



Strategic Plan Summary 2018-2020

In 2015, the Board of United Midcoast Charities began an intensive two-year assessment of the organization and its service to the Midcoast community. Outside facilitators and advisors were enlisted and many listening sessions were held to gather input from agency partners, community members and stakeholders.

Findings: There is no question that UMC plays a vital role in Midcoast Maine. Grantees stressed that UMC's funding is essential for new programs, for ongoing operations, and for urgent needs on an individual basis. UMC support is seen as a de facto "seal of approval," which by extension reinforces agencies' ongoing fundraising initiatives.

The Board also updated UMC's mission language to very clearly articulate the way in which the organization assists in maintaining charitable organizations in its service area.

This is an exciting time for UMC. As the organization moves into a new chapter with the first-ever full-time professional staff, it continues to strive collectively to make a stronger, more resilient community here in Midcoast Maine, just as UMC's founders did in 1942.

Vision

United for a Stronger Community

UMC's vision is to be the leader in addressing the needs of Knox and Waldo counties by financially supporting and guiding the efforts of nonprofit agencies. UMC believes that working together makes for a stronger community.

Mission

Identifying needs. Supporting solutions.

United Midcoast Charities energizes Midcoast Maine nonprofits through finance and guidance, supporting a network of resources stronger than any single organization. UMC's focus areas are: food, housing, health & safety and economic security.

Values

Integrity: UMC decisions are based on a commitment to the public good, responsible stewardship, accountability, and the conviction that it's the right thing to do.

Transparency: UMC is open about how it manages itself and arrives at its decisions.

Responsibility: UMC monitors the results of its collective efforts to ensure all donations are being applied as intended and to maximum effect.

Service: UMC is responsive to and advocates for the agencies it funds, working together to build networks that serve the greater good.

Goals

UMC is looking to the future with two exciting new strategic goals:

1. To have a measurable impact on nonprofit agencies' ability to achieve their goals in our focus areas by providing funding and facilitating increased collaboration.
2. To be a resource for modeling nonprofit "best practices" and provide guidance in identifying the most effective solutions to addressing the needs of the community.

In the vein of best practices, UMC is adopting a new model of shared decision-making, under which UMC's Nonprofit Advisory Council has recently been created, made up of representatives from UMC's grantee agencies. Input will be solicited from this group to inform decisions on the grant-making process, community needs and more.