



HOW TO HELP IN MAINE

"a new resource for students wanting to make a change" [WWW.HOWTOHELPINMAINE.ORG](http://www.howtohelpinmaine.org)

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NEW WEBSITE CONNECTS STUDENTS TO CHARITIES

Zoe Siegel and Parker Harnett, sophomores at Yarmouth High School, have published a new database driven website entitled "How to Help in Maine" (www.howtohelpinmaine.org). They founded their organization "How to Help in Maine" in November of 2018 because they realized that they had a lot of friends who wanted to help out in their community but were having trouble knowing how to get started. Their mission is to raise awareness of all the places students (and adults too) of any age can donate their time, goods, and money to charities who need them most. They wanted to create an engaging space where students can learn about the benefits of volunteering and then link to charities which reflect their specific interests. They believe in taking action with urgency, in order to raise public awareness about some of the most pressing issues facing Maine today.

On their website, [How to Help in Maine](http://www.howtohelpinmaine.org), there are presently twenty charities that one can peruse and look for ways to volunteer, donate money, or donate material goods. If one has a specific material good they want to donate – they can search for a charity that needs that particular item. If one wants to volunteer in an area close to them – they can search by regions throughout Maine. If one wants to donate money (any amount) – they can search via an organization type (shelter, animal, youth enrichment etc.). There is also an event calendar with fund-raisers and projects for charities throughout Maine. Zoe and Parker's goal is to provide easy access to things like a 5K, a walk or a winter plunge that one might not hear about otherwise. They hope to encourage students to step out of their comfort zone and help whenever and however possible.

The goal is to grow the website exponentially so it eventually covers all charities in all regions of Maine. To that end, on the website there is a simple way to "[Add Your Charity!](#)" by filling out a google form linked to the page. The goal is to create a self-sustaining website to which charities and students are drawn. They hope that organizations will share their information and needs so to encourage volunteering and the donation of goods and money. It's a win-win for the students, community and the organizations.

A final component of the site is a blog page of volunteering stories. Students are encouraged to send in their stories of volunteering. Articles ranging from tips to awkward encounters to inspirational moments are all here. Visitors to the site can explore and feel inspired and empowered with ideas on how to take action and make real change in the community.

Please visit howtohelpinmaine.org to find the volunteer opportunity that you are looking for!