From the FPAE Chair, Rob Wood

The 2019 Fiscal year proved to be strong for both PAE and FPAE. Our PAE programs received adequate funding from local and state sources so there were no emergency programmatic holes to fill. Instead, FPAE could support current and longer term initiatives.

During FY19, FPAE raised $135,884 of which $43,731 was allocated to Common Threads of Maine for which FPAE was temporarily acting as a fiscal agent. All this support came from 214 donors - an increase from 161 in 2018. Ninety percent of FY19 expenditures were directed to PAE programming with only $6,467 consumed by administration, communication, and fundraising. This generosity from the extended Portland community has empowered the FPAE Board to commit to the following projects in the year to come.

- Provide PAE course scholarships for students without any resources to pay registrations
- Continue to support a student Writing lab staffed by professional teachers
- Initiate student leadership efforts to provide student focused program advice and public advocacy
- Purchase thirty-one new laptops for classroom use
- Support staff development workshops for both teachers and students
- Support PAE celebrations and the Beata Vest Scholarship

Fortunately, the successful fundraising of the past years will allow the FPAE Board to allocate more 2020 funds if and when the needs arise. We are doing good work. Thank You!

Message From The Executive Director, Anita St. Onge

PAE has been very busy since the FPAE Fall newsletter. There are new programs, new funding, and lots of publicity. Our new programming has focused on sector specific training (for healthcare workers and financial professionals among others) and adding intensive language classes. The New Mainers Resource Center is making great strides with improvements to addressing barriers to licensing and credentialing for foreign-trained professionals. Both Sally Sutton and I served on a working group chaired by Ann Head, the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation to make recommendations to the Legislature to address these issues. With FPAE’s support, our lab and writing center are going strong. We have also been working hard to develop a student leadership group. A PAE team of an administrator, teacher and two students will attend a national student ambassador train the trainer program this summer thanks to support from FPAE. I appreciate the ongoing support of all of our donors.
Good News from Students

The Fall 2019 Dean's List at SMCC included at least 25 former PAE students, 16 of whom were College Transitions students who responded to congratulatory notes with these words:

“I know that Adult Education has given me the foundation I needed to succeed in College here in the US, and I will forever be grateful!”
- NANA KANJINGA

“I hope this email finds you well. Thank you for the congratulations. It was hard, but thank God, I made it. Most importantly, thank you for your guidance and your support. My time at Adult Ed has helped to shape my readiness to start college. For the new semester, I just started Art classes, I hope it will all go well. Thank you for reaching out and encouragements.”
- LINDA MUHIMPUNDU

“I am doing well still at SMCC! I went to the dean's list thanks to you guys! Take care!!!”
- ARSENE ININAHAZWE

“All the strategies I am using to succeed here at SMCC, I learned them at Portland Adult Education. That school taught me a lot. It's the reason why I keep working hard to make sure I get my associate degree with a GPA more than 3.5.”
- YOYU YUYA

Cleaves Vision Fund Continues

by Valerie Devuyst

On Saturday, October 12, 2019, twenty-two Portland Adult Education students were screened by volunteer doctors at the Eyecare Medical Group, in Portland. Dr. Frank Read (ret) and Dr. Sam Solish, along with technicians Johanna Dresser RN, Christina Chionario, Sonja Laino and Wendy Ricker, donated their Saturday to make this event a success. After the screening, students were able to get free glasses thanks to the FPAE Jane Cleave's Vision Fund established in memory of past Yarmouth Lions Club president, Jane Cleave. With a van borrowed from FPAE Treasurer Margaret Curran, Lions Club volunteer Jonathan Shute provided transportation to the Eyecare Medical Group office. Later Jonathan transported students to Walmart to get their prescriptions filled. Lions members Phoebe Chandler and Sandy Bowie also volunteered.

Out of the 2 total exams:

- 7 received prescriptions for glasses (paid for by Jane Cleaves Vision Fund)
- 7 received free readers (donated by Lions Club)
- 4 received referrals for cataract and/or glaucoma treatment at the Eye Center
- 6 received eye drops recommended by doctors (paid for by Jane Cleaves Vision Fund)

In this second screening, almost ⅓ of the students screened received prescriptions for glasses, and 4 had more serious needs.

