

The following is a summary of Issues/Programs as presented on WBYA, Islesboro, ME

From November 27-December 15, this station conducted its annual Season of Wishes fundraiser to directly benefit the Make a Wish Foundation of Maine. Make a Wish does important work to grant wishes to children with serious illnesses throughout the state. These wishes provide a sense of hope to children and families dealing with difficult treatment, therapy and often times low emotional periods. Medical professionals often speak of the difference that these wishes make in these children.

This station featured a testimonial story each day from a child or family that has benefitted from Make a Wish, and occasionally from medical field professionals and wish granters.

Each wish has a cash cost of roughly \$7000. This year's campaign raised a total of \$107,847, allowing Make a Wish to grant fifteen wishes to Maine children.

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The following topics/issues were addressed via the weekly "Community Connections" program in the fourth quarter of 2023.

"Community Connections" is a weekly, 30 minute community affairs program spotlighting organizations and individuals in Maine who address issues affecting citizens, work to improve the quality of life in Maine, and deal with human interest topics across many disciplines. Here is a rundown of the program contents for Q4:

Show: Community Connections                      Airdate 10/1/2023                      Airtime: 5:30 am

Guest(s):                      Dan Brennan, Director, Maine Housing

Topic:                      With the onset of heating season around the corner, we chat with Dan Brennan, director of Maine Housing who administers the federal home heating assistance program LIHEAP on a state level. Maine Housing also administers a home weatherization program to help address energy efficiency for qualifying Maine residents. We discuss Maine Housing's first-time homebuyer programs, as well as addressing the current housing crisis and growing homelessness issue in some of Maine's most populous areas, and Maine Housing's role in helping to find solutions to this issue.

Show: Community Connections                      Airdate 10/8/2023                      Airtime: 5:30 am

Guest(s):                      Jessica Sidiero, Director of Development and Communication, The Iris Network  
   Amber White, Certified Rehabilitation Specialist, The Iris Network

Topic: We get to know Portland-based The Iris Network, an organization serving Maine's blind and low-vision population. We discuss programs that help citizens with blindness and low vision with living skills, job skills, and methods to help people in everyday tasks. The Iris Network also manages specialized apartments for eligible visually impaired Maine residents.

Show: Community Connections                      Airdate 10/15/2023      Airtime: 5:30 am

Guest(s):      Jennifer Costa, American Red Cross

Topic: Our guest discusses the recently-declared national blood emergency, the Red Cross' first such declaration in 18 months. Weather events across the nation disrupted regular blood drive events at a time when regular blood donation usually resumes after a summer lull. We also discuss a multi-million dollar improvement project to modernize their Blood Donor Center in Portland, as well as the Red Cross' disaster response efforts, locally and nationally.

Show: Community Connections                      Airdate 10/22/2023      Airtime: 5:30 am

Guest(s):      Dan Brennan, Director, Maine Housing

Topic: With the onset of heating season around the corner, we chat with Dan Brennan, director of Maine Housing who administers the federal home heating assistance program LIHEAP on a state level. Maine Housing also administers a home weatherization program to help address energy efficiency for qualifying Maine residents. We discuss Maine Housing's first-time homebuyer programs, as well as addressing the current housing crisis and growing homelessness issue in some of Maine's most populous areas, and Maine Housing's role in helping to find solutions to this issue.

Show: Community Connections                      Airdate 10/29/2023      Airtime: 5:30 am

Guest(s):      Jessica Sidiero, Director of Development and Communication, The Iris Network  
Amber White, Certified Rehabilitation Specialist, The Iris Network

Topic: We get to know Portland-based The Iris Network, an organization serving Maine's blind and low-vision population. We discuss programs that help citizens with blindness and low vision with living skills, job skills, and methods to help people in everyday tasks. The Iris Network also manages specialized apartments for eligible visually impaired Maine residents.

Show: Community Connections                      Airdate 11/5/2023      Airtime: 5:30 am

Guest(s):      Jennifer Costa, American Red Cross



Guest(s): Dan Brennan, Director, Maine Housing

Topic: With the onset of heating season around the corner, we chat with Dan Brennan, director of Maine Housing who administers the federal home heating assistance program LIHEAP on a state level. Maine Housing also administers a home weatherization program to help address energy efficiency for qualifying Maine residents. We discuss Maine Housing's first-time homebuyer programs, as well as addressing the current housing crisis and growing homelessness issue in some of Maine's most populous areas, and Maine Housing's role in helping to find solutions to this issue.

Show: Community Connections                      Airdate 12/10/2023      Airtime: 5:30 am

Guest(s): Sharon Fusco, CEO, Maine Veterans Homes

Topic: Maine's Veterans Homes are key factors in the treatment of Maine's veteran population. With six locations across the state, Maine's Veterans homes offer living situations and nursing home care for those who served in our state. We discuss the various programs offered to residents, how the homes are funded, and some of the funding and staffing challenges faced. We also discuss the unique small-home setup of the Augusta branch of MVH.

Show: Community Connections                      Airdate 12/17/2023      Airtime: 5:30 am

Guest(s): Dan Brennan, Director, Maine Housing

Topic: With the onset of heating season around the corner, we chat with Dan Brennan, director of Maine Housing who administers the federal home heating assistance program LIHEAP on a state level. Maine Housing also administers a home weatherization program to help address energy efficiency for qualifying Maine residents. We discuss Maine Housing's first-time homebuyer programs, as well as addressing the current housing crisis and growing homelessness issue in some of Maine's most populous areas, and Maine Housing's role in helping to find solutions to this issue.

Show: Community Connections                      Airdate 12/24/2023      Airtime: 5:30 am

Guest(s): Sharon Fusco, CEO, Maine Veterans Homes

Topic: Maine's Veterans Homes are key factors in the treatment of Maine's veteran population. With six locations across the state, Maine's Veterans homes offer living situations and nursing home care for those who served in our state. We discuss the various programs offered to residents, how the homes are funded, and some of the funding and staffing challenges faced. We also discuss the unique small-home setup of the Augusta branch of MVH.

Show: Community Connections

Airdate 12/31/2023    Airtime: 5:30 am

Guest(s):     Dan Brennan, Director, Maine Housing

Topic:         With the onset of heating season around the corner, we chat with Dan Brennan, director of Maine Housing who administers the federal home heating assistance program LIHEAP on a state level. Maine Housing also administers a home weatherization program to help address energy efficiency for qualifying Maine residents. We discuss Maine Housing's first-time homebuyer programs, as well as addressing the current housing crisis and growing homelessness issue in some of Maine's most populous areas, and Maine Housing's role in helping to find solutions to this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Leif Erickson  
Chief Operator