



## **2020 S.W. Collins Co. Grant Program Recipients 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter**

### **FORT KENT**

#### **Girl Scout Troops of the Emerald Service Unit**

The Emerald Service Unit is an organization of Girl Scout troops throughout the St. John Valley. We have Troops from Eagle Lake to Madawaska. There are currently 95 girls grades K-12 spread throughout 10 different troops in this service unit. The Girl Scout program teaches GIRLS to be Go-getters, Innovators, Risk-takers, and Leaders. Girl Scouts spend their time being good citizens, learning new skills, helping the earth, camping, and serving in their community. Our troops do many activities throughout the year, including ice-skating, hiking, visiting pet shelters, learning to repair cars, collecting for the food pantry, visiting local businesses to learn how they work, and taking trips to museums.

#### **Fish River Rural Health Food Shelf**

Fish River Rural Health (FRRH), a Federally Qualified Health Center, serves the rural communities of the St. John Valley. FRRH's Food Shelf project is to improve patient overall health by assisting patients to achieve better health outcomes, helping to reduce the total cost of care by keeping them healthy, and avoiding a potential adverse health event. FRRH's patient-community centric approach is to develop healthier lifestyle choices, nutrition and physical activity, and make modifications as the individual progresses with a wellness plan.

#### **Angel Fest Event**

Angel Fest is held at the Lakeview Restaurant in St. Agatha, ME. We are currently in our 7<sup>th</sup> year. We raise money for Edgar J. Paradis Cancer Fund, PALS & Angel Flight NE. All money raised is distributed to these fine organizations. We have a snowshoe/walking trail, a poker run, music and dancing. Ice skating and sledding for the kids and dog sled rides.

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### **CARIBOU**

#### **Nylander Museum**

The Nylander Museum of Natural History provides numerous events throughout the year that bring educational and fun activities that include theme week such as Bugging You, Dino Days and Earth Week. These activities take place at the museum to make learning interesting and fun for people of all ages. Opportunities make visitors aware of the environment in which we live.

#### **Aroostook Retired & Senior Volunteer Program**

Aroostook RSVP is a part of the Aroostook Agency on Aging. Our mission is to provide rewarding volunteer opportunities that help meet community needs. We currently have over 500 volunteers all over Aroostook County. Our volunteers help in most of the county food pantries, deliver meals-on-wheels, and help/visit homebound folks through our Friendly Visitor program. They knit hats, socks and mittens for school kids and others in need, and coach wellness/exercise classes such as Bone Builders, Tai Chi, A Matter of Balance, Healthy Living for ME, and others in numerous locations throughout the county.

#### **MSAD #45 Elementary School Playground Equipment**

Washburn/Wade/Perham - Our elementary school was built in 1990 and the same playground equipment is still there. The PTO along with a group of parents have formed a group that tried to "repair" the old set so the kids could at least have something to play on, but there are still many parts of this equipment that has had to be labeled as unsafe.

Anything that we have looked at could be anywhere between \$10,000 to \$15,000 which is way beyond our reach. We would just like to get this playground updated for the children at this school. This grant would be a wonderful way to help our community.

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**PRESQUE ISLE**

**Basket of Blessing Food Pantry Fort Fairfield**

After the Friends Helping Friends pantry closed in June, members of the United Parish Church got together to talk about how we could start a food pantry of our own to serve. Since then the Basket of Blessings Food Pantry, has served numerous families and individuals in Fort Fairfield, since the beginning of November. We want people to feel welcome to come. It doesn't matter what their income is, we don't want income to be a barrier if they really have a need for food. The pantry accepts nonperishable food donations such as canned and packaged soup, fruits, vegetables, pasta and rice as well as coats, mittens, gloves and other winter clothing items. Our goal is to make sure no person goes without food.

**Presque Isle Youth Hockey**

Presque Isle Youth Hockey (PIYH) is a local non-profit organization established to teach hockey, mentor children, and help build good citizens through hockey. What was once a small group of about 35 skaters has grown to around 135 to 150 skaters with most of the growth coming in the last 10 to 15 years. The organization is all run by volunteers mostly parents of the children involved. With the growth of PIYH has come space issues for kids to get ready. For the last 15 years there has been two trailers that are brought into the forum for the kids to change in, but the trailers are small and now 30 years old. With these two issues facing PIYH the organization has been working with the Forum to come up with a plan to add two new locker rooms.

**Nan's Closet**

Helping individuals and families in time of trouble or crisis to meet their basic needs. Nan's Closet collects household items and distributes them in time of need. In most cases, delivering the items to the individuals and families. In addition, helping children participate in activities and interests that they wouldn't otherwise be able to access. Locations in Presque Isle and Houlton. Giving and sharing in memory of Patricia Foster.

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### **HOULTON**

#### **Putnam House**

The Putnam House on Court Street is a center for senior citizens where they can spend the day socializing, playing cards, eating lunch, learning to knit or listening to music. Since becoming incorporated in January of 2017, they have acquired a building, done a complete renovation and continue to improve the physical structure. They are currently in need of a handicap ramp to the back door as many struggle with the steps.

#### **Eddie's Cupboard**

Eddie's Cupboard is a free food pantry program for students at Houlton Middle/High School in grades 6-12. Every Tuesday and Thursday throughout the school year, students are eligible to receive a food gift bag. Each bag contains at least one prepared meal, a fruit, a vegetable, a homemade treat, nutritious snack, and many extras, such as breakfast foods, canned and boxed dinners, sandwiches, and salads. Every student that attends Houlton Middle/High School is eligible to receive a bag, regardless of family income status.

#### **Madelyn's Room**

Madelyn's Room is located at the Houlton Parks & Recreation Department's Gentile Memorial Building. The Department is currently fundraising to update the downstairs lounge, "Madelyn's Room". This room has been painted over the years but it is now time to give it a good update. The space is used as a popular multipurpose room which has a mini kitchen and hosts our Sr. Citizen's Town & Country Group, rug-hookers group, girl & boy scout groups, birthday parties, martial art classes, bridal/baby showers, playgroups, just to mention a few. We would love to offer more to the community such as a mothers/fathers & children gathering area, arts & crafts, and other programs as needed.

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### **LINCOLN**

#### **Silent Sidekicks**

In 2012, Silent Sidekicks became Maine's first nonprofit organization to provide animal-assisted therapy, activities and educational programs. Through our network of trained therapy animal teams, Silent Sidekicks creates special moments that change lives. Silent Sidekicks utilizes the human-animal bond to enrich the lives of people throughout our communities. We are proud to say that in 2018, we served over 4,300 clients from Fort Kent to Saco, ME and many points in between. In just over seven years, we have grown from just one volunteer team to having over 50 volunteers (human and animal) helping in all aspects of the organization to help better the lives of people in Maine.

#### **Mattanawcook Academy Performing Arts**

We are a high school music/theater department that performs two concerts, two talent shows, a play and a musical annually. The sound equipment we have is very old and unreliable and affects the quality of our performances. The kids work very hard and are very dedicated. It is very unfortunate to have the sound system lessen the end result.

#### **Penquis C.A.P., Inc. Safe Homes for Young Children**

Penquis is a nonprofit organization incorporated in 1967 to alleviate and eliminate the causes and conditions of poverty. Families served by Penquis Child Development programs often lack smoke and/or carbon monoxide detectors for their homes and/or batteries for the detectors. Penquis would use funding to provide these life-saving items to families who reside in Lincoln, Mattawamkeag, Chester, Burlington and Lowell and are enrolled in Penquis Child Development Programs.

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