



MAYBELLE
CENTER FOR COMMUNITY



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

WHAT'S INSIDE

1

DEAR FRIENDS

A note from our Executive Director on the balance between safety and isolation

2

CONNECTING IN THE IN-BETWEEN

Building connection with recycled glass and a large-scale mosaic

3

MEMBER FEATURE: MOSAIC

Babs and Peggy on their participation in the mosaic and their hopes

4

PROTECTING HEALTH

And preserving the most anticipated day of the year: Wildwood

5

FINANCIAL HEALTH

Emerging from the pandemic healthy and looking towards the future

6

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Just a few of the ways we're disrupting social isolation in Portland

“

“To go from being isolated to becoming connected is essential to the **world becoming a better place.**

Going from thinking you're alone to being able to hear other people enables you to **connect with their power.**

To go from thinking you're alone in this life to realizing **the joy of becoming supportive of others...**”

MARK LAKEMAN

COMMUNECTURE AND CITY REPAIR + THE VILLAGE BUILDING CONVERGENCE

Excerpt from an interview by PSU capstone students who completed a short-term practicum with Maybelle Center this spring (see last page)

“ *So many of our conversations centered around balancing COVID safety measures with our sons’ social needs. Connection is a biological need for all of us.* ”

DEAR FRIENDS

As we entered 2021 still amid a pandemic, I noticed my family started taking more calculated risks. We were vaccinated early, but the dangers of COVID were ever-present, along with a growing reality of the detrimental effects of the social sacrifices we were making.

I could see, up close and personal, how social isolation was negatively impacting my own family. And that it was something we had to consider each time we decided if an activity was “safe.”

My family’s evolving approach to the pandemic

paralleled that of Maybelle’s in many ways. Like many organizations, we closed our offices and discontinued in-person gatherings when the pandemic first hit.

We lingered for months in the eternal limbo of “things are turning a corner” but felt no confidence in reopening

in-person activities.

Yet entering 2021, we knew we needed to find a way to balance protecting member health and providing connection avenues – and I think we’re doing a pretty good job of finding that balance.

I’ve heard so many people

A RETURN TO
NORMAL?
NO, THANK YOU.

say they can’t wait to ‘get back to normal.’ We hoped that as the pandemic eased, so would our loneliness.

But for some of us, like many of our members, going back to ‘normal’ is still a lonely environment. While many daily routines may eventually revert to pre-pandemic ways, ingredients that created isolation before the pandemic haven’t eased – and in some cases, are more pronounced. Triggers such as chronic health issues, disability, trauma, financial stress, or a sudden move.

Michelle Meyer (left), Maybelle Center Executive Director, poses for a photo with our member, Babs (right), at Wildwood in August, our annual nature excursion that you make possible.

Loneliness & social isolation underpin so many persistent problems in our city.

We have a lot of work to do coming out of the pandemic. Our mission to disrupt social isolation has never been more critical or more understood. Thank you for partnering with us to build a Portland where we all experience meaningful social connection – for our health and the health of our city.



Michelle Meyer, Executive Director

CONNECTING IN THE IN-BETWEEN

Artists Todd Beaty and Crystal Meneses worked with Maybelle members, volunteers, and donors to create a 500 sq ft mosaic mural in the courtyard between Maybelle Center and Macdonald Residence.

In mid-July, members and residents put together the first mosaic tiles using small pieces of luminous glass gleaned from the recycle bin at Bullseye Glass.

After a year of incredible isolation, members expressed immense joy as they created their tiles.

Conceived during uncertainty about reopening, the artists designed the

project so it could be done in-person through a workshop model, or people could take kits home and do them independently. So we were were prepared no matter what the pandemic threw at us!

The mosaic couldn't have happened without our donors who backed the project - many also completed their own tile!

"There was just this need to be together and create. We found a way to do that through art, whether we're shut down in the pandemic or as we opened up."



Crystal Meneses
mural artist

Photo credit: Babs Jacobsen, 2021



"The two rivers converging into one body represent communities bound in effort and action, supporting one another to thrive.

Like droplets of water flowing together, we connect with each other to offer the essence of life, renewal, and survival."

Todd Beaty
glass artist

Glass artist Todd Beaty installs the mosaic in our Courtyard. The design is based on his abstract drawing of the Willamette and Columbia rivers converging.

“WHEN SOMEONE COMES OUT AND SEES THE MURAL, OR LOOKS OUT THEIR WINDOW AND SEES THE MURAL, I’VE HEARD THAT THEY FEEL A SENSE OF PEACE, CALMNESS, AND PRIDE IN PUTTING TOGETHER A SQUARE.”

