

Recompense Fund

During 2014, The Recompense Fund made a major shift from a private to a community fund, supported by its members, year-round and seasonal residents of the Chebeague community.

Let's compare it to Portland's United Way, which received donations from over 14,000 individuals last year. They have a full-time professional CEO and staff, and while we lack specific details on their administrative costs, there can be no doubt that every dollar contributed to them bears a significant administrative cost burden. Our volunteer Board runs the affairs of Recompense, and the few dollars we pay The Maine Community Foundation for administration are insignificant. Over 99 cents of every dollar contributed to Recompense is donated to Chebeague's nonprofits. It is also interesting to note that thanks to the generosity of Chebeaguers, our ratio of donors to population is many times that of the Portland United Way. Supporting our neighbors is a deep-seated characteristic of the Chebeague culture.

During our recent fund raising appeal, some asked why Recompense deserves support as opposed to directly contributing to one or more Chebeague charities.

Recompense does not want to be seen as competing with Chebeague's nonprofits. We definitely want prospective members to contribute to their favorite local nonprofits.

Recompense is open to grant applications from all Chebeague nonprofits and makes its funding decisions based on each application's promise to contribute to the sustainability of the island. The Fund also contributes significant capital to help kick off important new island projects.

Additionally, Recompense is a resource to assist local nonprofits with strategic planning, especially when they face issues of sustainability.

Donations to Recompense are not used to fund operating expenses of nonprofits, but are directed instead to capital projects beyond annual budgets.

For all of these reasons, a donation to Recompense is very different from a direct contribution to an operating nonprofit. This is why each of us gave generously in 2014 to Recompense. We are proud to report that over 150 Chebeaguers joined us.

Leila Bisharat	Betts Mayer	Jim Van Fleet
Justin Doughty	Eldon Mayer	Linda White
Caitlin Gerber	Manny Morgan	
Beverly Johnson	Ralph Munroe	

You can contact the Recompense fund at islandlife@chebeague.net.

