

Project G.R.A.C.E.

a Maine non-profit corporation

Granting Resources & Assistance through Community Effort

2009 Winter Newsletter

P.O. Box 6846, Scarborough, ME 04070-6846 • (207) 883-5111
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PROJECT G.R.A.C.E.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES OUR MAJOR SPONSORS:

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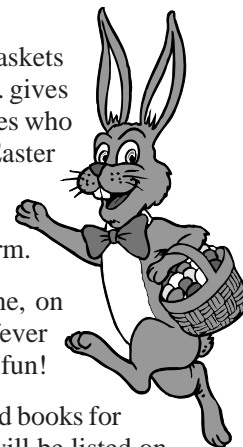
Please contact Project G.R.A.C.E.
about sponsorship opportunities

Time to Hop to It!

Project G.R.A.C.E. celebrates the spring season by distributing Easter baskets to many families and local group homes and agencies. Project G.R.A.C.E. gives Easter dinner baskets and children's Easter baskets to Scarborough families who are experiencing financial difficulty. We will need volunteers to donate Easter dinner baskets, children's Easter baskets and to help organize and assemble baskets. We will be collecting individually wrapped Easter candy and/or snacks. If you would like to help, please fill out the enclosed volunteer form.

Another way to help is to participate in our Easter basket assembly line, on Tuesday, April 7th at 6:30pm at St. Max. We will go into full scale Spring fever mode and assemble hundreds of baskets. All ages are welcome, it's lots of fun!

During this time we also collect items such as puzzles, games, toiletries and books for the students at the Long Creek Youth Development Center. The items will be listed on tags on the Giving Trees that will be up in the Narthex of St. Maximilian on Saturday, March 21st. Simply select a tag and return the item back under the Giving Tree by Sunday, April 6th.



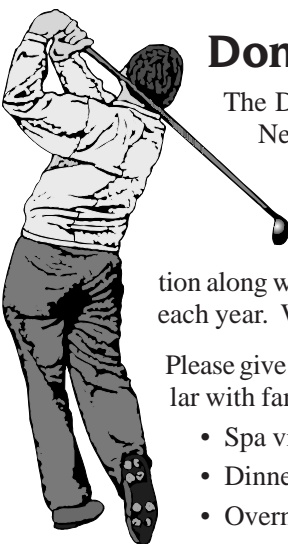
Don Martin Classic • Friday, May 29th

The Don Martin Classic is an annual golf outing held in May at Prouts Neck Golf Course. Project G.R.A.C.E. is fortunate to be one of the beneficiaries of this event. It is, in fact, our largest fundraiser, raising over \$38,000 in the past 2 years.

Following the tournament, participants and guests enjoy a reception along with a silent and live auction. The popularity of the auction has grown each year. We are always looking for new and fun donations.

Please give thought to finding an interesting auction item particularly those popular with families and women. We have a few ideas to get you thinking!

- Spa visits
- Dinner for 2
- Overnight stay at Hotel or B&B
- Kids Birthday Celebrations
- A week/weekend at your time-share or camp
- Massage or nail gift certificates
- Hand-made jewelry, pottery or clothing
- Experiences, such as a day on the water fishing or on a lobster boat



We hope that the list gives you inspiration. Often a family friend or neighbor owns a business or can provide a service...babysitting, window washing or weeding. Plumber, electrician, or contractors; all would be a welcome addition to the variety of action items. We are very grateful for your help! Don't forget to visit <http://thedonmartinclassic.blogspot.com>

Thank you,

Friends of the Don Martin Classic

NEWS BRIEFS

■ **Bangor Savings Bank Foundation** will give a total of \$100,000 to 68 local non-profit organizations in early March. Project G.R.A.C.E. would like to be one of those non-profits. Please cast your vote for us on line today at www.bangor.com/communitymattersmore or visit our local Scarborough branch for a ballot. Every vote is important. Go to www.projectgracemaine.org for more information.