PEGGY

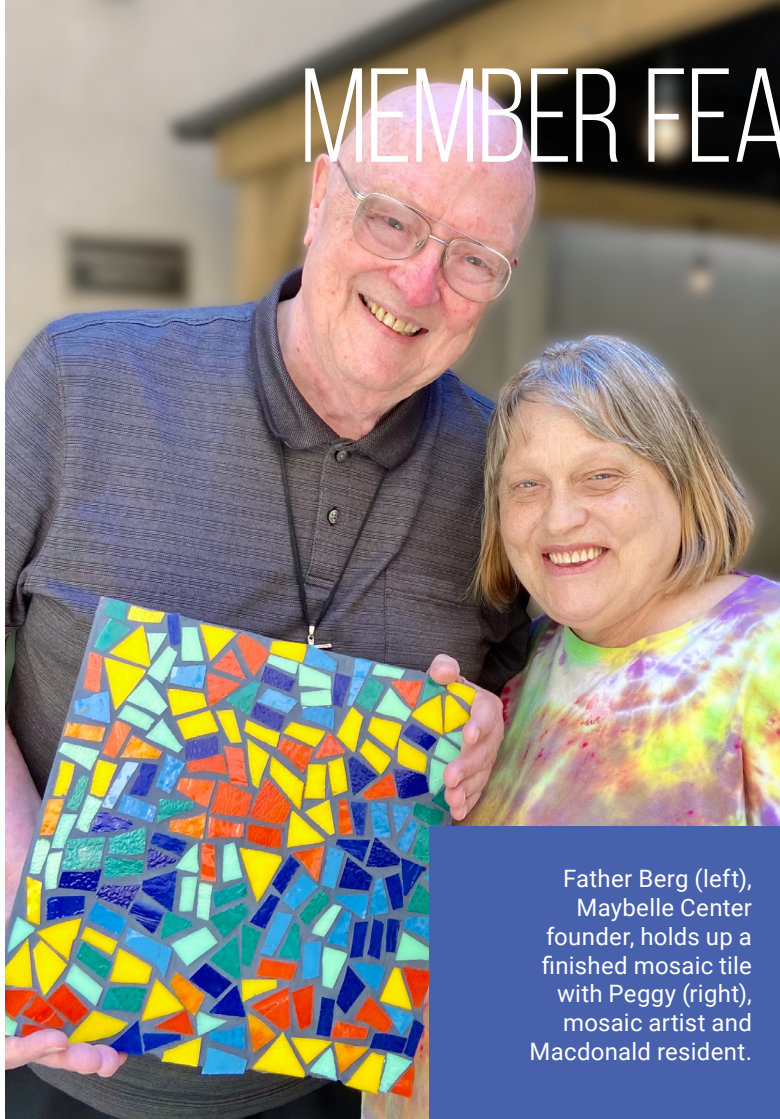
“And the talk is, ‘Which square did you do?’ Or ‘Did you find your square yet?’ They’re really proud of it - really, really proud.

I’ve been involved in the mosaic project helping Crystal. There weren’t enough people involved over at Mac Residence assisted living. So, I said, “Well, let me take some over, and I’ll get them to do it over there.”

So I took some over, and staff went nuts. They went on recruiting other staff, saying, ‘Oh, I had so much fun. You should do one too!’ And it was the same way with several of the residents.

As it started to go up the first day, staff and residents that were physically able to use the stairways kept looking out the window to see the progress. I think it brought a little more collaboration between the whole community. It’s been a real positive thing.”

- Peggy, mosaic artist & Macdonald Resident



Father Berg (left), Maybelle Center founder, holds up a finished mosaic tile with Peggy (right), mosaic artist and Macdonald resident.

MEMBER FEATURE MOSAIC

BABS

“I am proud to be part of this project, connecting with people and working with my hands. That’s really important to me. And then watching the finishing work as it was put up - it’ll last for years, and people will enjoy it for years.

I did a lot of tiles - I think 35. Some people did really careful patterns; some people did certain colors going one way or another. You could tell by the tiles who did each one - it’s almost a signature.

When they all get together, it’s just so neat because I could not

“WITH THE PANDEMIC THAT’S BEEN GOING ON, IT’S REALLY BEEN LONELY WITHOUT OUR MEMBERS AND HANGING OUT TOGETHER WITH OUR FRIENDS. “THE MOSAIC GAVE US A CHANCE TO RECONNECT WITH PEOPLE THAT WE’VE MISSED.”

envision what this was going to look like when we got it done. And it’s absolutely amazing that it all goes together and flows.

