



2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Making Maine a Better Place for Women and Girls in the 123rd Legislature

In 2007, Maine Women's Lobby Director of Public Policy, Laura Harper, worked the halls of the State House—combing through thousands of bill titles to identify those which would have an impact on women, meeting face-to-face with legislative leaders, and speaking with key legislators as they rushed between committee meetings. The Maine Women's Lobby backed up her work with the grassroots advocacy necessary to make the power of women, as a constituency, visible.

As a result, in 2007, the Maine Women's Lobby helped women support themselves and their families by:

- ☆ Making more women eligible for unemployment benefits through the extension of unemployment insurance for part-time workers;
- ☆ Championing the Competitiveness Skills Scholarship Program, a training fund providing financial support and services to low-wage workers wanting to access a postsecondary degree;
- ☆ Clarifying Maine's Family Medical Leave Law in cases of intermittent leave. Workers have the right to access this leave a few weeks or a few days at a time versus taking all ten weeks at once;
- ☆ More clearly defining a livable wage;
- ☆ Defending against barriers to basic support services such as TANF, Medicaid, and general assistance and rejecting a state budget proposal which would have restricted access to general assistance; and,
- ☆ Advancing the debate for healthy families, advocating for legislation which would guarantee a paid sick days standard so that everyone has the opportunity to get well.

The Maine Women's Lobby supported survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault by:

- ☆ Helping to pass first-in-the-nation legislation recognizing domestic violence as a crime; and,
- ☆ Working with allies to pass legislation to prevent the arrests of victims by requiring law enforcement to evaluate who is the predominant physical aggressor in domestic abuse circumstances.

The Maine Women's Lobby affirmed Maine women's reproductive health and expanded access to affordable, quality health care by defeating a raft of anti-choice legislation.

The Maine Women's Lobby supported civil rights for gays and lesbians by:

- ☆ Ensuring equal access to the protections of Maine's Family and Medical Leave Law through expansions to include domestic partners and their children.

Financial Report

January 1, 2007—December 31, 2007

<u>Income</u>	
Membership Contributions	17,317
Grants	131,847
Donations	4,295
Miscellaneous	1,057
Total Income	<u>154,516</u>
<u>Expenses</u>	
Program	74,878
Operating	15,395
Fundraising	5,586
Total Expenses	<u>95,859</u>
Total Surplus (Deficit)	<u>58,657</u>
Current Assets/Total Assets	71,287
Current Liabilities	4,171
Unrestricted Fund Balance	58,657
Restricted Fund Balance	8,459
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>71,287</u>



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Tomorrow's Leaders, Today

"I learned that I can do whatever I want in my life and that I have a voice in the government. That I should speak out and say what I think. Girls' Day definitely opened my mind and my eyes to my potential as a woman in the State of Maine and America." *Ashley, Woolwich*

In 2007, the Maine Women's Policy Center hosted its 11th annual Girls' Day at the State House. In March, over 100 8th-grade girls arrived at the State House to spend the day learning about the policymaking process and how they can have an impact on the issues they care about.



Supporting Family Values, at Work

"I was a productive employee in need of flexibility in my job. But instead, I was faced with a horrible choice: my job or my child." *Lisa, Belgrade*

In 2007, the Maine Women's Policy Center championed family friendly workplace policies. To meet the needs of today's workers and their families, we educated policymakers about the impact of the lack of paid sick days on family health, recognized and inspired businesses to adopt family flexible workplace policies, and created strategic partnerships with other states working to advance policies that value family care.

Education: The Pathway to Prosperity for Maine Women

"It all depends on the financial aid. People have to abandon dreams, give up, before they are given a chance." *Denise, Lewiston*

Education is the pathway to higher-wage jobs with benefits. But, while the benefits of education are clear, the pathway is fraught with challenges. In 2007, The Maine Women's Policy Center collaborated with Maine Equal Justice Partners to conduct interviews with adult, low-wage working students and would-be students to gather their perspectives on access to education. Participants reported the lack of financial resources and support services such as child care and transportation, as well as time away from work, as the largest barriers.

To address this need for both working families and Maine's information economy, in 2007, the Maine Women's Policy Center and the Maine Women's Lobby helped develop and promote the Competitiveness Skills Scholarship Program and developed additional strategies to provide low-wage workers with opportunities for higher education. We know that this work will create lasting change for families and will contribute to the success of Maine's economy.

Simply put, as the lifelong value of a postsecondary degree increases, so, too, should the efforts of policymakers to create educational opportunities for those most in need of the benefits.

Financial Report

January 1, 2007—December 31, 2007

Income	
Foundation Grants	158,120
Contributions	84,479
Workplace Giving	6,432
Total Income	249,031
Expenses	
Program	239,774
Operating	30,770
Fundraising	33,450
Total Expenses	303,994
Total Surplus (Deficit)	(54,963)*
Current Assets/Total Assets	114,422
Current Liabilities	7,502
Unrestricted Fund Balance	31,729
Temporarily Restricted Fund Balance	44,027
Dyer Restricted Fund Balance	31,164
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	114,422

*The 2007 deficit was financed with cash on hand as of January 1, 2007.