



2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

MESSAGE FROM THE HELPING HANDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

While there is considerable uncertainty in the world today, we want to say how grateful we are for all the wonderful people in our community – those who live here and those who visit. We are all so lucky to experience Maine with the beautiful ocean at our doorstep, our kind neighbors at our back and what seems like an ingrained need to reach out and help others. The Helping Hands' mission of supporting our community in an inclusive way is needed more than ever at this time. We are excited to share with you all the successes Helping Hands had in 2024 as well as showcase what inspires us as we move into Spring of 2025.

NANCY EVANS ~ JODY MCKENZIE-HARRIS ~ BETH BILLIK ~ RACHEL GOODRICH ~ DEBBIE POLAND

HIGHLIGHTS

⇒ Meeting House Restoration

Phase 2 of 5 was completed including the repair, reconstruction and painting of the steeple, facade and front porch

⇒ Heather Cox Richardson Fundraiser

Hosted a sold-out fundraising event at Lincoln Theater

⇒ Grants

Received a \$60K Grant from the Maine Steeple Foundation for the 2024 restoration work

⇒ Second Helpings Cookbook

Launched the *Helping Hands of Round Pond - Second Helpings Cookbook* - selling more than half the initial print run

⇒ Fourth of July Hot Dog Sale

Sold-out Hot Dog Sale Fundraiser - over 200 Hot Dogs sold before the 4th of July Parade started plus bike decorating & a scavenger hunt

⇒ Community Ice Cream Social

Another well-attended Ice Cream Social

⇒ Thanksgiving Pies to Round Pond Green

Thanksgiving Pies baked by volunteers and delivered to Round Pond Green in time for their Thanksgiving celebration

⇒ Town Beautification

Planters maintained at Welcome signs & holiday wreaths hung

⇒ Holiday Gift Boxes

Distributed 14 Holiday Gift Boxes to our Round Pond neighbors

⇒ Charitable Donations

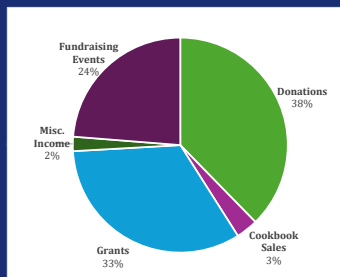
\$3K to local organizations that support our neighbors

⇒ Supporting Neighbors in Need

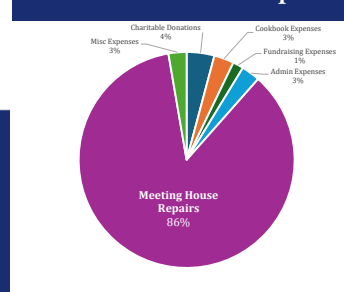
With visits, rides and supportive connection

2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Income



Expenses



2025/26 PLANS

- ◇ **Phase 3 of the Meeting House Restoration**
expected to begin in Spring 2026 including repairing the structural underpinnings of the building
- ◇ **Redesign of the Helping Hands Website**
to provide improved access to enhanced information
- ◇ **A Fabulous Summer Fundraising Event**
Details coming soon
- ◇ **New "Welcome to Round Pond" Signs**
- ◇ **Kick off of the Winter Coffee Club at The Ro**
The events this winter were a big success and we look forward to hosting the Coffee Club again later this year
- ◇ **Second Helpings Cookbook Reordered**
and stocked up - Get yours at Granite Hall Store, Round Pond Coffee or King Ro

DONATIONS

Online: www.helpinghandsroundpond.org

By Mail: Helping Hands of Round Pond - P.O. Box 114, Round Pond, ME 04564

HELPING HANDS OF ROUND POND MISSION STATEMENT

The Helping Hands of Round Pond, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is dedicated to providing support to the local community, focusing on the village of Round Pond, through outreach, social events, and educational programming. The historic Meetinghouse is the home of the Helping Hands of Round Pond and provides an inclusive community gathering space for all.



April 2024

Dear Friends of the Round Pond Meetinghouse and Supporters of the Helping Hands,

As you drive through Round Pond this week, you will notice some activity at the Meetinghouse. Scaffolding is going up, and soon carpenters will be at work repairing the facade of the building. Once the carpenters are done, painters will come on site and finish their part of the project to restore the front of the building, including the plinth and the steeple.

We write to you today to update you on the recent activities of the Helping Hands. 2023 saw the completion of several important building projects at the Meetinghouse, including the installation of a new roof, the removal of an old chimney and surrounding repairs, the removal of the palladium window for restoration, and substantial work to the electrical system. While this work was underway we continued to raise funds and pursue grants. In January 2024 we were awarded a \$60,000 matching grant from the Maine Steeples Fund; these funds are allowing us to move forward with our spring and summer construction projects. Looking beyond the summer of 2024, we will soon be in a good position to organize and raise funds for the next phase of construction. After an architectural engineer stepped forward and agreed to do a *pro bono* structural review, we now have the information we need to plan for repairing the foundation of the structure. Rebuilding the underpinnings will undoubtedly be the most significant undertaking in the restoration of the Meetinghouse.

The Community Service Committee continues to be the heart of our organization. Even without a functioning building to call its own, our hearty troop of volunteers works tirelessly throughout the year to raise funds needed to support the residents of Round Pond and bring the community together at important times. We planned bake sales and food sales every season of the year, and had a strong presence on the lawn of the Meetinghouse at the Round Pond Fourth of July Parade. We participated in spring clean-up days, celebrated summer with a free ice-cream social (co-sponsored by Camden National Bank), and decorated the village with wreaths and a lighted tree for the winter season. We gathered information and published a local resource guide of social services; we welcomed new residents to the village, and gave support to those who were ill or shut-in, or who had recently lost family members. And at its final committee meeting in December 2023, we distributed over \$3800 to local organizations that serve Round Pond and share our vision of serving the bodies, hearts, minds, and spirits of our local coastal community.

We are excited for everything that the coming months will bring. While we are eagerly following the construction project now underway, we are also getting ready for more public events,

fundraisers, and community activities. Mary Boothby has generously contributed to our efforts by designing and painting a beautiful lighthouse sign that will track our fundraising progress. We are working on a new Helping Hands of Round Pond cookbook, and in July we will be hosting an evening benefit with Round Pond resident and public historian Heather Cox Richardson - stay tuned for details!

If you are not yet in Round Pond for the summer season, we look forward to seeing you soon. And when you drive by the Meetinghouse, look for the lighthouse, and look up at the facade and join us as we all watch the changes unfold.

Sincerely yours,
the Board of the Helping Hands of Round Pond
Nancy Evans, Jody McKenzie Harris, Debbie Poland, Beth Billik, Kate Cox