When people see the mural, I want them to see the work and the love that was put into each piece of glass that we put on and the time it took - the combined effort of the community. I hope they feel happy and wonderful. Like, ‘How did they do this?’ Because we’re very proud of it.”

- Babs, mosaic artist & Maybelle Member



"SEEING AND HUGGING LESLIE AT WILDWOOD AT OAKS PARK WAS NOT ONLY THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY DAY - IT WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY YEAR!

"Leslie is a long-time member of Maybelle. He lived right next door at MacWest Apartments, and he literally came to the Community Room every day. We spent a lot of time together, and I quickly grew fond of him.

Unfortunately, right before Covid hit, Leslie's health started declining,

and he moved out of downtown into assisted living. Leslie is deaf, and I tried to keep in contact with him as best I could. But eventually, he stopped answering my texts.

When we started planning Wildwood, I really wanted to make sure Leslie was invited. I knew transportation would be an issue as he can no longer walk and uses a mobility chair. So, we arranged medical transport just for Leslie!"

Celeste Horne
Community Room Lead



Celeste (left) with our member, Leslie (right), at Wildwood at Oaks Park in August.

PROTECTING HEALTH

WHILE PRESERVING THE MOST ANTICIPATED DAY OF THE YEAR

On August 19th, we packed up 2 school buses, arranged medical transports, and headed out of downtown with over 50 members to enjoy nature at our 12th annual Wildwood excursion.

Nature is good for our health and well-being. Yet, many of our members experience long-term illness, disability, or transportation issues that make accessing green spaces more challenging. Not surprisingly, members share that our annual excursion to Wildwood Recreation Site is one of the few times they can get out of the city and into nature.

For almost a dozen years, we've climbed into school buses and medical transports for the bus ride to Wildwood near Mt. Hood. Yet, aggregating so many people on a bus for 90 minutes amid a lingering pandemic made us nervous - especially since many of our members are at higher risk of contracting COVID for various reasons.

So, for 2021, we temporarily relocated our Wildwood excursion to Oaks Amusement Park in Sellwood - just 15 minutes away. While amusement park rides alter the experience, tree-covered picnic areas with views of the Willamette River, plus nature walks in the adjacent Oaks Bottom Refuge, helped keep the spirit of Wildwood alive. But no matter where we meet, it's connection that truly feeds our souls.

DONORS

MAKING IT POSSIBLE

Our donors help us have one day where we get to go out to the gorge, to the mountain, or a women's retreat – different things like that.

That may not mean something to somebody with a car, or that can get out.

But for those of us who can't get out of the city or away from the neighborhood, it's really, really neat."



Peggy
Macdonald Resident
& Maybelle Member

TO BE A PART OF THE WILDWOOD EVENT WAS LIKE BEING AT A BLOCK PARTY WITH RIDES!

The community of Maybelle came together in such marvelous ways – the joyfulness and delight of connecting again, so much laughter, and the ultimate release of all our cares on the thrilling rides. What a gift."



Carol Mitchell
Maybelle Board
President &
Wildwood volunteer

THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 SPONSORS



BECKER CAPITAL
MANAGEMENT



BJORKLUND
& MONTPLAISIR

JD FULWILER & CO. INSURANCE



MARY'S WOODS



We're incredibly thankful for your partnership over the last year as we've navigated the 'in-between' times. Together, we are disrupting social isolation so more of us can experience a healthy, connected life and contribute to a thriving Portland.

BOARD MEMBERS

Carol M. Mitchell, RN, MN, *President*
Nhi Nguyen, *Vice President/Secretary*
Dave DeMots, *Immediate Past President*
Pete Craven, *Treasurer*

