

August 2010

Accomplishments to Date

Maine Network Partners is actively involved in identifying, encouraging and supporting the development and use of networks and more systemic strategies to address significant social challenges in Maine.

Since 2000, Maine Network Partners has been educating funders, nonprofits, government, businesses and individual community members about the tools and skills needed, and potential impact created by working collaboratively.

Through the leadership of Maine Network Partners:

- Key Maine foundations have started funding and supporting the development of networks statewide, including, The Maine Nonprofit Sector Viability Program, a program created collaboratively by three capacity building organizations in partnership with three United Ways, and two of the state's largest public foundations.
- Many innovative networks have been seeded and supported with funding, consulting and other capacity building assistance;
- National network leaders and practitioners have provided educational programming for Maine funders, government officials and nonprofit leaders;
- Maine funders have participated in day-long programs to exchange information exchange and lessons learned from funding networks for social change, and to explore ways to support the local food movement in Maine by funding collaboratively and across subsectors.
- The capacity building needs of active networks for social change in Maine have been assessed with an online survey and a focus group with representatives from some of the most exciting networks in Maine.
- Tools, curriculum, educational opportunities and evaluation of networks have been created to support an emerging field.
- This work has been done without an organization, but in partnership with other organizations. For example, Maine Network Partners contracts with Maine Association for Nonprofits for program, administrative, financial and logistical support, and works closely with Maine Philanthropy Center, Maine Community Foundation, Common Good Ventures and a variety of other individuals, foundations and nonprofits to further its mission.

Maine Network Partners plans to continue this work in collaboration with others, and over the next year will be developing a capacity building program to support individuals and organizations active in networks