■ **Angel Food** is a Ministry providing great food at even better prices! For 15 years, it has been providing balanced nutrition and variety through its "Regular Box," with enough food to feed a family of four for a week. The Regular Box is \$30 and contains roughly \$65 worth of food. Cash, money orders and food stamps accepted. www.harvestscarborough.org/angel_ministry.php

■ **Rebuilding Together** fills a pressing need in our communities. The rising cost of living and falling social service budgets have left some of our most vulnerable neighbors without the most basic of necessities, a warm, safe, and dry home. www.rebuildingtogether.org
Rebuilding together Portland (Greater)
PO Box 18212
Portland, Maine 04112
207.791.3529
rbuilder@maine.rr.com

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

In September 2008, **Project G.R.A.C.E.** was approached by the Town of Scarborough. We were asked to help facilitate the sharing of information and resources that are available to residents such as food and fuel. Because of that request, **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** developed and is committed to that purpose. Members of NHN are interested citizens, a cross-section Scarborough; including civic organizations, businesses and churches. The next meeting is March 2 at 4:00pm at St Nicholas Church in Scarborough. Meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.

NHN would like to thank, Mary Ellen Bossom, Nancy Crowell, Casey McKeown, Jackie Perry, Bruce Thurlow and Judy Roy for creating a mission statement and helping to define **Neighbors Helping Neighbors**.

NHN MISSION STATEMENT

Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) is committed to the mission of its parent organization, **Project G.R.A.C.E.** and will assist **Project G.R.A.C.E.** by procuring and providing food, clothing and fuel for those in need in our community of Scarborough.

NHN will do this through a Steering Committee representative of our neighbors of all ages. The Committee shall consist of no fewer than seven people who may represent businesses, churches, service organizations, schools, youth and senior groups, private foundations, media outlets and neighborhoods.

The responsibilities of this committee will be to:

- Identify existing resources within the Scarborough community and work to strengthen them and create synergistic relationships among them when possible;
- Identify existing resources in neighboring communities and agencies and collaborate with them to ensure effective distribution of resources;
- Communicate with their respective community organizations to creatively find ways to procure resources to meet basic needs;
- Actively raise awareness of the existing and new resources through media and other outlets that will most effectively reach affected residents.

NHN recognizes that the economic downturn will increase the number of residents seeking assistance but may also affect the ability of traditional donors to continue their current level of financial support. Therefore, it is important to encourage support through other forms of giving such as gifts of time, talent and tangible goods.

If you are interested in participating in any way please call 883.5111 or email us at mary@projectgracemaine.org



Project G.R.A.C.E. received a \$5,000 grant from Bank of America. Sam Kelley, Board President and Mary Rollo, Executive Director were presented with the check at a celebration breakfast with Governor Baldacci.



Pine State Energy and Sam Marcisso have been a good friend and partner to Project G.R.A.C.E. This heating season Sam has offered an incentive to his customers: **Heat from the Heart**®. For every 100 gallons of heating oil you purchase, Pine State will donate 1 gallon to Project G.R.A.C.E. For every Heat Manager Installation they will donate 10 gallons of oil to Project G.R.A.C.E. for a family in need.

Every Effort Makes a Difference

In addition to direct donations and volunteer efforts, Project G.R.A.C.E. is often the grateful recipient of community generosity through various efforts. Here are just a few recent examples:

On November 1st at St. Maxmilian Church there was a flurry of activity. The Greater Portland Junior League collected Pantry Basics on behalf of Project G.R.A.C.E. Over 60 bags of food staples were delivered to two area food pantries. The paper bags decorated by member's children for the Thanksgiving Holiday were full of items like pasta, preserves, sugar and soups. The "Done in a Day" fundraiser was a great success...thank you, Junior League of Portland.

