



## Families First Community Center

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### RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF MAINE AWARDS \$8,000 GRANT TO FAMILIES FIRST COMMUNITY CENTER

ELLSWORTH - Families First Community Center (FFCC) has received a \$8,000 Grant from Ronald McDonald House Charities of Maine to help finance the heat pumps for the new Ellsworth family shelter.

“This generous grant from Ronald McDonald House Charities of Maine will help underwrite the costs of the heat pumps necessary to the remodeling of the large home we purchased on North Street in Ellsworth. Families First Community Center will provide housing and educational classes for homeless parents with minor children,” said Terri Ouellette, president of the board of directors. “This is the first grant FFCC has received from Ronald McDonald House Charities of Maine. Not only are we honored, but we hope this is the beginning of a great partnership,” she 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 – and some families were turned away due to lack of space. In addition to housing and teaching self-sufficiency skills to six families, the home will provide case managers, mentors, referrals and on-site classes to the community. FFCC is currently re-building the barn and adding an addition to create more living space, a classroom, and a child-learning center.

“We want to make the house more energy efficient by adding heat pumps and solar. This \$8,000 goes towards that fund. We also need volunteer contractors, electricians, plumbers, drywallers, painters, anyone who is handy with a hammer,” said Ouellette. Volunteers are needed to help with the renovations this winter and into the spring. A spring opening is planned!

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](mailto:familiesfirstellsworth@gmail.com) or visit [www.familiesfirstellsworth.org](http://www.familiesfirstellsworth.org).

In each of the sixty-one McDonald's located in Maine and the four located in northern New Hampshire, McDonald's customers toss their change into the donation boxes. A portion of this money directly benefits the RMHC Maine Grants Program through which they help support other non-profits that share our mission of healthy children, healthy families. By partnering with these selected organizations, they have a far broader outreach and a greater positive impact in the lives of children in Maine and northern New Hampshire. For more information, visit <http://rmhcmaine.org/>

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