

While host agencies benefit from the free extra help, he noted, an element of compassion is also necessary in accommodating Senior Community Service Employment Program participants, many of whom have limited work

“But the whole point is to

Wood, 67, lives in Corn-

Her local career center referred her to the National Able Network; soon, she found herself interning at the Mercer town office. After that, she spent 18 months at the state career center in Skowhegan, where she picked up computer skills, and then at the Skowhegan town office, where she processed tax payments and car registrations. All these positions were funded through Able and the Senior Commu-

The Senior Community Service Employment Program is 50 years old this year, established in 1965 under the Older Americans Act and administered through the Department of Labor. It is active in all 50

"There is constant turnover, and we are always welcoming new applicants," he said.

For more information, call the National Able Network in Bangor at 385-2500 or in Biddeford at 385-2480. The toll-free number for all National Able Network offices is 855-994-8300.

Church

Continued from Page C1

So she kicked off the Troy Union Church Restoration Project and ran with it.

Baby boomer volunteers a key resource

The organization tracks both organized volunteer rates and informal, self-reported service such as helping neighbors or co-workers during times of distress. It is particularly focused on the volunteer potential of the burgeoning "baby boom" generation, born between 1946 and 1964.

“Boomers today are entering their later years with a broad range of skills, talents and experience — as well as with a set of attitudes, expectations and needs that is decidedly different from previous generations,” reads a 2007 report on the organization’s website. “Harnessing those skills, and accommodating those expectations, will be critical to solving a wide range of social problems in the years ahead.”

The report finds that baby boomers volunteer at higher rates than past generations. Religion remains a top focus for volunteering, but after that, boomers are more likely to sign on with educational or social service concerns than with the civic, professional or international projects that engaged earlier generations.

Next

Continued from Page C1

You'll find this section each Saturday in the Bangor Daily News print edition and online under the "Next" tab on bangordailynews.com daily. You can also follow me on Twitter @MegatBDN and "Like" the BDN Maine Next page on Facebook. Please check in often and tell me what's on your mind. We have a lot to learn from each other.

They also are more likely to volunteer in a variety of settings, less likely to stay on in situations where they don't feel challenged or appreciated, and more likely to also donate money to the organizations and causes where they volunteer.

Fundraising is the most popular organized boomer volunteer activity in Maine, according to the organization's data, followed by general labor and then professional and managerial services.

Managing the Troy church project

Rossel got started by researching other restoration projects in Maine, including the Mill at Freedom Falls in Freedom and the restoration of the steeple at the Stockton Springs Community Church. She learned about the Maine Steeples Project, a collaborative project of Maine Preservation and the Maine Community Foundation. She researched and documented the church's history and got it listed in the National Register of Historic Places — a critical qualification for seeking funding. She applied for and received foundation grants and, through a church capital campaign, helped raise

matching local dollars for the first phase of the project — a total of almost \$40,000 for assessment and stabilization.

Only after the structural integrity has been restored will Rossel turn to the more visible task of restoring the sanctuary. She hopes the work will be largely completed sometime in 2018, almost 10 years after she took the project on.

It's a lot of work and long-term, big-picture thinking. Rossel takes it in stride.

"I like getting done what needs to be done," she said.

ENCore Leadership Corps: Supporting older volunteers

Volunteers such as Rossel, who take on a project and guide it through to completion, reflect a growing trend in volunteerism, according to Jennifer Crittenden, assistant director of the University of Maine Center on Aging.

Crittenden also manages the ENCore Leadership Corps, a program through the Center on Aging that pro-

vides training and support to Mainers 50 and over who want to give back to their communities, satisfying goals of their own in the process.

Rossel connected early on with ENCore and made good use of its services, Crittenden said.

"People like Norma are not connected with any specific organization, but they're out there on their own making their communities a better place," Crittenden said. Baby boomers, in particular, often prefer to solve a problem and be given the autonomy to come up with solutions, she said, rather than be assigned a set of tasks on a schedule.

“Often, they are still working or have other commitments, so being able to shape how they engage is really important,” she said.

In addition, boomers typically are interested in learning new skills and networking with a new group of people, often with an eye toward stepping into a new career.

The ENCore program equips them for success, with workshops on writing grants, working with a nonprofit board and other relevant skills. The program serves more than 250 volunteers across the state and provides guidance to nonprofit agencies looking to recruit skilled

and committed volunteers.

Rossel is quick to acknowledge the help she has received through ENCore, as well as from foundations, preservation experts, builders and other groups she has worked with. Her work has brought her closer to her community as well.

"Volunteering is all about building relationships," she said. "You really can't do this work by yourself; you need people to help you."

She looks forward to the day when the Troy Union Church, whose Sunday services have been moved to another location during the project, once again opens its doors as a place of worship and a center of village life.

Its future is uncertain though, she admits.

"Maine is the least church-ed state in the coun-

try," she said, citing a 2012 Pew Research Center study of self-reported rates of prayer and religious affiliation, "and we're in the least churched county in Maine. But we really like being in the building, and by golly we're going to keep having church there as long as we can."

The foundations supporting the restoration require regular public access, she said, and the finished space will be ideal for art exhibits, concerts, quilt shows, lectures and other cultural events.

"There is a spirit in this place," Rossel said, looking around the construction zone that is the church now. "You can make a community out of that. It brings people together. And at the very least, when this is over, we'll have an interesting historic building."



the Henry's
Bridal Boutique & Formal Wear

40%^{off}
* Bridal Gowns
& Mothers Dresses

25%^{off}
* Already reduced
Bridal Gowns

50%^{off}
* Veils, Head Pieces,
& Accessories
* Clearance Room
Select bridesmaids, flowergirl, prom and more

Annual
Columbus Day Sale
October 10th - 12th
Sat. 9-5/Sun. 12-5/Mon. 9-5:30
see store for sale terms
www.bangorbridal.com

PENOBSCOT THEATRE COMPANY
PRESENTS

NIGHTMARE THEATRE

DOCTOR CERBERUS
BY ROBERTO AGUIRRE-SACASA

OCTOBER 22 - NOVEMBER 8

Lighting Design Scout Hough
Set Design Tricia Hobbs
Costume Design Kevin Koski
Projection Design Magnus Stark
Sound Design Brandie Larkin

Directed by Bari Newport
Strong language and adult themes
TICKETS: 207-942-3333
www.penobscottheatre.org



**COLLINS CENTER
FOR THE ARTS**



**THE UNIVERSITY OF
MAINE**
Celebrating 150 years



Dracula • 10/10



42nd Street • 10/16



Otello (Met Opera) • 10/17



Comedian Bob Marley • 10/23



From the Top • 10/25



Tannhäuser (Met Opera) • 10/31

AND COMING SOON...












Baroque Orchestra of Maine, 11/1; Steven Wright, 11/6; The Producers, 11/8; Rodney Carrington, 11/12
 Il Trovatore (Met Opera), 11/14; Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Heart Club Band, 11/17;
 Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra / Wynton Marsalis, 12/3; Danu, 12/13

SEASON SPONSOR





MEDIA SPONSOR





Class of 1934
Cultural Affairs Fund

207.581.1755 • 800.622.TIXX • collinscenterforthearts.com

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity affirmative action institution.