Austin Carmichael
Jackie Smith
Jeff Perry
Jon Hofmeister
Kevin O'Brien

Nick Knapp
Paul Henningsen
Peggy Brey
Sule Balkan
Wendy Shumway



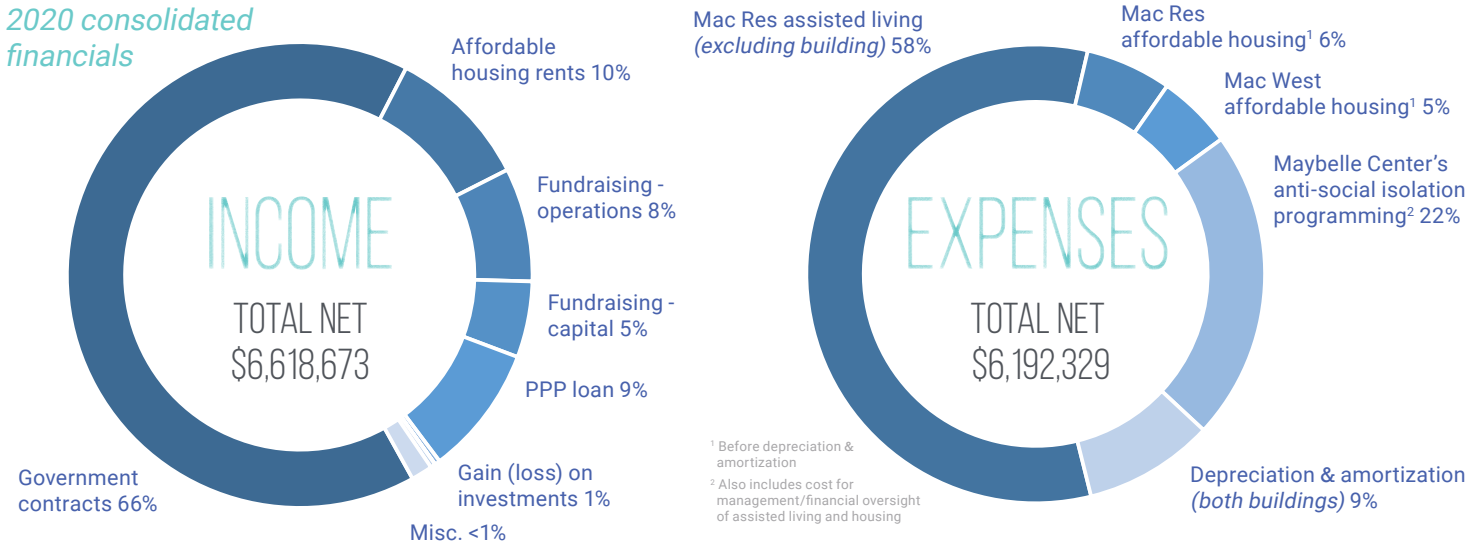
Carol Mitchell (left) rides an amusement park ride with our member Alan (right). Because of COVID, we temporarily relocated Wildwood (our annual excursion to the mountain) to Oaks Park, just 15 minutes away.

DISRUPTING SOCIAL ISOLATION • ASSISTED LIVING • AFFORDABLE HOUSING

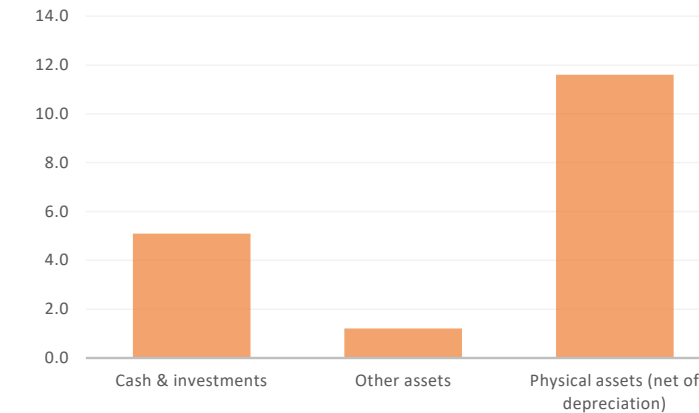
FINANCIAL HEALTH

*More and more of you are disrupting social isolation in downtown Portland.
A big hug to donors, volunteers, staff, and members who continue to share
Maybelle Center's mission with friends and family.*

2020 consolidated
financials



Assets in millions



TOTAL NET ASSETS \$17.9 MIL

Cash assets are used for working capital, reserves, plus long-term capital improvements and renovation of our two affordable housing buildings.

*You can view our full donor list at
maybellecter.org/2020donors*



Nell Whitman
Finance Director

"Thanks to the federal PPP loan, we came through COVID financially intact.

The PPP loan covered salaries, hazard pay for assisted living staff, and helped offset revenue shortfalls when it wasn't safe to hold our annual fundraising event and when we experienced a slow-down in assisted living admissions.

Additionally, many donors and foundations understood the financial impact of COVID and increased their support – we are so grateful!

We are planning – and saving and budgeting – for 12/31/2021 when we become full owners of the Macdonald Residence building (our assisted living). We're currently in a visioning process that will address needed maintenance and allow us to make physical changes to incorporate assisted living best practices."



RESOURCE NAVIGATION MEMBER SUPPORT

We support members as they navigate barriers in accessing resources – whether it's a food box, health care, technology, or other resource.

"Over the last year, there was a bigger need for food resources and technology support so members could stay connected to friends and family.

But helping people access resources to stay in their housing – that's been the biggest one. We're researching government rental assistance offerings, tracking down how to access them, and linking them with members."