Since the fund was established, we have raised more than $3,000. As a result of FPAE's 2019 annual appeal, 7 generous supporters donated a total of $2150. $1000 of this was from the Yarmouth Lions Club which has continued to support the Fund as part of its annual budget for the past 3 years.
2019 By The Numbers

### 2019 Revenues

- **Private Funds: Grants**: $47,500
- **Public Funds: Individuals & Business**: $76,804
- **Donor advised Funds**: $11,326
- **Other**: $254

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### 2019 Expenses

- **Scholarships for PAE courses**: $23,357
- **School Supplies**: $6,170
- **Technology / facilities**: $5,489
- **Graduation/ Teacher Projects**: $3,992
- **Credential eval**: $1,303
- **Intern/Americorp**: $720
- **Operations**: $6,467
- **Scholarships for College**: $5,650
- **New Mainer's Resource Center**: $5,000
- **Student Support/ Street Academy**: $3,352
- **PAE Teacher**: $1,297
- **Other Programming**: $500

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Successes from PAE

Common Threads Thrive

By Dory Waxman

Today at Common Threads we have welcomed our 11th class into our professional textile sewing program. We have trained over 110 students in 4 years and nearly all are working in Maine manufacturing facilities today. We are very proud of all of our students and grateful to all of the employers and to our community for the great support!

In our effort to bring textiles manufacturing back to Maine we are - with the help of the City of Westbrook and a host of wonderful private donations launching the Common Threads Textile Lab in mid March 2020. This space is being created to offer options for Textile Start Ups to have a leg up incubating and building their product lines. The workshop is fully equipped with machines for cutting and sewing as well as tools and tables to get your work done. The cost is reasonable - technical and small business support packages are on an à la carte menu. This will also be another stream of funds that can help to support our training program.

We are actively seeking funding each day and hope that we can somehow make the world a better place for everyone to thrive and grow - one thread and one student at a time. Visit our website at www.commonthreadsmaine.org or come visit us. Always be kind.

New Mainer Teller Training

A new PAE program will help foreign-trained professionals gain entry into the financial services industry by training them as tellers. The New Mainer Teller Training program launched Jan. 6 with 15 students and will run through April 3. The partnership includes six banks and credit unions, ProsperityME, the Center for Financial Training & Education Alliance, and the Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce. The participating financial institutions include: Bank of America (BOA), Bangor Savings Bank, cPort Credit Union, Gorham Savings Bank, Infinity Federal Credit Union and Norway Savings Bank.

Over 30 students applied and the teachers struggled to narrow the class to 15 students who are from nine countries: China, Iraq, Jamaica, Zambia, Namibia, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Cote d’Ivoire and Rwanda. All have financial or customer service backgrounds and many have bachelor’s and graduate degrees.

Representatives from area financial institutions helped build the curriculum and are lending their expertise as team-teachers with PAE instructors.


Mohammed Baqer, one of the students in the course, has a bachelor’s degree in physics and used to work on the Iraq Stock Exchange. He is excited to re-enter his field. “I would love to be a professional teller in the future to help our community,” he said.

Many thanks to FPAE Board Member, Todd Beacham (BOA Senior Vice President and the Business Banking Market Manager for Maine, Seacoast NH, and Vermont) for helping to spearhead this project and convene the team of financial partners.
Equity Leaders Professional Development

Thanks to support from FPAE, PAE is able to offer four 2 hour-long professional development workshops focused on increasing the equity literacy of staff. In 2017, Portland Public Schools launched an initiative to examine equity in the district in order to review its practices, procedures and curriculum. Sara Staples and Bridget Kahn joined the district’s Equity Leaders Cohort in September as PAE’s representatives and are participating in monthly meetings as well as 3 day-long train-the-trainers workshops. As Equity Leaders they will then facilitate 3 workshops for PAE staff thus, building collective efficacy in the area of educational equity.

The funding provided by FPAE allows us to expand the reach of the professional development beyond our small group of contracted staff, to include hourly teachers and office staff who otherwise would not have had access.

In January, Sara and Bridget led the first workshop in the series to a group of 25 PAE teachers and staff. The facilitated conversation focused on the educational Opportunity Gap and how it relates to our staff, students, and school community. Future workshops will focus on implicit bias, and analyzing our classroom materials with an equity lens.

