The Maine Center for Economic Policy provides citizens, policymakers, advocates and media with credible and rigorous economic analysis to advance economic justice and prosperity for all Maine people.
In Honor: Mark Sullivan

Was there ever a more loyal and loving friend, a more trustworthy and devoted colleague, a more skilled advocate for the natural environment and a just economy, a more gifted voice for all those without one, a more devoted state and municipal public servant?

— Remarks by Richard Barringer and Martha Freeman

MECEP dedicates this annual report to Mark Sullivan, who retired in March 2017.

Mark served as MECEP’s communications director for eight years before retiring, the culmination of 33 years of service to the people of Maine. Prior to coming to MECEP, Mark directed communications for the NO on 1/Protect Maine Equality referendum in 2009, where he worked tirelessly as spokesman for the $4.6 million statewide campaign. Mark served for 12 years as communications director and senior policy advisor to Congressman Tom Allen on the national stage. His enduring legacy is his work as the deputy commissioner for the Maine Department of Conservation, where he crafted the landmark legislation to create the Land for Maine’s Future program, and as director of the state’s Land and Water Resources Council, where he wrote the Maine Rivers Act.

We at MECEP miss Mark's wise counsel and guiding hand, and we wish him the best in his retirement.
Dear Friend and Supporter,

We are in a transitional moment.

Upcoming changes in the Blaine House and Maine Legislature will bring new opportunities to achieve MECEP’s vision of economic justice and shared prosperity. As we look ahead to what comes next, we reflect on our achievements in the past year. MECEP has been central to advancing meaningful change for Mainers and our communities.

We are reducing poverty and boosting economic security.

Tax policies MECEP proposed and passed with the help of legislative allies are boosting household incomes for low-income families by as much as $1,100 a year. In fact, newly available census data affirm the impact of these changes, indicating recently enacted state tax changes have helped lift more than 2,500 families out of poverty.

We are helping to grow Maine’s economy through people-powered prosperity.

MECEP was a vital contributor to the successful effort to increase access to health care at the ballot box. As a result, 70,000 Mainers are now eligible for access to affordable health coverage.

During the legislative session, MECEP was one of the staunchest opponents of efforts to rollback Maine’s voter-approved minimum wage increase. Thanks to our analysis and advocacy, 38,000 Mainers saw their paychecks grow as a direct result of the minimum wage increase in 2017, while even more will see increases in future years. MECEP also provided the analysis necessary to support a successful expansion of the property tax Homestead Exemption.

When working families can keep up with basic expenses and see their doctor when they need to, we all come out ahead. MECEP has proven our ability to make a difference.

None of our work would be possible without the commitment of dedicated staff, board members, and donors. In 2017 we welcomed Mario Moretto as our new communications director and promoted Megan Michaud to be our Director of External Affairs. Ben Chin, Ericka Dodge, and Lucy Van Hook all joined our board of directors.

Each of these additions puts MECEP in an even stronger position to provide high-quality, credible analysis that makes a difference for Maine families in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Garrett Martin, Executive Director
Key Accomplishments

Impact
✓ Helped secure a wage increase for 103,000 Maine workers
✓ Secured $162 million funding increase for K-12 schools; the largest biennial increase in education funding in over a decade
✓ Helped win access to health care for 70,000 Mainers
✓ Increased property tax relief by doubling the Homestead exemption for Maine homeowners

Featured Analysis
✓ State of Working Maine 2017
✓ Missed Opportunities in LePage Biennial Budget
✓ Town-by-Town Property Tax Increase from proposed elimination of Homestead Exemption
✓ Lost Federal Funds: Lost Opportunity for Maine
✓ Affordable Care Act Repeal Would be a Disaster for Maine

Advocacy and Outreach
✓ Reached more than 200,000 people and generated 894 phone calls in opposition to harmful federal tax changes
✓ Cited 130 times by the media
✓ 48 percent increase in Facebook page likes
Financial Statement

Revenues

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<th>Source</th>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Donations</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,056,207</strong></td>
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Expenses

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<td>Research and Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Management and General</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$871,438</strong></td>
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Assets

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets Beginning of Year</td>
<td>$472,190</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets End of Year</td>
<td>$656,959</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Funds</td>
<td>$455,208</td>
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<td>Temporarily Restricted Funds</td>
<td>$201,751</td>
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Note: The revenues over expenditures reflect restricted funds. MECEP operates on a modified cash basis where multi-year grant revenues received in 2017 are restricted for use in 2018.
MECEP Donors

Individual Donors

Grantors

In Recognition
Lynn Davey – Lock Kiermaier – Mark Sullivan

In Memory
Ruth Benedict – Joe Mayo – Milton C. Hillery

MaineShare
MECEP is a proud member of MaineShare, which provides funding to more than 40 statewide organizations working every day to make Maine a better place to live.
MECEP Staff

Sarah Austin, Policy Analyst

Marpheen Chann, Digital Communications

Jody Harris, Associate Director

Garrett Martin, Executive Director

Megan Michaud, Director of External Affairs

Mario Moretto, Communications Director

James Myall, Policy Analyst
MECEP Board of Directors

Lee Webb, Chair
Senior Policy Fellow, Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center
Union, Maine

Lynn Davey, Ph.D., Vice Chair
Principal, Davey Strategies
Portland, Maine

Chip Newell, Treasurer
Principal, The NewHeight Group
Portland, Maine

Lock Kiermaier, Secretary
Retired Fiscal and Program Analyst, Maine Legislature – Principal, Kiermaier Consulting
Augusta, Maine

Sandra S. Butler, Ph.D.
Professor, School of Social Work, University of Maine
Orono, Maine

Ben Chin
Political Engagement Director, Maine People’s Alliance
Lewiston, Maine

Pamela Cox
Retired Senior Vice President, World Bank Group
Bath, Maine

Scott Cuddy
Director, Social Media Marketing, Saco Design, Inc.
Winterport, Maine

Ericka Dodge
Communications and Organizational Consultant
Portland, Maine

John Dorrer
Retired Labor Economist
Brunswick, Maine

Karen Heck
Program Officer, The Bingham Program
Waterville, Maine

Lucky Van Hook
Community Development Manager, Our Katahdin
Millinocket, Maine

Marcus Hutchins
Retired Economist
Southport, Maine