



**Remarks of Gregory W. Powell
Harold Alfond Foundation**

**MaineHealth Cancer Care Network Announcement
Scarborough, Maine**

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Thank you, Dr. Remick. And a special thanks to Bill Caron, Chuck Hays, and our friends at Dana Farber for their terrific leadership.

On behalf of the Harold Alfond Foundation, I am honored to be here this morning to share a few thoughts and make a special announcement as we mark the launch of the MaineHealth Cancer Care Network.

First, about that angel. He had no wings when I knew him, and he probably had too much fun in life to have been an angel. But his name is Harold Alfond. He was the founder of both Dexter Shoe Company and the first private charitable foundation in Maine.

Maine was his home. It is where he met and married his wife Bibby, raised his family, built his business, and made his fortune. And where he made his fortune is where he wanted his fortune invested to benefit the people of this state and beyond.

So, today, as we approach the 10th anniversary of Harold Alfond's passing from cancer, his Foundation looks to further his legacy and make grants in Maine where and when excellence, great teamwork, and outstanding leadership in service of a great cause all converge. This morning, these qualities are on display everywhere.

A little history and background for you on how we got here. First, every year, over 9,000 people of this state are diagnosed with cancer. Cancer is the leading cause of death in both Maine and New Hampshire. The people of Maine and New Hampshire have among the highest rates of

cancer in the nation. And, in Maine, our challenge to treat cancer and cure it is only growing as our population ages.

Like so many Mainers, Harold Alfond was diagnosed with cancer, and he battled the disease for many years. He knew it was *not* a miracle that he had so many years as a survivor. He knew it was because he received exceptional care delivered by dedicated, high-quality healthcare professionals at MaineGeneral—in Maine, close to home.

He saw firsthand how care delivered in a coordinated, patient-centered manner can make all the difference, for the patient and the patient’s family. He called it teamwork; today, we are calling it a “network”.

So it *was* that, in 2007, as Harold Alfond’s own bout with cancer was in its final round, the Foundation awarded a major grant to MaineGeneral to build the Harold Alfond Center for Cancer Care in North Augusta. Since its opening in July 2007, the Center has offered patients excellence in multi-specialty cancer treatment with an emphasis on care coordination. The Center has treated thousands of patients.

And with a recent grant from the Foundation to the Jackson Laboratory, the Center is now home to a statewide program which will provide personalized genomic testing services at no cost to Maine residents.

From this history, you can tell that the Harold Alfond Foundation, like its founder, has had a special interest in cancer care and Central Maine. But it is also our mission to help our entire state—and we are continually striving to build upon and improve successful cancer care programs for the benefit of more and more Mainers.

So when we heard that our state’s largest healthcare system, MaineHealth, had rallied its members and teamed up with its affiliates and Dana Farber, the world’s leading center of cancer research and treatment, to launch a second-to-none Cancer Care Network here in Maine, we wanted to help.

This morning you will hear more from the experts about the Network—the Team—and what it’s going to be doing, but here are some highlights:

- First, the team of cancer health professionals is already top notch. But it’s getting even better with the hiring of new specialty oncology physicians who will join the existing team and work throughout the network;

- “Patient Navigators,” who in every sense of the word are truly angels, will coordinate all aspects of care for patients and their families;
- The best practices of the world’s leading cancer treatment center, Dana Farber, will help guide the network, and Dana Farber will be there for the most challenging cases;
- Patients will have enhanced coordination, access to, and participation in appropriate clinical trials, and that participation will be available whenever possible close to home; and,
- Last but not least, the Network will be led by Dr. Scot Remick, who, by all accounts, is a rock star, an outstanding team leader in every way.

Excellence, teamwork, great leadership, for a great cause. What could be better? The answer is nothing could be better.

And so, on behalf of the Harold Alfond Foundation, I am pleased to announce our grant commitment to the MaineHealth Cancer Care Network in the amount of \$10 million dollars.

In closing, let me leave you with this.

Harold Alfond could have been treated for his cancer anywhere in the world. But he chose Maine. He believed in the dedicated men and women of our state who work tirelessly for the health of Maine people. And he believed excellence in care—close to home—was what every person facing the challenge of cancer deserved.

If Harold were with us this morning, he would be thinking, as we are at this special moment, of our loved ones, our neighbors and friends who faced down cancer. He would be thinking of Penny Jacques, Lorie Albert, Nyle Perkins, Sally Derosby, Randy Butler, Leland Clark, and Tara Lily.

And he would be calling the new MaineHealth Cancer Care Network the best cancer care *team* in America, right here in Maine, close to home.

And...he would be delivering this check to Mr. Perkins to deliver to Dr. Scot Remick.