



neighbor to neighbor

News from Freeport Community Services



SPRING 2019

Celebrating our FCS heroes: The FCS Volunteer Luncheon.

Annually, in conjunction with National Volunteer Appreciation month, FCS holds our own celebration, inviting the most caring people you can hope to find: our own splendid volunteers! This year's appreciation event was held on Friday, April 26, recognizing Freeport Community Services' 45th anniversary, honoring the legacy of our founding mothers, many of whom continue to volunteer in a variety of significant ways, helping side-by-side with our current force of over 600 incredible helpers. The vision has remained the same from one generation of volunteers to another: improving lives and filling needs. Sharing their unique gifts with local families, our volunteers ARE FCS! How fun it was to celebrate their efforts and their success.



The FCS Volunteer Luncheon is our way to say thank you to our volunteers.

As is very typical of this generous community, local businesses showed their support by donating food and goods to celebrate our volunteers. For the second year, Antonia's Pizzeria



Therapy duck Snowflake wants lunch too.

treated volunteers with a delicious luncheon – and once again, employees of Kohl's and Old Navy volunteered their time to serve our honored guests. Goodie bags full of treats, gifted by our retail friends – and a raffle of multiple fun surprises – added excitement to the festivities.

The well-kept secret of our very special guests of honor was a surprise for volunteers, indeed! Introduced with a CBS Sunday Morning story about 8-year-old Kylie Brown and her faithful duck Snowflake, and they were an absolute delight to everyone. They learned that young Kylie and therapy-duck Snowflake are also volunteers,

visiting residents in local nursing homes. Kylie has the heart of a seasoned volunteer and Snowflake is a show stopper. The duo walked up and down the aisles, greeting guests and

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Mission Statement

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

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Greetings,

Looking back and moving forward

This year we celebrate the 45th year of FCS in our community. This is the result of the ongoing vision, passion and support of countless people from our community. FCS would not be here today had it not been for the countless efforts of so many people who gave their resources of time, ideas, talents and money to bring the vision to life.

It all started in the early 70's and with each passing year our work continues to expand. We are eternally grateful to many local businesses, organizations, individual benefactors and patrons, who have shown us their generous and continued financial support! We couldn't do what we do without our many volunteers who have so unselfishly give the priceless gifts of their time and care right from the very start.

FCS was incorporated in 1974, the same year that 55 MPH become the national speed limit. Work began on the 800-mile Alaska Oil pipeline. The average monthly rent was \$185.00, and the average cost of a new house was \$35,900. A half-gallon of milk was 59 cents. The price of gas was 55 cents a gallon. Hank Aaron hit his 715th home run to become baseball's all-time leader. Stephen King published his debut novel "Carrie" in April of 1974.

A lot of things have changed in 45 years. But after all this time, some things have remained the same. FCS is thriving after 45 years of hard work and lots of dedication by everyone involved. Whenever you visit FCS or attend a special event or give financial support, you become a cherished part of our sparkling history.

As partners in our ongoing success story of "neighbor helping neighbor" you help to assure our future. Remember, this is YOUR community center: what we do could not happen without your participation! As FCS enthusiastically enters the next 45 years of "neighbor helping neighbor," we look forward to expanding our partnerships with our longtime supporters, patrons, friends, as well as welcoming new ones.

Thank you for all you have done to build our past, what you are doing now to help us sustain our present, and with your help, what we will do to create our bright future for the next 45 years!

Paula
Executive Director



Gearing up for spring and summer programs



The free summer lunch program.

As the seasons change from winter to spring, and eventually spring to summer, many of our programs change as well. We are gearing up for some fun summertime offerings here at FCS and we hope you may find one that sparks your interest!

Many children within our community have benefited

from both our Free Summer Lunch Program and our Camp Scholarship Program. Our Free Summer Lunch Program provides lunches to any child who attends one of our open sites. Lunches will be served every weekday from June 24th until August 23rd, (except July 4th.) You can find our yummy and healthy lunches at our three open sites; FCS, the community room at Village View, and the playground at Wildwood Acres. Enrichment activities will be offered at these sites throughout the summer so don't miss out!

With our Camp Scholarship Program, we help close to 80 children each summer attend summer camp, or camps, of their choice. This is such a fun resource for children in our community to have an amazing summer camp experience from learning how to fish, to horseback riding, perfecting their musical instrument, playing their favorite sport, or even learning blacksmith skills. Please get in touch with Sarah at ext. 205 for more information.