The Student and Faculty of Scarborough Middle School held a Holiday Craft Fair on December 11th. Proceeds of the event benefited Project G.R.A.C.E. The students and faculty worked for weeks on beautiful art projects to sell to parents and friends. Holiday cards, key chains, jewelry and ornaments were a small sampling of the items available for purchase. Eddie Woodin, a Scarborough resident and donor purchased a Wii as a raffle item. The Wii generated funds and great excitement. Thank you to Scarborough Middle School for your hard work, your talent and your time.

Thank you, also, to Nancy Crowell, Director of the Scarborough Library for initiating a "Blanket Drive." The library website said it best: "In a cold winter, few things are more wonderful than a warm quilt and a good book to read. Recognizing that not everyone has the luxury of a warm blanket, the Scarborough Library will collect clean blankets for area agencies to distribute." Blankets were collected through January and February. Thank you to all participating library patrons.

From the Desk of the Director

Soon I will celebrate a year of working with Project G.R.A.C.E.; its many donors, recipients, sponsors and volunteers. It has been a joy! But, even at my most articulate of moments I struggle to convey the impact to you that Project G.R.A.C.E. has on so many lives.

One of our cornerstones has been our giving effort during the holidays. Thanksgiving and Christmas were learning moments for me. Thanksgiving in particular was so moving I sent the letter below to many of our friends but would like to share it with all of you now...

Yesterday was quite a day! Project G.R.A.C.E. made a tremendous impact in the lives of forty-six families. Imagine a large room filled with baskets and boxes jam-packed with food for the Thanksgiving holiday. We had tables of warm jackets, hats and mittens. And hundreds of additional cans of food so folks could "shop" for extra items. It was a great sight to behold!

The weather was certainly a factor but not a negative one...it was an "equalizer" of sorts as one of volunteers noted. We were neither giver nor receiver...just very wet "people" having fun while they loaded vehicles and tried not to be swept away! We even managed in the dark with only emergency lights for a couple of hours, at least I think it was a couple of hours; honestly, we hardly noticed.

Driving home for me was a reflective time. I began composing this letter to you. I wanted to capture with words everything that I saw and felt: shy children, grateful parents, warm smiles and stiff hugs. I wish that I could paint a better picture for you.

However, it is easy for my to say none of this would have happened without you and your generosity. You and your families have made the lives of many neighbors better. Indeed it is Thanksgiving and Project G.R.A.C.E. gives thanks for you.

*With warm regards,
Mary E. Rollo
Executive Director
207.883.5111;
mary@projectgracemaine.org*

Oh, what a night! And oh, what a sight!

The second annual Trivia Bee was held November 13th at the Scarborough High School Auditorium. The costumes were matched only by the crowd's enthusiasm and the teams' vast trivia knowledge.

So who was the smartest Bee in town? The prestigious award went to: DENSA, sponsored by MacDonald Page & Company. Team members: Peter Dufour, Jan Kinerson & Patrick O'Reilly. Congratulations, DENSA!

Best Team Name went to Traveling Trivia Tree Huggers, sponsored by Catherine McAuley High School • Best Costume went to The Pierce Steers, sponsored by Pierce Promotions • Most enthusiastic fans went to Catherine McAuley High School for exceptional spirit in supporting all three McAuley teams.

Project G.R.A.C.E. would like extend a huge thank you to the participants, sponsors and supporters. The Bee raised friends and funds...over \$6,000! We offer a special note of thanks to the Town of Scarborough, the School Committee and the staff of the High School Auditorium for their expertise and support.



Best Name: Traveling Trivia Tree Huggers

Project G.R.A.C.E.

P.O. Box 6846
Scarborough, ME 04070-6846

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Please add my name to the mailing list, so that I will receive quarterly newsletters through the mail.

I have enclosed an optional donation for \$ _____, to be used for _____

Name _____

Street Address _____

Town/City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

Our address is Project G.R.A.C.E., P.O. Box 6846, Scarborough, ME 04070-6846.

Visit our website at www.projectgracemaine.org to learn more, or to register to receive updates and bulletins.

All donations are tax-deductible. Thank you for helping us Grant Resources and Assistance through Community Effort