



Families First Community Center

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“The true reflection of society can be seen in the way that it cares for the elderly, the poor and needy, and the homeless.”
~ Hubert Humphrey ~



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE AWARDS \$10,000 GRANT TO FAMILIES FIRST COMMUNITY CENTER

ELLSWORTH - Families First Community Center has received a \$10,000 Grant from the UCC Opportunity Fund to help finance some of the very final phases of the Renovation Fund for the new Ellsworth family shelter.

“The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine has been very generous with FFCC! In 2017, they honored us with a Deborah Pulliam Grant in the amount of \$5,000, giving us the last of the money necessary to close on the Home, as well as the first half of this very Opportunity Fund in the amount of \$10,000, as one of the very first grants we received to begin our Renovation Fund. Just last month, we were again so honored to receive the Deborah Pulliam Grant yet again. We feel so privileged to have the support of such an amazingly generous, and caring, group!” said Terri Ouellette, president of the board of directors. “This second \$10,000 granted to us by the Opportunity Fund was to be given to us upon opening. However, due to changing government regulations, we have had to add more bedrooms that included a new footprint on our home.

With the increased costs associated with this renovation, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine opted to grant us these funds early. We could not be more thrilled!”

Families First Community Center will provide housing and supportive services for homeless parents with minor children, to help families become self-sufficient. “FFCC is especially honored to receive such an outpouring of support from one congregation! Their financial support is a confirmation of our mission to break the cycle of generational poverty in Hancock County,” Ouellette added.

The nonprofit FFCC was founded in 2015 when volunteers at a local homeless shelter realized the unique needs of families with minor children were not being met in the long-term. The group raised \$130,000 to buy the property at 41 North Street in October. In addition to housing and teaching life skills to six families, the home will provide case managers, mentors, referrals and on-site classes to the County. FFCC is currently rebuilding the barn and adding an additional footprint to the home, to create more living space in family apartments, a classroom, and a day care center.

“We hope to make the house more energy efficient by not only adding heat pumps, but also solar so we are still looking for money. Solar will keep the Home energy efficient forever. We also need volunteer contractors, electricians, plumbers, drywallers, painters, anyone feels they can be handy with a hammer,” said Ouellette. Volunteers are needed to help with the renovations this winter.

For more information, to donate funds or materials for the renovations, or to volunteer, you may call 460-3711, mail PO Box 951, Ellsworth, email familiesfirstellsworth@gmail.com or visit www.familiesfirstellsworth.org.

The Opportunity Fund of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine solicited ideas from their members and friends about ways in which they might help not-for-profit organizations who serve people in the area. They then looked at a wide variety of organizations whose mission is compatible with their own. They funded five nonprofits and continue to bring all together to collaborate on helping those in need. It is always inspirational to hear what other not-for-profits are doing to help those in the community! For more information about UUCC, visit <http://uucastine.org/>.

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