



2022 WHIPSTITCH CAPITAL CHARITABLE DONATIONS And Co-Founder Starts a Non-Profit to Help Asylum Seekers in Maine

2022 marks the third year Whipstitch Capital has made a substantial donation to several charitable organizations. As with prior years, individual Whipstitch team members have selected a non-profit organization and the firm has donated on the team member's behalf. Below we are excited to share the organizations and the motivation behind each selection.



In addition, this past summer, Whipstitch co-founder and Managing Director **Mike Burgmaier**, together with his partner, Rachel Houlihan, started a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization called the **New Mainers Assistance Program (NMAP)**. Mike and Rachel got to know several families seeking asylum from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Angola in their community of Yarmouth, Maine, who were living temporarily in crowded shelters at local hotels. They saw a need and decided to act, along with others in their community, and created NMAP. Rachel now serves full time as the organization's Executive Director alongside a board that includes community members with experience working with asylum seekers and a medical doctor from the DRC. The all-volunteer organization's mission is to help these families with their first year of housing – while they hone their English skills, begin the process of applying for asylum and obtain work permits. NMAP is just getting going, but already has helped house 19 people locally. The children are in local

schools and playing organized sports. The families are learning English and working their way through the asylum process, but there are still so many more families in shelters in the community. To learn more or to donate please [click here](#).

Nick McCoy

U.S. Farmers and Ranchers in Action

I chose USFRA as it seeks to improve both the economic and climate sustainability of farms. I am actively involved and support their mission and vision as it aligns with my passion to accelerate positive impact by funding it with economically viable investments instead of limited charitable and tax driven subsidy capital. Having recently attended this year's "Honor the Harvest," an annual summit convening the best minds in food, agriculture, science, and technology, I saw firsthand how these fields are coming together to further nurture and grow our sustainable food systems.



Andress Blackwell

Boys and Girls Club of Ozark-Southeast Alabama

I selected the Boys & Girls Club of Ozark in Southeast Alabama as my recipient. Growing up in the small town of Ozark had a profound impact on who I am today (beyond the Southern accent). For more than 27 years this program has worked with young people from disadvantaged economic, social, and family circumstances by offering programming and services that enhance their lives and positively shape their futures.



Timothy Sousa

Coalition Against Trafficking in Women

I chose the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women. I believe that human trafficking is one of the the most grotesque crimes in modern history and rampant the world over, yet it is barely discussed.



Greg Ucich

Big Brothers Big Sisters

I selected the Big Brothers Big Sister, Manchester, New Hampshire organization; they matched me with my 'little brother,' Kody, in 2011. 11 years later, Kody and I still keep in touch. The power of creating positive relationships with kids cannot be understated – a little time can go such a long way. There is a shortage of male mentors in many BBBS branches. So, guys, please reach out to your local organization and sign up!



Kathy Foster

Haiti 180

I chose Haiti 180, a charity that supported my family when we went on a mission trip in 2019. Haiti 180 provides a home for 40 children, a school for 350 children, supports a newly opened medical center for the community, and provides housing for the elderly. Due to food shortages, roadblocks, increasing cost of gas, and recent political uprisings, all mission trips



have been postponed. A financial donation supporting this amazing organization is so needed as we cannot be there in person to provide support and help as we have before.

Brendan Camuso

Merrimack Valley Food Bank

I chose the Merrimack Valley Food Bank. My sister has been a kindergarten teacher for the last eight years in Lawrence, MA, an area served by this food bank. Much like many people in that area, many of her students come from families with limited resources that rely on food banks. Currently, they are running low on food and a lot more people have food insecurity due to COVID-19. This \$1000 donation will provide 3,000 meals to families in need.



Sarika Pokala

METCO Program

I have always been passionate about mentoring young adults and helping them navigate academia and career so this year I selected the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) as my recipient. The organization promotes equal educational opportunity for children in Massachusetts and I've seen them create great outcomes for children since I was in high school.



Sam Zander

Maple Valley Food Bank

This year, I chose the Maple Valley Food Bank as my recipient. This food bank serves my hometown, which is struggling to find enough food for people this holiday season. This will make a HUGE difference for a small town like mine. Hit by rising food costs, they are struggling to reach their goals as more families than ever are depending on the community resource. In a small town like Maple Valley, this donation will make an enormous difference and brighten the holidays of many families.



Lauren Park

Single Mom Project

I have chosen the Single Mom Project as my recipient. A family friend of mine was struggling to pay bills when she became a single mom. When a close friend of hers passed away, he left my friend money and a note saying he recognized how difficult life was for her as a single mom, and he wanted to help. She was touched by this experience and wanted to pay it forward. A few years ago she and her two sons started this non-profit. I've seen firsthand how happy these moms are to be recognized. Even small amounts can be extremely impactful.



Kris Hall

Operation Underground Railroad

My selection this year is Operation Underground Railroad. Child sex trafficking and exploitation is an international problem that often goes underrepresented and underreported. Operation Underground Railroad assembles teams of former CIA, law enforcement, and skilled operatives, while conducting operations in identifying, recovering, and extracting victims



of child slavery and sex trafficking. Rescuing survivors, seeking justice for those who commit these atrocious crimes, and providing aftercare to survivors with a path to recovery is just the first step in shining light on this global epidemic and I'm proud to support Operation Underground Railroad and their mission.

Julianne Slavin

Jubilee Women's Center

This year I've selected the Jubilee Women's Center based in Seattle, WA. Living in Seattle this past year forced me to see homelessness firsthand in a way I never had before. Jubilee provides programs and services that empower women of all backgrounds to make positive life changes after experiencing poverty and trauma. The organization serves the basic needs of homeless women (food, shelter, mental health, etc.) then further supports them by helping them achieve employment and sustainable, affordable housing.



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