We are so excited to get our hands in the dirt and open our Community Gardens for the season! We have many well-maintained garden plots available for rent this summer, but they sure do go fast so do not wait. We are hopeful to partner again this year with Goodwill Industries and their AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associate program to have up to four Associates helping with



The FCS Community Gardens

all things summer here at FCS. Please stay tuned for more information on the opportunities these positions will offer folks in our community who are looking for a fun way to give back and earn some money this summer!

ELAINE
WYMAN



volunteer spotlight

Delightful, enthusiastic, conscientious, devoted, cheerful, kind and caring are only a few of a long list of positive, descriptive words that define Elaine. A thrift shop and special projects volunteer, Elaine has been an extraordinary helper for the last 23 years, and counting.

Uniquely, Elaine recalls the interesting history of the evolution of the thrift shop. Her volunteer roots for FCS began at the early 53 Depot address, when the shop was in the front room of the first of our three Mallett houses. Elaine helped with sales then, as she does today. On Mondays, from 1:00 – 4:00, she manned an old "muffin tin" cash register at a small desk in the one-room store. "There were days when we barely had any customers, she reminisced, and we were excited when we made \$100 - \$200 a day." "We sold things like half bottles of shampoo; lots of things that people would use then, but we could never sell today." "The clothing donations were dated and then hung up. If they didn't sell within a set amount of time, they would go on sale."

Back in Elaine's initial years with FCS, she shared the scheduling duties of the shop's volunteers with Liz Bailey – and to this day, as she has become the volunteer coordinator's right hand superwoman, she still enjoys calling, scheduling and chatting with the devoted volunteers in today's thrift shop. They all know Elaine and adore her.

Elaine came to us following retirement from L.L. Bean where she worked tirelessly as a secretary and then supervisor of corporate sales. She's been sharing those fantastic talents with FCS ever since and we are grateful for volunteers like Elaine.



thrift shop update

First, we would like to thank our faithful customers for all your support this year. This has been a transition year, with staff changes and an updated look. We appreciate your loyalty and patience. Our little shop would not be such a success without you. The proceeds from each of your purchases, supports 35-40% of FCS's annual operating budget.

Our shop has gone through a spring make-over. We have been the fortunate recipient of a donation of new shelving and wall units. A special thanks to Patagonia and their philosophy of "causing no unnecessary harm and the use of business to inspire and implement solutions to the environmental crisis", for thinking of us. Our store has a new clean look and is more accessible.

We are also working to bring different customers to our shop. With that in mind, we'll be participating in Visit Freeport's "Girlfriend Getaway" weekend in June. On June 22nd, we'll be hosting our "Bauble's & Brunch" event which will feature our always popular jewelry and handbag sale with brunch in a "Breakfast at Tiffany's" inspired ambiance. It's going to be great fun.

As you know, the resale industry is a booming industry. People have learned to be wise consumers. Our shop's varied and ever-changing selection allows our customers to show their unique style, at affordable prices. There is something for everyone, because inventory changes daily. The shoppers who find the best things are those who stop in often to what's new. Once again, we look forward to seeing you regularly and often!



Another successful White Nights event

Our Annual White Nights on February 28th at the Hilton Garden Inn in Freeport was a huge success! Last year's decision for a change in venue, theme, and day of the week was well received and this year's event continued to re-energize our biggest annual fundraiser. As always, White Nights is always a true community experience as many past and present FCS friends came to support us and celebrate with us.



Cindy Doolan and Benjamin Leahy. (Photos by Matt Andreasen)

We had approximately 180 people in attendance at the event including 62 (124 individuals) Host Committee members. We had an increase in Business Sponsors this year and many attended the event (see back page for this year's FCS business sponsors). Approximately 150 donors supported the gala by donating items such as camps/cottages, stays, paintings, tickets, gift certificates and more for the live, silent and online auctions.

Our auctioneer, again this year was John Bottero of Thomaston Auction Galleries who provided the expertise in encouraging everyone to bid "bid high, bid often" all for a good cause. White Nights raised nearly \$45,000 this year including over \$14,000 in the pledge rounds supporting FCS kids' programs such as Camp Scholarships and the Backpack Program.

Huge thanks to Event Chair, Cindy Doolan for working with everyone to create this year's theme "Cruise for a Cause." Cindy oversaw the theme, décor and worked very diligently and creatively on unique, one of a kind auction items for the live auction. Pat Palmer and Pat Robles supported the Auction sub-committee and Board and kept the groups moving along to secure as many items as possible. Evidenced by the number of items gathered, they were successful. Meghan Palmer worked with a small, but efficient team to define and stage the theme on site.

