

Northern Maine Moments

Child Evangelism Fellowship® of Northern Maine

Fall 2023

CEF® OF MAINE, INC., NORTHERN MAINE CHAPTER

Phone:
(207) 551-7679

Email:
northernme@cefofmaine.org

Mailing Address:
PO Box 28
Mars Hill, ME 04758

Physical Address:
237 Hersom Rd
Easton, ME 04740

**Children's Ministry
Specialist/Coordinator**
Mackenzie Bagley

Committee Members

Tom Huston, Chair
Robert Leland, Vice Chair
Cindy Huston, Secretary
Rhonda Shaw, Treasurer
Lisa Burt, Assistant Treasurer
Ruth Leland
Kelly Ayotte

**"That the next generation might
know them, the children yet
unborn, and arise and tell them
to their children, so that they
should set their hope in God
and not forget the works of
God, but keep his
commandments."
Psalm 78:6-7**



Scripture quotations are from The
ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English
Standard Version®), copyright ©
2001 by Crossway, a publishing
ministry of Good News Publishers.
Used by permission. All rights
reserved.

Dandelion Summer

"Let the Gospel spread from this place like dandelion seeds, reaching every nook and corner of The County, even the hardest places," I wrote on June 22, toward the beginning of summer ministry. *Child Evangelism Fellowship®* of Northern Maine has experienced big changes this year, but I know God is not done working through the ministry to reach the children of Aroostook County! This summer is a shining testimony to that. The Gospel did indeed go forth from our little office in Easton all the way to Allagash, Ellsworth, and many places in between. The Good News spread like dandelion seeds in the wind, taking root in children's hearts.

God led Shaina Overlock to serve as a summer missionary with our chapter in Aroostook County. She was the greatest blessing to the ministry because, together, we were able to accomplish so much more than one person could alone. We made plans for our summer but surrendered them to God, asking Him to show us where He wanted us . . . and He did.



Mackenzie (left) and Shaina (right) at ECHO Youth

The summer started strong with opportunities to train teenagers to share the Gospel. Shaina and I worked with committee members, CEF® of Eastern Maine, and Jennifer Frost to hold an ECHO Burst! teen training at Baptist Park for the second year in a row. Several of the teens who participated last year came back to learn more. Shaina and I also traveled to *Camp Good News®* to assist in teaching Wordless Book training at ECHO Youth (previously *Christian Youth in Action®*). We saw God overcome our fears and weaknesses and work mightily in these young people's lives!



12 teens were trained at ECHO Burst!

This year, Wilderness Day Camps (WDC) operated under the oversight of local churches rather than CEF for the first time. That allowed Shaina and me to hold 2-Day Clubs: a two-day, hour-and-a-half children's ministry program in three communities: Woodland, Allagash and Presque Isle, towns that don't currently have a *Good News Club®*. It also allowed us the privilege of supporting programs organized by other CEF chapters in the state. We continued the partnership between CEF of Northern and Eastern Maine by serving as counselors at Downeast Day Camp in Ellsworth, and Shaina had the opportunity to help *Camp Good News* during their teen week. We were able to assist other children's ministry programs in Aroostook County as well by providing the teaching for Madawaska Gospel Church's day camp and the Presque Isle Wilderness Day Camp. These weeks encouraged our hearts and led to great connections with past and potential CEF volunteers.

(continued on page 2)

CEF of Northern Maine Summer 2023 Stats

277 children reached with the Gospel!

6 known salvation decisions!

60 teens trained!

...and much more fruit that we may not see
until eternity.

The CEF® logo is a registered trademark of Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc.





Children hear the Gospel at the Washburn August Festival

("Dandelion Summer," continued from page 1)

God is doing a work in Washburn! A new team began a *Good News Club* there this past spring, and they decided to hold a 4-Day Club this summer. CEF also had a tent at the Washburn August Festival to share the Gospel through face painting. Seventy-seven children and teens, heard the Good News, including one precious child who put his faith in Jesus for salvation!

As I painted faces, I asked a young boy, "Have you heard of Jesus before?" The boy replied, "I don't believe in Jesus because my dad doesn't." He was only six years old. This encounter struck me and made me realize how many children in Northern Maine still need to hear the truth that Jesus is real and that He loves them so much that He died for them. Children are becoming opposed to the Gospel earlier and earlier as the world comes after them when they are younger and younger. "Lord, break our hearts for what breaks Yours!"

**"I don't believe in Jesus
because my dad doesn't."**

-boy in Washburn

Do you see these children's need for a Savior? Will you care enough to do something about it? God desires every child to come to faith in Him, and for that to happen, you and I need to go to them with this message. Brothers and sisters, we must give the Gospel to children in every town, even in the most isolated communities, and let God plant the seed of His Word in their hearts. When we do this, relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, I firmly believe that we will see young lives born again and begin to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord.

