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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



United Midcoast Charities Presents Award for Philanthropic Excellence to Christopher Beebe at Rising Tide Party

Camden, Maine — August 21, 2025 — United Midcoast Charities (UMC) presented its 2025 Award for Philanthropic Excellence to Christopher Beebe during its annual Rising Tide Party, held Thursday, August 21, at the Sail, Power & Steam Museum Boathouse in Rockland. The event welcomed community members, donors, and nonprofit partners for an evening celebrating the strength of local philanthropy and the impact of collective giving.

The award presentation was one of several moments that highlighted the generosity of the Midcoast community. Beebe was honored for his lifelong commitment to civic engagement and philanthropy. A consistent and trusted advocate for the region, he served on UMC’s board of directors for nine years, concluding his term in December 2024, and has long been recognized as a Community Champion. His support spans decades and has impacted thousands across the Midcoast.

As co-founder of Steel-Pro in Rockland, Beebe helped grow the company into a nationally respected manufacturer of custom stainless-steel products. In 2014, he transitioned the business to an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), ensuring its continued success would benefit local employees. Alongside his late wife, Charlotte, he made a transformative gift to establish the Charlotte and Christopher Beebe Health Center at Pen Bay Medical Center, expanding access to primary care and pediatric services for thousands of Midcoast residents.

“Christopher Beebe embodies the spirit of community philanthropy,” said Jim Hengerer, Board Chair of United Midcoast Charities. “His generosity and quiet leadership have helped shape the Midcoast in lasting ways. We’re proud to recognize his legacy as part of an evening that celebrates the power of giving.”

Looking ahead, UMC will open up the nomination process for the Award for Philanthropic Excellence to the broader Midcoast community beginning in January 2026. This new approach will invite public participation in recognizing individuals whose generosity strengthens life in Knox and Waldo counties—ensuring the award reflects the voices and values of the region.

The Rising Tide Party was made possible thanks to the generous support of Cellardoor Winery, Maine State Credit Union, Bangor Savings Bank, Machias Savings Bank, Front Street Shipyard, O’Hara Corporation, and CedarWorks. Their partnership helped create a memorable evening that underscored the essential role of philanthropy in sustaining local nonprofit programs.

United Midcoast Charities plays a pivotal role in providing financial support, strategic guidance, and tangible resources to Midcoast nonprofits providing services in our four focus areas of food, housing, health & safety, and economic security. UMC strengthens these community-focused organizations to achieve their missions more effectively and have a greater impact.

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