



Bangor Savings Bank Foundation Allocates \$100,000 for Non-Profits Statewide

The Bank's Foundation will allocate \$100,000 to 68 non-profits statewide, based on public voting

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Bangor, Maine – Bangor Savings Bank Foundation began its annual, grant-making initiative, **Community Matters More** on January 24th. Through this charitable program, Maine's largest independent bank encourages people all over the state to vote on how best to allocate \$100,000 the bank has pledged to give to 68 Maine, non-profit organizations.

This year's effort is expected to be a tremendous success again, with thousands of Maine citizens participating and casting their votes over the next six weeks. Last year, Mainers cast more than 86,000 votes for hundreds of nonprofits resulting in 68 grants.

Yellow Light Breen, Senior Vice President of Bangor Savings Bank, commented on the Community Matters More initiative and how it has evolved since its inception back in 2007, "We are very aware of the impact Community Matters More has on communities across the state, especially at a time when budgets are tight and supporters' charitable dollars are more scarce. What started out for Bangor Savings Bank as a way to send a

strong message to communities that we care about helping Maine's non profits and the important work they do, has now become a bigger and more important source of funds for a growing group of community nonprofits. This is our fourth year of asking Maine people to vote for their favorite organizations. Every year we get more votes and reach more people. Bangor Savings is proud of our effort to support these worthy community causes, but even more important, we have a heightened awareness of our responsibility as Maine's largest independent bank, to provide essential support to these organizations. As we launch the effort this year, we urge the public's involvement and offer our ongoing commitment to Maine and our communities."

Each of the 48 non-profits listed on a ballot will receive at least a \$1,000 grant for participating in the program, and the top 20 write-ins that get the most public support will also receive a grant from the Bangor Savings Bank Foundation. The top vote-getting organizations in each region (including write-ins) will receive \$5,000 each.

Bangor Savings Bank will distribute thousands of ballots across the state, seeking input from its customers and the general public, who have from January 24th through March 7th to cast their votes. Following this timeframe, votes will be tallied and winners will be announced by the end of March.

Ballots are available at local Bangor Savings branches and at each of the participating nonprofits. Votes can also be cast online at www.bangor.com/cmm. The ballots can be returned to any one of Bangor Savings Bank's 55 branches

Community Matters More will not only provide financial support to a list of 48 non-profits, it will also generate substantial exposure and community awareness for the work these organizations do to enhance the quality of life in Maine.

The Community Matters More program would not be as successful as it has been without the involvement from the local media, who help get the word out and get people interested in participating in the voting process. Breen commented on the media

participation. “Over the past four years we have partnered with WLBZ-TV/ Channel 2; WCSH-TV/Channel 6; WGAN 560 Newsradio and Blueberry Broadcasting. With their support the public has been made aware of this program, and the importance of giving back to the community.”

Last year, The Maine Children’s Cancer Program was one of the top winners. Debra Matson, Program Administrator commented on Community Matters More and the grant her organization received. “This grant from Bangor Savings Bank made a big difference for us. We rely on charitable contributions, and the grant made it possible for us to continue our work. We also appreciate the fact that the media helps get the word out about what we do and how we meet the needs of families in Maine. We were honored and privileged that the community voted us worthy of this award and that Bangor Savings offered this extraordinary program.”

Breen ended with these thoughts, “Community Matters More has had the pleasure of working with many deserving organizations. These organizations involved have been enthusiastic about not only the financial contribution from The Foundation but also the exposure. Bangor Savings Bank is dedicated to continuing support for our communities statewide. We hope Community Matters More will aid in making our communities that much stronger.”

About Bangor Savings Bank *Bangor Savings Bank, with more than \$2.4 billion in assets, offers retail banking and investment management services to Maine consumers as well as comprehensive commercial, corporate, payroll administration, insurance, and small business banking services to Maine businesses. The Bank, founded in 1852, is in its 159th year of service to the people of Maine, with 55 branches and on the Web at www.bangor.com. The Bangor Savings Bank Foundation was created in 1997. Together the Bank and its Foundation invest more than a million dollars per year into the community in the form of nonprofit sponsorships, grants and partnership initiatives.*

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