

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of stylized sailboats in a light olive green color. Each sailboat is depicted with a single triangular sail and a simple hull, arranged in a grid-like fashion across the entire surface.

2015 Annual Report



The **Recompense** Fund

Sustaining Chebeague with Philanthropy Since 1992

“The Recompense Fund helped twenty eager children receive violins and music lessons at school. We became good enough to perform for Governor Angus King at the State House in Augusta. The joy that music has brought me can never be quantified. Thank you.”

— Caroline Summa, *Chebeague Island School graduate*

FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A VERY GOOD YEAR

2015 has been the best one ever for The Recompense Fund based on grants made and impact on the community. **We ended the year with a total of \$270,000 of grants awarded since our inception in 1992.**

In late 2014, we launched our first-ever fundraising outreach, and it proved a resounding success. A generous response from the Chebeague community raised \$23,000 from over 200 individuals. Importantly, as evidence of broad-based support, 70% of donations were in amounts of \$100 or less.

Our endowment fund, ably managed by The Maine Community Foundation, is also having a good year. As our principal grows over time, this increases our future grant making capacity.

This year we awarded \$20,000 to local nonprofits, as shown on page 3. \$15,000 came from current assets, and \$5,000 was contributed to grant applicants by Board members. We were able to invest in the future by adding \$8,000 to our endowment.

We welcomed Laura Summa and Kim Hamilton to our Board. Laura's community leadership at the School, The Rec, and Chedemption brings us a wealth of experience. Kim brings enormous depth from her tenure as a senior executive at The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

As part of our mission to serve the Chebeague community, this summer we rolled up our sleeves at Chedemption, and contributed our profit share from recycling to other island nonprofits.

We began to offer *pro bono* consulting services by our talented Board, helping island nonprofits turn their dreams into reality. We are offering aid with grant writing, fundraising, management, financial planning, and other operational and strategic support.

— Leila Bisharat, Betts Mayer, Eldon Mayer, and Jim Van Fleet

Our Mission

We are committed to supporting and sustaining the community of Chebeague Island, improving the lives of island residents, strengthening local charitable organizations, and providing financial leadership that responds to community needs.

Each of these interactive elements of our mission is important. The conduit for our philanthropy is Chebeague's network of nonprofit organizations. They play a vital role in sustaining the quality of life of our community. In fact, our nonprofits manage community activities that are handled by government in many other municipalities.

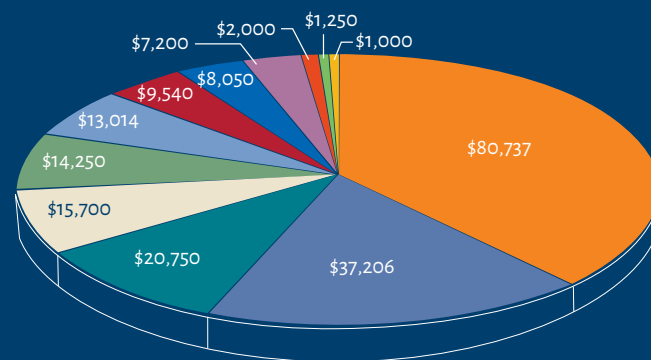
Take as examples our Recreation Center and Library. Chebeague felt the need for these facilities, so Chebeaguers took the bull by the horns and soon we had two beautiful facilities for everyone's enjoyment. The Recompense Fund led the way in both instances with large kick-start capital grants.

Recompense has transformed itself in recent years, as evidenced by this first-ever Annual Report. How are we different from the Recompense of old?

- * We were once a well-kept secret. We didn't invite grant applications, nor publicize our presence.
- * In our early days we did things like planting roadside flowers - Board members and their families went out with gardening tools and planted seeds. Not a single 501(c)3 or landscaping company was involved. Our mission has evolved over time into sustainable, long-term works of philanthropy.
- * For many years we were entirely funded by a single donor. Today we follow the United Way model, and hundreds of Chebeaguers support us. As a result we now have much greater grant making capacity and buy-in from the community.
- * We have built a stellar Board with considerable philanthropic experience.
- * Finally, and importantly, we are engaging directly with our nonprofit partners, and working side-by-side with shared missions for Chebeague's benefit.

We believe that strong nonprofits make for a thriving, sustainable island community. We are committed to doing all we can to make Chebeague a better place for all by strengthening our island's charitable organizations.

TOTAL GIFTS TO CHEBEAGUE NON-PROFITS



Chebeague Recreation Center	\$80,737.00
Island Commons Resource Center	\$37,206.00
Chebeague Island Library	\$20,750.00
Chebeague Island Historical Society	\$15,700.00
Chebeague Island Council	\$14,250.00
Chebeague Island School	\$13,014.00
Chebeague Parents Association	\$9,540.00
Chebeague Island Hall Community Center	\$8,050.00
Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust	\$7,200.00
Chebeague Island Yacht Club	\$2,000.00
Chebeague Island Community Association	\$1,250.00
Stephen Ross Scholarship Fund	\$1,000.00

RECENT GIFTS

2014

Island Commons	\$2,100
Island Hall	\$1,050
Island School	\$300
Kids' Place	\$3,050
SustainME Conference	\$1,500
Total	\$8,000

2013

Island Commons	\$1,500
Recreation Center	\$4,580
Total	\$6,080

2012

Ch. & C. Land Trust	\$2,000
Free Concert Fund	\$100
Historical Society	\$250
Island Commons	\$2,000
Island School	\$650
Miscellaneous	\$80
Total	\$5,080

A full accounting of all past grants is available upon request.

