



KENTS HILL SCHOOL

Kents Hill, ME

www.kentshill.org

Kents Hill School Receives \$2.3 million From the Harold Alfond Foundation for the New Akin Learning Center, Breaks Ground

Kents Hill School is the grateful beneficiary of a \$2.3 million gift from the Harold Alfond Foundation, which will support the construction of a new learning center. The Akin Learning Center at Kents Hill School is named for the President of the Kents Hill Board of Trustees, Steven P. Akin, his wife, Jane, and their daughter, Susan, class of 2003. The Akin Learning Center will house the School's program for students with mild to moderate learning differences.

"The generosity of the late Harold Alfond and the Harold Alfond Foundation has played a critical role in enabling Kents Hill to transform its campus, facilities, and resources over the last fifteen years. We shall always be grateful for his support of Kents Hill and his desire to help the young people of Maine have the best possible opportunities to learn and grow," said Rist Bonnefond, Kents Hill's Headmaster of 21 years.

"Kents Hill has been a leader among the independent schools of New England in recognizing that each student has a unique learning style. The faculty in the Learning Center, led by 30-year veteran Janet Dunn, specializes in assisting students with learning differences to excel within a rigorous college preparatory environment. We are grateful to the Akin Family for their generous support of Kents Hill over the last decade and are proud to have their name adorn the Learning Center."

Kents Hill School, located in Readfield, broke ground on the 10,000 s.f. building last week. The new facility is expected to be ready for students in March 2012.

Harold Alfond, father of Trustee Ted Alfond, Class of 1964, has been Kents Hill's most generous benefactor in its 187-year history. Recent projects include the Harold and Ted Alfond Athletics Center, built in 2001, and the Harold Alfond Athletics Fields, the largest artificial turf complex in New England, installed in 2008.

With the support of the Harold Alfond Foundation and hundreds of other generous donors, Kents Hill has raised more than \$10 million in the last four years and has expanded and restored the School's historic campus into a modern, well-equipped educational environment.

Kents Hill School, a coeducational boarding school, is a community which is committed to treating each person with respect and kindness and believes one man or woman of principle can always make a difference.

The Harold Alfond Foundation, based in Portland, is the first private foundation established in Maine. Founded in 1950, The Harold Alfond Foundation furthers the philanthropic legacy of Harold Alfond, the founder of Dexter Shoe Company and a longtime supporter of Maine communities in which he and his family worked and resided. Harold Alfond awarded matching challenge grants to organizations to foster collaboration and to inspire and leverage additional giving by others. He ensured that his philanthropy would live on by committing nearly all of his wealth to the Foundation, which continues to support charitable causes in the State of Maine. Since its founding, the Harold Alfond Foundation has donated more than \$100 million to charitable causes.

Consistent with Harold Alfond's own giving pattern and philanthropic principles, the Foundation favors education, healthcare, youth development, and other selected charitable causes. The Foundation honors Harold Alfond's business approach to funding decisions, his belief in teamwork, and his love of competition by continuing to award matching challenge grants to projects that meet a demonstrable need, are entrepreneurial, promote teamwork, have measurable performance outcomes, are financially viable, and have quality management and board leadership.

Major philanthropic investments have been made to:

- Construct athletic fields and facilities for many public and private colleges and universities and private secondary schools in the State of Maine, including:
 - Harold Alfond Hockey Rink, Alfond Outdoor Track, and Harold Alfond Stadium at Colby College
 - Alfond Hockey Arena and Harold Alfond Sports Stadium at the University of Maine
 - Harold Alfond Student Recreation Center at St. Joseph's College
 - Alfond Athletic Center at Thomas College
 - Alfond Athletic Center and artificial turf field at Kents Hill School
- Establish the first in the nation Harold Alfond College Challenge program, which offers college scholarship grants of \$500 to every baby born in Maine;
- Build the Harold Alfond Center for Cancer Care, which consolidated MaineGeneral Medical Center's cancer care programs in Central Maine into a single 59,000-square-foot facility, equipped with the latest technology, and designed to offer multi-specialty treatment and care coordination;
- Establish and endow the Alfond Youth Center, the nation's only combined Boys & Girls Club/YMCA;
- Construct the University of New England's Center for Health Sciences, which houses Maine's only state-based medical school; and,
- Create a Children's Garden at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens.