



**Remarks of Gregory W. Powell
Harold Alfond Foundation**

**Good Will-Hinckley
October 1, 2012**

First day of classes at Maine's first charter school, the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences

Thanks, Glenn, Commissioner Bowen, faculty, students and honored guests.

Five years ago to this day, Harold Alfond was here at Good Will, proud of the school's history, proud to have helped build upon the compassionate legacy of Rev. Hinckley, and hopeful that the best days for Good Will education were yet to come.

Over the last five years, Good Will has struggled and its promise as an educational institution has been tested.

But, today, we celebrate the rebirth of education at Good Will as we mark the first day of classes at Maine's first charter school.

These two FIRSTS did not happen by accident. The hard work, determination and partnership of many are responsible: Good Will's teachers, its supporters, its board led by Kathy Hunt, its CEO Glenn Cummings, