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THE NEXT GENERATION FOUNDATION OF MAINE AWARDS \$10,000 GRANT TO FAMILIES FIRST COMMUNITY CENTER

<u>ELLSWORTH</u> - Families First Community Center has received a \$10,000 Grant from The Next Generation Foundation of Maine to help finance the Renovation Fund for their Home.

"This generous grant from The Next Generation Foundation will go a long way to ensuring that the Families First Community Center can make the needed renovations to the Home they are preparing to purchase in Ellsworth. This Home will house and educate homeless parents with minor children," said Dawn Carter Coffin, president of the board of directors. "We are especially thrilled to receive this benevolent grant as it comes from Hancock County itself: right here in Blue Hill! This is so gratifying to FFCC, as it shows that the community has faith in our mission," she added.

"The number one cause of homelessness in Hancock County is generational poverty, which affects multiple generations. Parents need help with life skills so they can be self-sufficient. The National Council to End Homelessness highly recommends these homes that teach life skills and offer referrals, education, medical, and safety planning." The center is currently raising the money for needed renovations.

With this grant, Families First Community Center now has \$50,000 of the \$130,000 needed for the renovations. The Next Generation Foundation Grant helps a great deal.

The nonprofit Families First Community Center was founded in 2015 with a mission to **break the cycle of homelessness** before it is passed down to the next generation. It equips families with minor children with the housing and skills they need to gain self-sufficiency. Residents will be required to work 40 hours per week towards this goal. The Home opening is planned for late 2017. For more information, to donate funds or materials, or to volunteer, call 460- 3711, mail PO Box 951 in Ellsworth, email familiesfirstellsworth@gmail.com or visit www.familiesfirstellsworth.org.

The Next Generation Foundation is made possible through the generosity of its founder, who had a strong feeling for people who are "defenseless" – especially children. The founder grew up facing privilege, but also hardship and danger at other times. This gave her a strong sense of fairness. The founder's heart and mind guide the Next Generation Foundation mission and are in perfect harmony with the mission of Families First Community Center. For more information, visit http://www.mainenextgen.org/home.html

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