Ruthie Uhl

Member Engagement Mgr



of interactions: **659**
of unique members: **311**

GATHER & GROW FRIENDSHIPS COMMUNITY ROOM

Our Community Room is a safe space to gather. So, pull up a chair and play a round of Skip-Bo or just chat about how you're doing.

"What a year it has been! I want to recognize our members who have learned how to adapt, survive, and live life amid the pandemic. And through it all, Maybelle's not given up on our mission - not for one second! We are still breaking down the barriers of isolation in our community.

For the last 18 months, we've made phone calls, sent cards and letters, and connected virtually with as many members as possible. We also started meeting outside as soon as it was safe and later opened our Community Room to vaccinated members. Unvaccinated members and anyone uncomfortable with meeting indoors can join us at outdoor and virtual community rooms."

Celeste Horne

Community Room Lead



of interactions: **1903**
of unique members: **145**

WEEKLY SOCIAL CHATS VISITATION

Members and volunteers meet weekly to give each other space to be deeply heard and understood.

of interactions: **7535**

of unique members: **323**

of volunteer hours: **4023**

of volunteers: **158**



EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING SPIRITUAL SUPPORT

Support with grief, loss, or the big questions in life. We also offer memorials for members and friends.

Open to all religious and spiritual backgrounds.

of interactions: **774**

of unique members: **93**

ASSISTED LIVING MACDONALD RESIDENCE

One of the few 100% Medicaid facilities in the nation, our 54 residents receive 24-7 care to ensure every person can live as independently as possible.

AFFORDABLE APARTMENTS MACDONALD WEST

42 studio apartments for anyone earning 50% or less than area median income.



SHORT-TERM GROUP PRACTICUMS | EDUCATION

We partner with colleges and universities to provide short-term practicums exploring social isolation and the complex link between poverty and health inequalities.

"It's no surprise that many members accustomed to visiting with students were ready to share time over the phone and on Zoom - something we hope to continue offering after the pandemic ends.

Some nursing schools made the tough decision to identify other in-person clinical placements while the Center remained closed. Their temporary departure opened an opportunity to work with

Portland State University capstone students.

I'm happy to announce that we've now reinitiated our relationship with University of Portland nursing students, who have expanded their engagement, including knocking on doors of members who we temporarily lost touch during the pandemic."

Jenna Padbury
Education
Coordinator



of practicum volunteer hours in 2020: **1336**

of students in 2020: **62**

WE BELIEVE

EVERY PERSON IS IRREPLACEABLE AND HAS SOMETHING REMARKABLE TO SHARE WITH OTHERS.

Our belief statement (left) was updated with our mission statement in 2019 to better reflect our work and how we aim to influence Portland.

WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE IF EVERYONE BELIEVED THEY HAD SOMETHING REMARKABLE TO SHARE?

This is precisely what nine Portland State University capstone students set out to answer this spring during their short-term practicum at Maybelle Center.

Here are some highlights of their interviews with fellow Portlanders.

"Life would be a lot better if we all thought more highly of ourselves. Because it's all our pain and hurt that gets projected onto everybody else that ruins interactions with everybody... We're all coming from a place of hurt." - Amy Stewart

"It's kinda like you have to love yourself before you can love someone else. If they're positive about themselves, they can make society better." - Anonymous

"I believe there would be more positivity, less hate, and issues in the world - bullying would be cut down a lot in schools too." - Anonymous

“

"Every person on earth has the ability to be a highly remarkable person. Sometimes answering 'what about us is remarkable' can be hard - and that's where the problem is...Everyone would be happier knowing they are gifted, and it is needed in this world. We are all needed." - Sanaa

"There's a special importance of people being able to come into their agency and lean forward and start to find all of this creative capacity that was always there...the first step is the hardest, and after that, you actually start to be able to walk - people start to be able to flex their muscles, they start to be able to test their capacity... Once we take that, then everything else becomes possible." - Mark Lakeman



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

Portland State
UNIVERSITY

Thank you Aidan, Russell, Anna, David, Jack, Kelsey, Alistair, Kemle, and Shaye!

TOGETHER, WE CAN
DISRUPT SOCIAL ISOLATION SO WE
CAN ALL EXPERIENCE A HEALTHY,
CONNECTED LIFE AND CONTRIBUTE
TO A THRIVING PORTLAND.



MAYBELLE
CENTER FOR COMMUNITY
121 NW 6th Ave
Portland, OR 97209



Members Jair (left) and Christa (right), at Outdoor Community Room this summer – one of the ways we’re balancing health and safety with our need for meaningful social connection. Thank you so much for your support as we’ve navigated through the pandemic!