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YMCA OF SOUTHERN MAINE RECEIVES GRANT TO LOWER ENERGY COSTS

PORTLAND - The YMCA of Southern Maine's Greater Portland Branch recently received a \$2,000 grant from Grants to Green Maine. The partnership between the Maine Development Foundation's Maine Downtown Center, Efficiency Maine, and the Maine Community Foundation awarded YMCA of Southern Maine the grant to perform an energy efficiency audit for the Portland Branch's historic building on Forest Avenue in downtown Portland, Maine.

"This grant will enable the YMCA of Southern Maine to complete an energy efficiency audit of our historic Portland building and obtain a report with priorities for energy efficiency improvements," said Helen Breña, YMCA of Southern Maine's CEO. "We hope to implement many of the provided priorities to make our building more efficient, which will in turn benefit our community by providing a safe and comfortable space for everyone we serve."

"The YMCA of Southern Maine's Forest Avenue building, originally built in 1926, is an ideal recipient of a Grants to Green energy audit grant. There is a great opportunity for the YMCA to reduce energy costs, educate the public and their residents, and become a more sustainable institution" said Anne Ball, Project Director, Grants to Green Maine, Maine Development Foundation.

About the YMCA of Southern Maine: The YMCA of Southern Maine is committed to building strong kids, individuals, families, and communities through programs and services that promote a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all, regardless of ability to pay. Its four branches and 12 before-and-after-school sites serve over 16,000 individuals. This year, it is expected that over \$1,400,000 in financial assistance will be provided to 8,000 youth, individuals, and families

to ensure participation in all YMCA programs, with 1 out of every 3 members receiving some form of financial assistance. Last year, 29,000 people, including 6,228 children, were involved in active and healthy living activities at the YMCA of Southern Maine. To learn more, please visit www.ymcaofsouthernmaine.org.

About Grants to Green Maine: Grant to Green provides environmentally focused knowledge and funding to strengthen nonprofits located in historic buildings in downtowns in Maine. Grants to Green Maine is a partnership between the Maine Development Foundation's Maine Downtown Center, Efficiency Maine and the Maine Community Foundation and is funded by Kendeda Fund of The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta. To learn more, please visit http://www.mdf.org/g2gmaine_overview.php.

For further information please contact Sarah Leighton at YMCA of Southern Maine at (207) 874-1111

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