



Bill Kuykendall | Maine Sea Coast Mission

Children in EdGE engage in outdoor and team building activities

## **HAROLD ALFOND® FOUNDATION SUPPORTS DOWNEAST CHILDREN WITH \$1 MILLION GIFT**

Bar Harbor, Maine – Children in Downeast Maine from Gouldsboro to Machias will continue to benefit from in-school, after-school, and summer enrichment programs thanks to a \$1 million gift from the Harold Alfond® Foundation. As a part of a challenge from an anonymous foundation, the gift will be matched dollar for dollar, resulting in \$2 million for EdGE.

“This is a wonderful gift to the children of Washington County,” says Scott Planting, President of the Maine Sea Coast Mission. “EdGE offers young people hope for the future and tools for success. We are profoundly grateful to the Harold Alfond Foundation.”

In a region of Maine where about 30 percent of children live in poverty and have few structured enrichment opportunities, the Maine Sea Coast Mission’s innovative EdGE program has been filling a critical need since 2002 with in-school, after school, and summer programs. EdGE is specifically designed to encourage youth to stay engaged in school, aspire toward and attain higher levels of achievement, and develop personal skills that enable them to achieve success in school and beyond. Currently, EdGE serves over 700 children in 17 communities throughout Washington County.

“The Harold Alfond Foundation is committed to expanding opportunities for Maine’s youth,” says Greg Powell, Chairman of the Foundation. “We felt this was an excellent opportunity to support an effective and innovative program.”

This grant is made in honor of Ed Greaves for his leadership on behalf of children and families in Washington County, and in honor of the Barr Foundation for its support of the EdGE Program.

The Harold Alfond® Foundation, based in Portland, Maine, furthers the legacy of Harold Alfond by investing in education, healthcare, youth development, and other philanthropic charitable causes that hold the promise of making enduring transformative contributions to the community and the state of Maine.

The Maine Sea Coast Mission provides outreach services, health, and youth development programs in coastal and island communities from mid-coast to Downeast Maine.