This event continues to be truly reflective of FCS' philosophy of "Neighbor Helping Neighbor" and the all-around support from attendees, donors and sponsors speaks for itself. We are looking forward to next year's event with another exciting theme. See you then!



Freeze Out celebrates 15 years

The 15th Annual Freeze Out event was held throughout Freeport on Saturday, Feb 16th. FCS staff, board members and volunteers were outside in downtown Freeport for 8 hours, raising awareness of the poverty and hunger here in Maine, and in our communities, especially after the holiday season has passed. Volunteers, businesses and organizations collected non-perishable food and personal care items, as well as financial gifts, during this event.

Donation boxes were also placed at a variety of businesses and organizations. Proceeds support vital programs for Freeport and Pownal residents, such as the food pantry, fuel assistance, and emergency services.

The FCS Food Pantry shelves are stocked through the generous donations of local grocery stores, natural & specialty food stores, farms, businesses, community organizations, civic groups, and individuals, along with various fundraisers. The food pantry serves almost 197 Freeport and Pownal households every month or approximately 420 individuals. Freeze Out helps support this need.

Volunteers were at the First Parish Church Congregational in Freeport and in locations throughout downtown Freeport including Bow Street Market. From 9am-2pm, volunteers were at Shaw's Supermarket in Freeport for our "Stuff the Bus" event supported by Shaw's Supermarket and the Freeport Rotary. And, Royal River Natural Foods enthusiastically joined in this year as a new location. We are grateful for the continued support of our local grocers, as well as the community at large.

We continued our recent addition to Freeze Out with business and organization teams who were "Freezin' for a Reason" and for some a part of their community give back and/or team building goals and a little friendly competition at the same time. Along with the Freeport Rotary, Bath Savings Institution and the Freeport Library, to name a few. New teams such as Freeport Veterinary Clinic joined in. They had fun and their support was appreciated.

Thanks go out to Karla Seaman who chaired the event again this year. Arlene Arris, Police Chief Sue Nourse Department and Val Nielsen were on the planning team along with staff Nancy Trottier, Debbie Daggett and Sarah Lundin. "We are small, but mighty" as Karla says about the committee, and reflects the energy and enthusiasm for continuing the support for this important fundraiser. As a result, Freeze Out raised over \$3,000 in monetary donations got our Fuel Assistance Program and 5,600 pounds of food/product for our Pantry. We look forward to adding new features to Freeze Out for next year.



What FCS means to me

“FCS also is one place that immediately puts a smile on my face. I walk in, feel a sense of community, see a well-organized thrift shop, see inviting people, and know this is a center of goodness in the world, and here it is, right smack dab in the middle of our own community.”

– FCS Board Member

“Eric and his wife are so nice to me. They give me rides, delivered flowers and food to me when I was sick, they tell me to call whenever I need a ride to a doctor's appointment. They are just so wonderful! I don't know what I would do without them. They are so willing to help; they make me feel happy, even when I am hurt or sick.”

– Transportation Recipient

“FCS is the heart and soul of our community. Some of my fondest memories volunteering at FCS were working in the old Clothes Tree. One day, I outfitted a young man in a suit and overcoat for his first job interview. I think the price tag was \$12.00 but the smile on his face was priceless!”

– FCS Board Member

“You get to know them and enjoy seeing them every time they come in. They join our conversations, and that is always interesting. Volunteering in the shop helps me to feel the pulse of the community - and I appreciate that.”

– New Thrift Shop Volunteer

our volunteers by the numbers

our volunteers make it possible!

The time and effort that our volunteers contribute to make our programs happen are just amazing to us! Our volunteers are among the best representation of "Neighbor Helping Neighbor." 45 years later, we are still helping our communities thanks to their support.

Thrift Shop: **10,559 hours**

Food Pantry: **10,772 hours**

Board of Directors/Fundraising/ Events: **2,400 hours**

Holiday Support: **543 hours**

Transportation: **2,444 hours**

Special Events: **2,865 hours**

Youth Programs: **992 hours**

Community Services and Life Skills: **2,367 hours**

Friday Free Lunch: **370 hours**

BackPack Program: **446 hours**

Community Day: **126 hours**

Freeze Out: **124 hours**

Chowdah Challenge: **239 hours**

2018 at a glance

Total Volunteer Hours: **34,255**

Total Dollar Value: **\$771,754**

How you can help

The gifts of money, time, food, clothing and many acts of kindness that come from individuals and businesses in Freeport and Pownal helps us meet our mission to provide services to our neighbors.

Monetary Donations

Make a donation online via PayPal:

fcsmaine.org/how-to-help/donations

Or by mail: **Freeport Community Services, PO Box 119, Freeport Maine, 04032**

Via Amazon

Are you an online shopper? Shop via Amazon Smile and they will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to FCS. Go to: smile.amazon.com.

Thrift Shop

Drop off donations at FCS Monday to Friday 9 am - 5 pm, and Saturday 9 am to 4 pm.

Contact **Marian Desrosiers at 865-3985 x 216**. Or go to: fcsmaine.org/what-we-do/thriftshop for a list of accepted items.

Volunteer

The volunteer opportunities are endless here at FCS! Contact **Debbie Daggett at 865-3985 x 206**, or at ddaggett@fcsmaine.org. Visit our volunteer page and download the application at fcsmaine.org/how-to-help/volunteer.

Bottles

Returnables donated to FCS provide up to \$15,000 of annual income. Drop off your returnables at one of two locations: in **South Freeport by the "silver bullets"**, or in town by the **Public Safety Building**.

Hannaford Clynk

If you do your shopping and return your bottles to Hannaford, **pick up some Clynk bags at FCS** and your returnables can become cash for FCS.

"Luncheon" continued from pg. 1

posing for pictures, making their way to a podium in the front of the room where Kylie and Snowflake were given the microphone. Kylie's family joined them and the 100+ plus volunteers for a delicious lunch, cake and ice cream dessert and remarks of gratitude in celebration of everyone in the room. "I've been to every volunteer luncheon so far – and this one is my favorite. Kylie and Snowflake made my day," said a long-time volunteer.

FCS is blessed all year long with our volunteers' kindness and assistance. We hope they know how much they are loved.

*Note: To see the news clip of Kylie and Snowflake, search for CBS Sunday Morning: Mothering a Duck.

FCS becomes host site for AmeriCorps Member

Last year, FCS was notified that we were approved to become a host site for an AmeriCorps VISTA member through Goodwill Industries of Northern New England. AmeriCorps VISTA is Volunteers In Service To America and is a founding program of AmeriCorps. VISTAs are placed across the country to help local organizations increase their capacity to fight poverty in their local community.



Tegan Barber, AmeriCorps VISTA Outreach Coordinator

In the next year, FCS will be taking a leadership role in developing age-friendly initiatives to make our communities more livable for all ages. A livable community is one that enables citizens to thrive across their lifespans. Becoming age-friendly means creating a community that is vibrant, welcoming, and safe for residents of all ages and abilities.

We are pleased to announce that Tegan Barber joined FCS as a Goodwill AmeriCorps VISTA Outreach Coordinator in January. Tegan's role will be to work with FCS and the community to help develop age-friendly initiatives. A native to Freeport, Maine, Tegan Barber was influenced at a young age by the poised, hard-working, and genuine nature of the Freeport community. At age ten, Tegan spent 25 years in Tennessee where she gained a lot of life experience, education, marriage, and started a family. She relocated back to Freeport with her family in 2017 and is excited to help Freeport and Pownal become a more livable community.

"I am thrilled to be working with FCS by bringing a diverse group together in order to build an age-friendly community for Freeport and Pownal" states Barber. Paula Paladino, Executive Director states "there are tremendous opportunities for positive change in our community. We are fortunate to have Tegan help lead this important initiative and we are looking forward to identifying resources, gaps, and opportunities to make our community more livable for everyone."

Please stop in to introduce yourself to Tegan. She looks forward to working with all the partners in the community and meeting everyone.

save the date!

Upcoming Activities

- Every month** 3rd Friday Free Lunch (unless noted)
- 05/24** Fourth Friday Just Desserts
- 05/25** Thrift Shop Patio/Porch Furniture yard Sale
- 06/19** Community Night
- 06/22** Thrift Shop "Baubles & Brunch" event
- 06/24** Summer Lunch Program begins
- 07/04** 4th of July parade
- 08/16** Annual Community Day and Thrift Shop Sale (Rain Date 8/23)
- 10/05** Chowdah Challenge
- 10/28** FCS Annual Meeting



How would you like to receive your newsletter?

We want you to stay up to date with FCS. How would you like to receive future newsletters?

Kindly select one - and please print:

Email it to me at _____
Email address

Mail it to me at: _____
Name Street or PO Box Town State Zip

You may email the information to: Kim Hudak: khudak@fcsmaine.org or call: 865-3985 x202

Or mail to: Freeport Community Services, PO Box 119, Freeport, ME 04032



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Volunteer Coordinator Ext. 206

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