



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Harold Alfond Foundation donates \$100,000 to Full Plates Full Potential Emergency Fund**

**Portland, ME — April 24, 2020** — Full Plates Full Potential announced today that the Harold Alfond Foundation has donated \$100,000 to the emergency fund the organization established for COVID-19 responses. The emergency fund was created after schools were closed to ensure students across Maine have access to nutritious school meals.

As Maine enters its sixth week of efforts to contain the coronavirus, the need for nutritious meals has greatly increased as more and more hardworking families face hardships.

“No child should ever go hungry,” said John Woods, Co-Founder of Full Plates Full Potential. “During this crisis all children experiencing hunger should utilize their school meals. There are emergency food sites all over our state and every child can access up to 14 meals a week. The Harold Alfond Foundation donation is tremendous. We have seven more weeks of school until summer and their funding will allow tens of thousands of kids access nutritious meals daily.”

School meals have played a critical role outside of the normal school setting. Currently, there are more than 700 school meal sites statewide providing nutritious meals for kids. Schools meals are being picked up at schools, community sites and some districts are using their school bus routes for home delivery. The Harold Alfond Foundation donation will help schools with additional costs of meals as well as necessary equipment and supplies to ensure proper food safety—such as coolers used in transporting meals and food packaging materials.

On April 7th, Commissioner Makin of the Maine Department of Education recommended that schools remain closed for the remainder of the academic year. Full Plates Full Potential estimates the Harold Alfond Foundation gift will help fund more than 125 schools providing 52,350 children with access to daily breakfast and lunch meals.

“The Harold Alfond Foundation has a legacy of supporting young people in Maine,” said Greg Powell, chairman of the Foundation. “Expanding children’s access to nutritious meals during this pandemic is more important than ever, and we are proud to support the efforts of Full Plates Full Potential to make this

happen. Full Plates’ model of working with existing resources and partner organizations—like our schools—is not only smart and effective, it’s community teamwork at its best.”

**About Full Plates Full Potential:**

Full Plates Full Potential is a Maine-based nonprofit that brings together a coalition of community leaders, school nutrition directors, advocates, and partners working to end child hunger in all sixteen counties. Since its founding in 2014, the organization has raised funds through events and with the help of corporate partnerships. Over the last six years, Full Plates Full potential has awarded 335 grants to schools in support of breakfast, lunch, afterschool meals, summer meals and emergency programs – totaling more than \$503,273 – and worked with schools and community organizations to expand children’s access to meals. Central Maine Power is the most recent corporate partner to join the organization in support of its mission.

**About The Harold Alfond Foundation:**

The Harold Alfond Foundation honors and promotes the values of its founder through transformative investments for the benefit of Maine in education, health care, and youth and community development. To learn more about the Foundation, please visit [www.haroldalfondfoundation.org](http://www.haroldalfondfoundation.org).



**Full Plates Emergency Grant Funding as of 4/14/20**

County	Applicants	Grants Awarded	Total Amount Granted
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Androscoggin	9	8	\$6,250.00
Aroostook	18	18	\$14,250.00
Cumberland	18	14	\$11,250.00
Franklin	9	8	\$6,000.00
Hancock	15	15	\$11,000.00
Kennebec	7	6	\$5,750.00
Knox	10	10	\$7,750.00
Lincoln	10	8	\$6,000.00
Oxford	9	6	\$4,250.00
Penobscot	31	31	\$24,500.00
Piscataquis	3	2	\$1,750.00
Sagadahoc	7	7	\$4,250.00
Somerset	10	10	\$7,500.00
Waldo	7	6	\$5,000.00
Washington	23	20	\$12,500.00
York	21	21	\$17,000.00
TOTAL	207	190	\$145,000.00

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