

WATERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESS RELEASE

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WATERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES \$400,000 CHALLENGE GRANT FROM THE HAROLD ALFOND FOUNDATION

The Waterville Public Library has received a \$400,000 matching challenge grant from the Harold Alfond Foundation in support of the Library's Capital Campaign. The Harold Alfond Foundation's grant will be used to complete the Library's renovation and expansion project, which is currently underway.

For every dollar in cash raised by the Library, the Harold Alfond Foundation will donate two dollars, up to a total of \$300,000. If the Library successfully meets the challenge of raising \$150,000 by January 15, 2011, the Harold Alfond Foundation will give an additional \$100,000 bonus to help implement new Library programs and services that will enhance cultural, educational, and economic opportunities for patrons of the library.

"The funds raised in this challenge grant will ensure that the Library is able to offer our community a thoroughly modern facility with state-of-the-art library technology and extraordinary library services and programs," stated Library Director Sarah Sugden. "I'm overwhelmed with the Harold Alfond Foundation's generosity, and so appreciative and grateful for their remarkable support."

Capital Campaign Chairperson Suanne Muehlner added, "The library is thrilled to receive this very generous challenge grant from the Harold Alfond Foundation. We anticipate that this final phase of fundraising will be greatly accelerated because of the challenge, and hope that people will be motivated to give as much as they can. If we are able to meet our fundraising goal of \$150,000 by the Jan 15 deadline, the Library will receive a total of \$400,000 from the Foundation."

The Waterville Public Library has more than 10,000 members, and hosts more than 144,000 visits annually. It has raised over \$2.4 million from the City of Waterville, foundations, businesses, and private individuals towards its total Capital Campaign goal of \$3.1 million. Funds raised through the capital campaign are being used to complete interior and exterior renovations and repairs. One highlight of the renovations is the construction of a new entrance on Appleton Street, with an elevator in the main lobby. The renovations are bringing the well-used century-old Carnegie building into full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, ensuring that all patrons have full access to the building and its many resources. The Capital Campaign will also help secure new programs and resources for young children, teens, seniors, parents, and for all of the adult patrons who rely on the Library for educational, entertainment and civic purposes.

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.

In May of this year the Foundation announced a commitment of \$35 million to MaineGeneral Health in support of a new regional replacement hospital and comprehensive outpatient center in Central Maine. Other 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.

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