stair safety, come learn about the many free resources they offer to keep older adults and people with disabilities independent at home.

BATH-BRUNSWICK

RESPITE CARE



ADULT DAY SERVICES FOR THE MIDCOAST AREA



www.respite-care.org





Caregiver Support Groups

Do you help care for someone with Alzheimer's or dementia?

Do you need a place to process, learn, and connect?

1st and 3rd
Monday of the
month

Online via Zoom

10am-
11:30am

2nd and 4th
Thursday of the
month

Bath Senior
Center

9:30am-
10:30am

Contact Bath-Brunswick Respite Care at
info@respite-care.org or (207) 729-8571 for more information

BATH-BRUNSWICK

RESPITE CARE

ADULT DAY SERVICES FOR THE MIDCOAST AREA



**ALZHEIMER'S
ASSOCIATION**



Community Cafe

EVERY WEDNESDAY @9AM
AT REVERIE COFFEE SHOP
9 PARK STREET IN BATH

LONG MAINE WINTERS
CAN BE ISOLATING.

THIS SEASON,
JOIN NEIGHBORS
FOR A STANDING
COFFEE DATE!



BATH-BRUNSWICK

RESPITE CARE

ADULT DAY SERVICES FOR THE MIDCOAST AREA



Community in Color

ART SHOW & ONLINE AUCTION

MAY 3, 2025 | 2:00-5:00 PM

BATH-BRUNSWICK RESPITE CARE

9 PARK STREET | BATH

Art has a unique power to connect, especially for those with dementia. It provides a way to express emotions and memories when words are difficult, using color to communicate in a universal language. Even as dementia affects cognition, art offers creativity and emotional expression, helping individuals connect with themselves and others. Join us to celebrate the power of art and the accomplishments of our community.



207-729-8571



info@respite-care.org



ONLINE
AUCTION

We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit

