



Families First Community Center

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MACHIAS SAVINGS BANK AWARDS \$5,000 GRANT TO FAMILIES FIRST COMMUNITY CENTER

ELLSWORTH – Families First Community Center was awarded a \$5,000 grant this week by Machias Savings Bank that nearly completes the goal toward their property purchase and renovations.

“We are very grateful to Machias Savings Bank as the first bank to step up and provide support of our mission to aid homeless parents with minor children in Hancock and Washington Counties. This grant brings Families First Community Center almost to the finish line of our \$130,000 goal. We are a mere \$5000 away and just need a little more help to get there,” said Dawn Carter Coffin, president of the board of directors.

The non-profit organization, founded in 2015, is scheduled to close late next month on a spacious farmhouse and attached barn at 41 North Street, Ellsworth. Required renovations to house six families and supportive services will begin immediately after the purchase is final. FFCC plans to begin serving their first families next spring.

In addition to housing, the community center will offer services such as educational and job training courses, medical and safety services, and a variety of life skills. Each family will work with Families First case managers and volunteers to create a life plan centered on their own personal goals, such as a job or further education. During the 12 to 18 months living at the house, residents must spend 40+ hours per week mastering the steps toward their life plan.

Coffin states, “I want to acknowledge the assistance of Josh Stevens, Ellsworth branch manager for Machias Savings Bank. He was so helpful and encouraging to us during the grant process in the same way we plan to support the families we will serve. FFCC would also like to present a challenge to every other bank in Hancock and Washington Counties to match Machias Savings Banks generous gift!”

Families First has partnered with dozens of local agencies such as Ellsworth Adult Education, Ellsworth Public Library, Maine Coast Memorial Hospital and the Downeast Family YMCA. They are currently seeking volunteers to serve on the board, community advisory panel and at the center.

For more information, to donate funds or materials, call 460-3711, mail PO Box 951, Ellsworth, email familiesfirstellsworth@gmail.com or visit their website at www.familiesfirstellsworth.org.

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