

"I thought these kids could use a little cart to carry their stuff. So I went home and designed one," said Dorriety. "It's like a little red wagon. It's the first thing these kids have gotten that's theirs. In orphanages, all the toys are communal, but these carts are special, just for them."

The carts are kid-height, with a plastic push handle inserted into holes in the wood on either side, made by a drill bit Dorriety had especially made at the Charleston Navy Yard. They're also extremely durable, reinforced with heavy screws so they'll withstand heavy play. Most of the materials are donated by local businesses — Dorriety has long partnered with Lowe's Home Improvement stores in both Maine and South Carolina for lumber donations, and locally, N.H. Bragg and Color Concepts in Bangor and Patterison Custom Carpentry in Hampden have also helped.

"People keep coming out of the woodwork to help out. I always need help. There are always kids in need out there... it's really all about them. It's all about bringing a smile to their faces," said Dorrity, pointing to a photo taped to his computer monitor of a blind child, beaming, after receiving his cart. "Look at that little fella. That's why I do it."

Dorrity has gone on to make carts for kids in need of all kinds, from children with cancer or other childhood diseases, to blind children, to kids that have been injured or whose families have suffered losses from natural disasters. His carts — each filled with a stuffed animal for each child — are now in every Shriner's Hospital for Children on the east coast, at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, and in countless other facilities.

Dorrity is a Maine native, and would be a graduate of Hampden Academy if he hadn't left school early to join the service.

during World War II, where he was stationed all over the country in training facilities. After serving during WWII and, later, in the Korean War, he finished his degrees and returned home to Maine, where he taught physics at the University of Maine in the mid-to-late 1950s. In 1961, he accepted a job as a nuclear physicist with the Department of Defense and moved to Washington D.C., eventually retiring to South Carolina, where he lived until last year, when he returned home to the Hampden area to live with his daughter, Carolyn, and son-in-law, Jay.

Dorrity was a regular visitor to Maine throughout those years, including one memorable summer in the 1990s, when he sailed from Florida to Maine with his cat, Scratch, which became the subject for his book, “Scratch at the Helm.” Dorrity has many stories from a remarkable life — he’s been to 52 different countries on five continents, dined with presidents, built a fully-operable Model T starting with only an old frame found in a field somewhere, and once paid the equivalent of \$180 to send hundreds of Chinese orphans to spend the day at the circus, during a two-year stint in the 1980s spent teaching in China.

These days, he's likely to be found at his computer, managing his Facebook page and many email and phone contacts, eating breakfast at his favorite local restaurant, The Bacon Tree, in downtown Winterport, or — more than likely — in his woodshop at home. Just last week, he arranged for another shipment of carts to be sent to an orphanage in Long Island, New York.

“What God wants done, gets done,” he said. “That’s on every one of my emails. I’m just here to help.”

To donate materials including paint, screws, lumber and stuffed animals to the Carts For Kids project, or to inquire about cart donations to needy children, like Carts For Kids on Facebook, or email cdorrit72205@roadrunner.com.

The Summit Project (TSP) is a unique program honoring Maine's fallen. On Saturday, March 12, supporters of the project will gather with Gold Star Families to share stories at Bangor Y's Camp Jordan Wilderness Center.

At noon, those who have been fundraising for the cause will take to the icy waters of Branch Lake for a polar dip. Each has been asked to raise a minimum of \$20. All donations will support the work of the all-volunteer run organization.

The current fundraising initiative is to raise funds to meet the project's 2016 operations budget. There is no project like TSP in all of America, and although the overhead expenses are minimal by design, every dollar can help achieve the mission: To honor our state's newest war casualties and the faithful spirit of all Mainers.

Those traveling on Route 1A in Ellsworth that Saturday will see handmade signage that honors the lives of those remembered by The Summit Project.

The Summit Project, a nationally recognized, Maine-based, 501(c)(3) service organization, is a living memorial that pays tribute to fallen service members from Maine who have died in the line of duty since Sept. 11, 2001. The group has fundamentally changed the way we honor post-9/11 fallen heroes from Maine.

