



# Maine Community College System

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

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## MCCS STUDENTS DONATE OVER \$100,000 IN FOOD AND FUNDS TO HELP MAINE'S NEEDY

*A thank you present to the people of Maine for supporting their college education*

**AUGUSTA, ME**—Student senates at Maine's seven community colleges have donated a total of \$101,600 in food and funds this spring to food relief agencies across the state.

The effort, known as **Graduation: Can Due**, was undertaken in response to growing unemployment and a dramatic increase in demand for food assistance in all parts of the state. The initiative was designed as a graduation present from MCCS students to the larger community in recognition of the support the students have received from the people of Maine in a difficult economy.

"I could not be more proud of our students for making such an important contribution to their communities during such a challenging time," said MCCS President John Fitzsimmons in announcing the total contributions. "They have sent a clear message to their communities that we are all in this together."

Over 45 Maine food relief agencies will benefit from Graduation: Can Due. At Kennebec Valley Community College, students donated over \$20,000 in food and funds to 10 local food pantries.

Eastern Maine Community College donated over \$21,600 and Central Maine Community College over \$7,200 in food and funds to the Good Shepherd Food-Bank in Auburn which has seen a 25 percent increase in demand for its statewide services in just the past year. "The support of local businesses and organizations helps us to distribute food to more than 70,000 hungry families, children, and homeless in Maine every month," commented Good Shepherd Food-Bank executive director, Rick Small. "This generous donation of food and funds from the students, faculty, and administration of the MCCS will help our partner agencies provide close to 150,000 meals to those who struggle with hunger each day."

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Students at Northern Maine Community College donated—quite literally—a ton of food to Catholic Charities and its network of 24 local food pantries throughout Aroostook County. In making the donation, Aaron Conroy, NMCC Student Senate president and a diesel hydraulics technology student from Presque Isle, noted: “This is a great way to give back to the community. People from throughout the area support what we do here at NMCC every day.”

Elsewhere in the state, Southern Maine Community College donated over \$10,600 in cash and some 7,700 pounds of food to the Wayside Food Rescue Program (and the more than 35 agencies it serves throughout Cumberland County), York County Community College contributed nearly \$10,000 in food and funds to local and county-wide food assistance efforts in York County; and Washington County Community College, in partnership with its local communities, held a series of fundraising events and food drives that raised over \$12,000 in cash and 4,000 lbs of food for seven food banks in the Downeast region.

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