

# Day of Caring

More projects from our affiliates

## Franklin County Retired Educators Association

Day of Caring: Mallard School and Franklin County Retired Educators Support Saint Joseph's Food Bank Community Service Brings Together Students, Retired Teachers, and Local Safety Personnel



Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive Fosters Generosity and Community Spirit On the morning of November 24, 2025

A heartwarming scene unfolded in Franklin County as the Franklin County Retired Educators Association joined hands with Mallett School students to deliver more than 500 pounds worth of much-needed food to Saint Joseph's Food Bank.

This impactful event not only provided essential supplies for families in the area but also showcased the power of community involvement and the spirit of giving that defines the holiday season.

The event was marked by the presence of both current and retired teachers, many of

whom returned to support the students in their charitable endeavor.

Students from Mallett School actively participated, walking along the sidewalks with their teachers and retired educators, each carrying canned goods, dry goods, or products suitable for local households.

The sight of every student involved in this meaningful activity was truly inspiring.

### A Tradition of Giving:

This food drive has become an annual tradition in Franklin County, especially around Thanksgiving. Organized as part of the Franklin County Retired Educators Association's "Day of Caring," the event highlights the importance of community service and the role of educators in nurturing compassion and civic responsibility among young people.

### Event Details and Safety Measures:

The activity began at 9:30 AM on Monday morning and continued until noon, ensuring all students had the opportunity to personally deliver their donations to Saint Joseph's Food Bank.

Local police officers and safety personnel were present throughout, guiding the students as they walked along sidewalks and crossed streets, ensuring a safe and orderly procession.

Their support, along with the attentiveness of teachers, guaranteed that every child was accounted for and secure.

### Moments of Warmth and Gratitude:

The day was filled with smiles, warm greetings, and a sense of accomplishment as students, teachers, and retired educators worked together.

The community's grati-

tude was evident in the cheerful interactions among participants and in the satisfaction of knowing that their efforts would provide tangible relief to families in need.



Photos from the event, to be featured in the next issue of *The Clarion* will capture the memorable moments as students walked with their teachers and local police officers, embodying the spirit of service and teamwork.

The Franklin County Retired Educators Association extends heartfelt thanks to all the children, teachers, and safety personnel who participated and made the event a safe and successful celebration of caring.

The tradition of the Day of Caring continues to reinforce the values of empathy, generosity, and community—reminding everyone that the greatest gifts often come from working together for a common good.

Article and photos submitted by Gary McGrane

## What is Day of Caring?

Every September the 16 affiliates of MEA-Retired plan projects as part of our Day of Caring Program.

Some affiliates choose to collect school supplies to donate to a school in their county.

Some affiliates go into the schools to help teachers prepare for the upcoming school year by mounting bulletin boards, laminating, photocopying, weeding gardens, and volunteering to assist our active educators.

All of these activities allow our members the opportunity to communicate with other educators as a new year begins.

By volunteering in our schools, MEA retirees provide a great service by assisting with the never ending tasks associated with the beginning of a new school year.

Examples of the variety of projects undertaken by our affiliates have appeared in the December *Clarion* and a few more will be featured in the February edition.

While some groups do not always send articles or photos in for publication, be assured that our affiliates are all very active connecting in their communities.

All of our affiliates make it a point to give back to the community.

Our 'Day of Caring' extends well beyond the beginning of September.

Thank you to our MEA-Retired Affiliates for Making a Difference!!

## Hancock County Retired Educators Association

The Hancock County Retired Educators Association chose the Trenton Elementary School to be the recipient of their Day of Caring efforts. Members collected school supplies to donate to the school. In addition to the supplies, they also purchased four \$25 gift cards for the school, to be used as needed.



Priscilla McFarland, Hancock County Retired Educators Association President, presents donations from her affiliate to Trenton Elementary Principal, Crystal DaGraca.

The principal, students, and staff at Trenton Elementary were thrilled to receive these gifts.

## York County Retired Educators Association

YCREA selected the Hanson Elementary School in Lyman, ME as the recipient of our 2025 Day of Caring efforts to do "Something Special" for a school in York County.

At our September meeting we collected school supplies as well as monetary donations.

We also presented Principal Carmen Carpenter a sizeable check to be used as needed for students and staff.

Debbie Butler and Jan Cerabona delivered our gifts to the school.

We were also able to visit with a new Kindergarten teacher who was a recipient of a scholarship from YCREA four years ago!

It was an unexpected surprise to have a recipient of our scholarship starting her first year at the school we had selected for our Day of Caring.



Hanson Elementary School principal Carmen Carpenter accepts donations from YCREA representatives Debbie Butler and Jan Cerabona



A trunk full of school supplies ready to be delivered to Hanson Elementary



A first year teacher and former recipient of a YCREA scholarship

This is our 16th year of developing and carrying out Day of Caring projects. We have to give a big shoutout to our members who, every year, exceed our expectations to do "Something Special" for a school in our county.