The Maine Center for Research in STEM Education (RISE Center) at the University of Maine has been awarded more than \$1.9 million from the National Science Foundation to create a model NSF Teaching Fellowship Program to improve STEM teacher recruitment, preparation, professional development and retention in rural high-need schools.

The grant builds on the infrastructure created in the Maine Physical Sciences Partnership (MainePSP) and the Maine Elementary Sciences Partnership (MaineESP), including teacher leadership. The MainePSP is a collaboration among the RiSE Center,

nearly 30 Maine school districts and some nonprofit partners, including the Schoodic Institute, the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance, the Institute for Broadening Participation and the Maine Department of Education.

The grant will support 22 fellowships in a six-year program for STEM professionals and recent graduates with bachelor's degrees in science, technology, engineering or mathematics. Students awarded fellowships will enroll in UMaine's Master of Science in Teaching Program to earn teaching certification, and will make a four-year commitment to teach in high-need Maine school districts. The application and selection process for fellows will begin this spring and the first cohort will begin in the fall of 2016.

"In today's rapidly changing world, STEM education has never been more important," said Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King in a joint statement announcing the NSF award. "This grant will help empower our next generation of STEM educators as they work to equip rural Maine students with the skills they need to succeed in the 21st century."

The announcement comes six months after a \$2 million award from the National Science Foundation for the RiSE Center to improve science and mathematics teacher recruitment, preparation and retention in the state.

Both NSF awards build on RiSE Center grants of \$12.3 million from NSF in 2010 and \$1.7 million from the Maine Department of Education in 2013 to establish an infrastructure to strengthen rural science educa-

tion across the state.

The RiSE Center is an interdisciplinary research center at the University of Maine with 18 faculty, 10 staff and more than 30 students. Its members conduct research in teaching and learning in the STEM disciplines. RiSE is working in partnership with over 1,000 Maine teachers to bring research-supported practices to their classrooms through the MainePSP and the MaineESP.

The Penobscot County Conservation Association of Brewer will sponsor the 78th Eastern Maine Sportsmen's Show Friday-Sunday, March 11-13, at the University of Maine Memorial Gym and Field House. The show will include more than 120 exhibitors of canoes, fishing and fly-tying equipment, hunting dogs, taxidermy, boat and marine supplies, outdoor wear, archery, camping, backpacking, ATVs and other outdoor recreational equipment. The show also will offer a variety of interactive demonstrations and outdoor presentations.

The Eastern Maine Sportsmen's Show hours are 5-9 p.m. Friday, March 11; 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday, March 12, and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, March 13. Single-day tickets are \$8, free to children under 11; unlimited weekend pass, \$15.

Proceeds from the show help support a variety of conservation activities sponsored by the association, including scholarships for students majoring in wildlife ecology at the UMaine and in wildlife

biology at Unity College.

The association's scholarship program began in 1960 with a \$150 scholarship awarded to a UMaine student majoring in fish and game management. Over the years, that program has grown to 21 scholarships provided annually to UMaine students, 10 scholarships to students at Unity College and three scholarships to students at the University of Maine at Machias. The total amount of scholarship and other support for students majoring in wildlife-related disciplines has totaled more than that \$1.3 million, helping attract and retain hundreds of students interested in pursuing careers in wildlife management and conservation.

The PCCA also has a long history of sponsoring Maine youth to attend summer conservation camps, student research projects and conservation programs statewide. Since 1958, it has maintained a clubhouse near the shores of the Penobscot River in Brewer that it shares with other conservation groups, student organizations and professional societies that embody its visions of wildlife conservation, outdoor education, habitat protection and sustainable management and use of natural resources.

The association also owns and manages a 1,300-acre wildlife management area in Stetson, used as a demonstration area for wildlife-habitat management and for outdoor recreation. Several fields on the property host an active program to propagate the American chestnut tree, the iconic and ecologically important species that has been on the brink of extinction.

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