Review of 2014 Grants

THE ISLAND COMMONS

The Commons sought financial assistance for its kitchen and dining room renovation project. Integral to its ability to care for and feed its assisted-living residents, this operational support was approved and we awarded them \$2,100 for the purchase of a much needed new commercial refrigerator.

THE HALL

The Hall was beginning a fund drive to undertake significant repairs. We awarded them \$1,050, with the thought that we might be able to do more if needed. They were successful in raising the balance, so we were not called upon to provide additional funding.

THE CHEBEAGUE ISLAND SCHOOL

The School requested, and we provided, \$300 to take the children to Eagle Island to tour Admiral Peary's historic home and observe the birds, animals, and nesting areas along the way.

THE KIDS' PLACE

The Kids' Place needed a study of its long-term financial requirements to help create a plan that would ensure its sustainability. We awarded them \$3,050 for this purpose. We are pleased to observe that this important facility now seems to be on firmer financial footing.

SUSTAIN ME

The SustainME entrepreneurship conference, a joint venture of Chebeague's Community Forum and the Island Institute, requested \$1,500 of funding during its planning stage. We provided this, and the conference was a major success. Attendee feedback was uniformly positive and continues to spark entrepreneurs and leaders on Maine's coastal and island communities.



Review of 2015 Grants

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Chebeague Historical Society requested \$2000 towards their 2016 exhibit, Island Architecture. Preparation for the exhibit will bring in Chebeague's school children to research their own houses and neighborhoods. The Society asked for \$2,000 toward their \$9,000 exhibit budget, and our Board members gladly provided it.

THE LAND TRUST

The Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust has been concerned about damage to delicate dune grass from kayakers' storing their boats at the edge of the wetlands at Rose's Point beach. The Boatyard and The Sailing School collaborated with the Land Trust last summer to utilize the Sailing School's sailboat storage stand to solve this problem. This temporarily did so, as kayakers neatly stored their boats in the stand off the grass. The Land Trust applied for a grant of \$2,200 for a kayak stand that will remain open to boaters for the full season, not just the few weeks of the sailing school. Our Board members funded the request in full.

THE RECREATION CENTER

Chebeague's hundreds of users of the Chebeague Recreation Center's heated fresh water pool were happy to find this summer that the pool had a new water filtration system, producing consistently clean, clear water for their swimming enjoyment. This winter the Rec will be resurfacing the entire pool. As if these needed repairs weren't costly enough, new ceiling lights are badly needed in the gym, and they are expensive. Recompense awarded The Recreation Center the sum of \$15,000 to fund a portion of the cost of these necessary projects.

THE CHEBEAGUE ISLAND SCHOOL

The Chebeague Island School requested \$770 for a trip to the Biodiversity of Maine River Point Conservation Area to learn more about bird migration and tagging and for a trip to the Maine Wildlife Park to study habitat and nature. Our young citizen scientists and their able leader, Beverly Johnson, won enthusiastic approval. This trip has already occurred, and received rave reviews from the children.

THE KIDS' PLACE

"Thanks to the Recompense Fund, The Kids' Place has become a more sustainable, attractive choice for our island's children. Our curriculum is based on exploring nature and our most amazing asset, our island home. The kids are learning, loving it, and preparing for Pre-K."

— Carrie Ridgway, *Director*

THE ISLAND SCHOOL

"Support from the Recompense Fund has helped us give our young citizen scientists opportunities to observe and record nature outside the classroom at special places like Eagle Island and to work with professional naturalists."

— Beverly Johnson,
Chairman, The School Committee

THE LAND TRUST

"Funding from Recompense made it possible for us to build the boardwalk and safe steps to the back shore at the East End. People of all ages now enjoy walking the Gray Path to and from the shore."

— Chris Corbett, *The Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust.*

THE RECREATION CENTER

"Thank you, Jim (Van Fleet) and the Recompense Fund, for solving our pool problems, making it clean and safe this summer. Leila, your advice has helped us manage for the near term while setting attainable goals for the future."

— Sandi Whiston, *President, The Recreation Center*

RECOMPENSE FUND 2014 DONORS

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^{*} In memory of Julio Fonseca



CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

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Justin Doughty
Caitlin Gerber
Kim Hamilton
Beverly Johnson
Betts Mayer
Eldon Mayer
Manny Morgan
Ralph Munroe
Scott Searway
Laura Summa
Jim Van Fleet
Linda White

Gail Miller, *Honorary*

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Jen Belesca
Roy Jackson
Glenn Kersteen
Jon Rich
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Lewis Ross
Joyce Soucek
John Wilson

How To Make A Gift

We always encourage our members to first contribute to their favorite local nonprofit, then to Recompense*. Use the enclosed card and envelope for your check, or mail it in your own envelope to:

The Recompense Fund
P.O. Box 42
Chebeague Island ME 04017

To donate stock or discuss a bequest contact Jen Southard at The Maine Community Foundation, jsouthard@mainecf.org, 207-761-2440, or email Recompense, IslandLife@chebeague.net.

On behalf of The Recompense Fund, island nonprofits and future generations of Chebeaguers, we are grateful for your commitment to a sustainable island community.

* Recompense's philosophy is to consider the interaction and strategies of all of Chebeague's nonprofits, the needs of our community, and the long-term sustainability of each nonprofit and Chebeague Island.

We have also had the good fortune to receive the sage advice and counsel of Mally Cox-Chapman, artistic and website support from Caroline Loder, and technical assistance from John Holt.



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