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Kennebec Savings Bank Awards Local Non-Profits \$18,000 through Catalyst Grant
Grant aims to enable non-profits to grow and further benefit community members



Augusta, ME – On Friday, Kennebec Savings Bank President and CEO Andrew Silsby welcomed three area non-profit organizations and bank employees to an awards reception announcing winners of the 2017 Catalyst Capacity Building Grant.

Awarded at the reception, held at the Kennebec Savings Bank Augusta Corporate office, were **Kennebec Valley Family Dentistry, Restorative Justice Institute of Maine and Waterville Area Habitat for Humanity**. Community Dividends Director Alicia Wing presented the awards to the three local non-profit organizations who will receive up to \$18,000 each over a three-year period – \$10,000 the first year, \$5,000 the second and \$3,000 during the final year.



“The Catalyst Capacity Building Grant was first launched in October of 2016 to further develop our Community Dividends program and help meet a need that we’ve seen within many nonprofit organizations that we work with. We know that at times

organizations dream up creative ideas but don’t have the resources to bring them to fruition, so the purpose of this grant is to provide organizations the means to add capacity in new and creative ways that will further benefit the communities we serve,” Wing said.

Applications were submitted, through the Bank’s [new online portal](#), which a 10-member committee

received for review. The committee was comprised of Kennebec Savings Bank employees from various departments and processed 11 applications beginning in October before deciding on the three awardees in November. For more about the application process [click here](#).

Bonnie Vaughan is the Executive Director of Kennebec Valley Family Dentistry, which primarily serves the uninsured. “Seventy-percent of our patients do not have anywhere to go for preventative care and we want to thank Kennebec Savings Bank for providing us more of an opportunity to provide these services to families and children in our area,” said Vaughan

Jan Rollins who partners with The Restorative Justice Institute of Maine at Cony Middle School said the Grant will help change the lives of at-risk youth. “Our children are one of our most precious resources and we must provide them the support needed to be productive members of society. Our mission is to promote a widespread cultural and systemic shift to how Mainers approach wrongdoing by promoting the use of restorative justice in communities, schools and correctional settings across Maine,” Rollins said.

Waterville Area Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Linda Santerre thanked Kennebec Savings Bank saying the funding will help their program restore dignity to the lives of those who have hit a bump in the road. “We’re not just about building houses any longer. Now through our ReStore pilot program, we are able to provide household items to families who need it most and these individuals are incredibly appreciative. This Grant is going to help us continue giving back to our community in ways that are truly making a difference in people’s lives for the better.”

Kennebec Savings Bank President and CEO Andrew Silsby concluded Friday’s reception providing an overview of the Bank’s culture of giving, which he explained is a two-pronged approach with both funding and employee volunteerism. “We do not have stockholders and so we target ten-percent of the Bank’s profit to go directly back into our communities that we serve every year. We have a unique opportunity to give back and we do that through a number of contributions, including this Grant. Our employees give their time, as well. Every year they give back in upwards of 6,000 hours to local causes. Our employees lead by example and we are very proud of that,” Silsby said.

Background on award recipients:

Kennebec Valley Family Dentistry is in the process of relocating their clinic to the Ballard Center in Augusta where they will be in closer proximity to critical referral sources. The Catalyst Capacity Grant funding will be used to purchase the equipment necessary to accommodate more patients, and also

implement a dental training program.

Restorative Justice Institute of Maine outlined a proposal to build its Augusta Community Justice Collaborative by introducing a program that has been successful in other regions. The Catalyst Capacity Building Grant will be used to contract with a local coordinator that will receive referrals of youth facing chargeable offenses, assign them to a facilitator, and work to create a consensus-based plan for the child alongside those affected by the offense.

Waterville Area Habitat for Humanity has been working on a creative way to help low-income families moving out of a shelter. With the Catalyst Capacity Building Grant, they will expand on a home furnishing pilot program that further stretches the funds received by these families from other resources and provide them with an additional voucher to shop at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore.

For more information on the Catalyst Capacity Building Grant [click here](#).

Photo Information: L to R Craig McEwen, Restorative Justice Institute of Maine, Jan Rollins, Restorative Justice Institute of Maine, Dean Dolham, Waterville Area Habitat for Humanity, Brent Hall, Kennebec Savings Bank, Andrew Silsby, Kennebec Savings Bank, Chris Daly, Kennebec Savings Bank, Leonard Kimball, Kennebec Savings Bank, Matt Dwyer, Kennebec Savings Bank, Alicia Wing, Kennebec Savings Bank, Bonnie Vaughan, Kennebec Valley Family Dentistry, Jenna Bechard (back), Kennebec Savings Bank, Cheryl Leonard, Kennebec Valley Community Action Program, Linda Santerre, Waterville Area Habitat for Humanity

Kennebec Savings Bank is a \$944 million state-chartered community bank, part of a mutual organization with a team of 130 employees and offices in Augusta, Waterville, Winthrop, Farmingdale and Freeport, as well as “KSB Anytime” 24-hour electronic banking centers in Manchester, Augusta and Farmingdale. The bank is proud that its involvement in the community as an employer, a business and as a contributor has led to many other successes besides its own. That’s why customers and employees alike say Kennebec Savings Bank “We Make It Easy.” Member FDIC, Equal Housing Lender.

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