In addition, the funding from FPAE will also provide an opportunity for PAE staff to participate in an immersive training led by Wabanaki Reach which focuses on teaching historical truths about events in the 400 year colonizing history of Wabanaki people (the Indigenous people of Maine) by Europeans and their descendants.

PAE Accepts Chamber of Commerce Award

By Anita St. Onge

In early September, PAE was featured in a news article on Asylum Seekers on WCVB in Boston. On September 27th the Maine Development Foundation presented the Maine Adult Education System with the Champion of Education and Workforce Development Award. In their letter to us, they said: “Your tireless work on behalf of the people of Maine does not go unnoticed. The Maine Adult Education System has been selected as MDF’s 2019 Champion of Education and Workforce Development! Congratulations! We would like to highlight the variety of work you do throughout Maine to support education and workforce training in all of its various iterations from North to South and East to West. Your versatility, community engagement, responsiveness, and collaborative nature truly put you at the nexus of education and employment.” Finally, in January, PAE received the Regional Chamber of Commerce’s Collaborator Award. I am so proud of the work that our staff, volunteers and students are doing. Thanks to all of the Friends of PAE for your ongoing support.

Student Leadership Takes Shape

Thanks to a grant from the Maine Community Foundation, Portland Adult Education is able to create a new program to foster student leadership. Harry Luvusi, originally from Kenya, is now Portland Adult Education’s first Student Leadership Development Intern.

Harry earned his Bachelor’s degree in Education from the American University in Kenya. After graduation, Harry joined a large parachurch organization, where he used his educational background to train community leaders. He also held a position in aviation logistics, which involved working for the United States and NATO on the Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan.

Now that he is serving as the Student Leadership Development Intern, Harry holds weekly office hours on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in the PAE computer lab. Together with the Student Leadership Development Advisory Board, Harry is creating a Student Voice Committee. This committee will meet regularly, giving PAE students a forum to share their thoughts and concerns. The committee will also offer leadership training programs to interested students.

This April, Harry Luvusi will be attending the Coalition on Adult Basic Education Conference in Baltimore in order to join their Student Ambassador “Train the Trainer” program. He plans to use his COABE training to create Student Ambassadors at PAE who will represent and advocate for adult education.

“There is a saying,” Harry explains with a smile. “Once a teacher, always a teacher!”

Portland Adult Education is excited to welcome Harry Luvusi, and we look forward to learning from this experienced teacher and trainer! Harry can be reached at his email, luvush@portlandschools.org, through his mail box in the PAE main office, or in the PAE computer lab from 4:30 to 6:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Photo by Maine Magazine - DDostie
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- Unum Foundation
- C. Cookie Love Project
- Maine Community Foundation
- Bank of America Foundation
- Ruth Irene Grove Fund

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- Moira Simonds

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- David Foster

### In Honor of Kristin Schardt’s work at PAE
- Martin Lodish

### In Honor of Nancy Fox & Arline Saturdayborn
- Gail & Peter Cinelli

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- Mary Jeton

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- Brooks Family Foundation
- Ruanne Ewing
- Jonathan Fox
- Carol & Jim Springer
- Victoria Vest
Writing Center Grows
by Nancy Fox

We are thrilled to report that the FPAE sponsored PAE Writing Center has caught on like wildfire! The Writing Center opened on October 18, 2019, and since that time there have been 240 student visits. This represents a total of 102 students, with over half returning for multiple visits. There have been student visits from the full range of ESOL classes, referred by 28 different teachers. Already, there has been a 60% increase in visits this term compared to last term.

The Writing Center is currently open three days a week for 2-3 hour blocks at different times of day. It is staffed by 8 experienced ESOL teachers, working with students at a variety of levels. Students receive one on one writing instruction for a minimum of 20 minutes. Students leave each visit at the Writing Center with a summary of specific areas of grammar or sentence structure needing attention, a copy of what they worked on, and a focused homework assignment to be completed before returning. Classroom teachers are notified of students from their classes who have visited. Writing Center staff is reporting improvement in writing among those students who are regularly visiting the Center.

PAE ESOL teachers have been enthusiastic about referring students to the Writing Center because this kind of structured, one on one instruction is simply not possible in a classroom of 20-30 students. PAE teachers and administrators are delighted that the new PAE Writing(346,951),(653,999)