



Remarks of Gregory W. Powell, Chairman
Harold Alfond Foundation

2010 Annual Dinner
Alfond Youth Center
May 19, 2010

Thank you, Mike, for the warm introduction.

Governor Baldacci, Robbie Calloway, board members, Ken, youth center staff, friends and supporters. On behalf of the Harold Alfond Foundation, Bob Marden and I are pleased to be here this evening to honor and support this great organization. We also congratulate all of the award recipients including Governor Baldacci. Governor, you have shown extraordinary leadership for our state in the toughest of times and we thank you for your very fine service.

There is no organization anywhere in which Mr. Alfond had more pride---than the Alfond Youth Center.

Harold loved this organization for many reasons and I would like to mention two. First, in good times and bad, the work that happens under this roof on behalf of children and families is immensely important for this state. Second, Harold Alfond believed in excellence and teamwork. Here in this place, excellence in pursuit of the mission comes first. When challenges arise, you have had the strength and foresight to take the steps necessary to serve the mission. And the excellence in what you do is possible because you have built a team. By pulling community organizations together, you have accomplished far more together than what independent organizations could never achieve on their own.

Across the country, partnerships in the non-profit sector and government are on the rise as all organizations look to increase efficiencies and do more with less. Here in Waterville Maine, you have led the way and done this, with unmatched excellence and fidelity to your mission.

And so, that said, Bob Marden and I send our congratulations and thanks to all of you for all you have done and all you continue to do to serve over 8,000 children and families in Central Maine.

Speaking of challenges and in keeping with the spirit of Harold Alfond, Bob and I are here not just to thank you for your contributions and hard work. As HL Menken once said,

“When someone tells you it’s not about money,Its about money.”

So speaking of challenges and money, we want to announce a new challenge for your 2010 annual campaign. Starting tonight and ending on September 1 of this year, the Foundation will match every cash donation and pledge payable before year-end up to \$100,000. And, if you raise \$100,000 in cash by September 1st, the Foundation will award a bonus payment of \$20,000 on top of the \$100,000.

In closing, let me leave you with this thought. On May 6, of this year, Waterville lost one of its finest citizens. Army Specialist Wade Slack gave his life for his country in Afghanistan. We all may not have had the honor and privilege of knowing Wade well, but we know he put his country’s mission---our safety and security before himself and for that, he is a fallen hero to us all.

Here in this place, our sacrifices are small, our mission less daunting, but still great. And each of us has our own vision of the mission. As I have shared with you before, in the spring of 2006, Mr. Alford and I stopped in here at the youth center in the late afternoon. As we peered into the kitchen, we could see through to a table where a little boy sat alone eating, shoelaces dangling to the floor, a look of contentment on his face. We didn’t know this little boy. We didn’t know what kind of home he had, whether he had a loving Mom and Dad to look after him, or enough to eat.

But at that moment we knew he was in a safe place----a good and healthy place where he was surrounded by caring people. And we knew that because of this place, he would have an opportunity to succeed in life.

That little boy and all children of our community like him are our mission. And this evening, we put our mission before ourselves and are confident that we are doing God’s work.