For His Kingdom,
Mackenzie Bagley
Children's Ministry Specialist / Coordinator

"For 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'
How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed?
And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never
heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?
And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written,
'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!'"
Romans 10:13-15



Top to bottom: Children hear a Bible lesson at a 2-Day Club, a boy is counseled for salvation at Presque Isle WDC, Shaina teaches at Madawaska Gospel Church's day camp, Tom Huston talks with his cabin at Presque Isle WDC

Time for Club!



Children memorize a Bible verse at a Good News Club in Houlton

I love telling people about the *Good News Club* program, our primary ministry to children, and hearing the familiar surprise over the fact that we can teach the Bible in public schools. Yes, we absolutely - and legally - can! A GNC™ affords a unique opportunity to carry a Bible into a public school, sharing with children the love that Jesus has for them. Last school year, seven GNCs were held in Aroostook County, five of them in schools. At those seven clubs, 145 children heard a clear Gospel presentation, and six of them made a profession of faith in Jesus!

This fall, my days have been filled with contacting club leaders to help them restart their programs, recruiting and screening new volunteers, ensuring compliance to procedures, and supporting teams in any way I can. Praise the Lord for five GNCs that are restarting from last year and four new ones looking to begin! I have been particularly encouraged by the new Southern Aroostook and Katahdin GNC teams, who have been meeting as a group this summer to go through the training videos. At one of these meetings, my heart overflowed with joy as ten future GNC teachers practiced sharing the pages of the Wordless Book with each other, preparing for the moment when they will have that opportunity with a child.

Please pray for each GNC volunteer to have that kind of vision and motivation going into this new school year. Pray for teams that may be struggling to find committed volunteers. Pray also for the thirteen elementary schools in Aroostook County that do not have a GNC in that town and for the children who have yet to hear the Good News about Jesus.

If you would like information about starting or joining a GNC in your community, please contact Mackenzie.



Mackenzie (left) and Jenn (right) working together

Staff Update

Last fall, God called Jennifer Frost and her family to Belfast, where Jenn became the local director for the Neighborhood House, a chapter of *CEF* of Maine. At the same time, God was leading Mackenzie Bagley to come on staff with *CEF* of Northern Maine as a Children's Ministry Specialist / Coordinator. Jenn agreed to continue on staff for a limited time with our chapter remotely in order to mentor Mackenzie in her new role, which she did until July. Mackenzie is approaching a year in her position and has worked her way up from part- to full-time. However, the work is great, and so much more could be done with a second ministry worker. Please pray with us that God would provide the right person to serve alongside Mackenzie as staff in His timing, grant wisdom to the committee, and strengthen Mackenzie as she enters a new school year of *Good News Club* ministry.

The Roof Is On!

Thank you to everyone who financially supported the building of this pavilion or came out to one of the work days to help get it to this point. The next steps include putting siding on the gable ends, laying down the floor, and running electricity to it. We anticipate completing the pavilion early next summer so that we can invite you, our supporters, to see it in person at an Appreciation and Family Fun Event! See you in Easton Summer 2024!



Take Note!

We have a new landline, so our phone number has changed. If you wish to reach us through a phone call, you can contact us at

(207) 551-7679



Christmas Is Coming!

Already?! Yes! For many children, this is the most exciting day of the year! For others, it brings sad reminders of the hardships they face. Yet every child can know true and lasting joy and hope through a relationship with Jesus Christ, God's Son, who came to save. You can share that Good News with children through hosting a Christmas Party Club™! Do you know children who need to hear the true meaning of Christmas? Do you and a team desire to reach those children for Christ? A Christmas Party Club is a great, one-time outreach to children in your community! Interested? Contact Mackenzie for more information!



Praises

- 145 children reached at a *Good News Club* last school year!
- 6 children professed faith in Christ at a *Good News Club* last school year!
- 12 teens trained to share the Gospel at ECHO Burst!
- 277 children reached with the Gospel this summer!
- 6 children received the Lord as Savior this summer!
- Good News Clubs restarting this fall
- New Good News Clubs starting up
- Smooth staffing transition



Prayer Requests

- More children to be reached with the Gospel in Aroostook County
- God's wisdom, direction, and strength for the committee, state leadership, and workers across the state
- Eager volunteers and strong leaders for GNCs
- Teams that desire to hold Good News Clubs in schools that don't have one yet
- Another staff ministry worker for CEF of Northern Maine
- More opportunities to train believers to effectively share the Gospel with children
- Teams who desire to hold Christmas Party Clubs

Are you ready for God to use you?

Pray! Give! Go!

Want more information on how to be involved in reaching children in your community?

Email Mackenzie at northernme@cefofmaine.org or call (207) 551-7679 today!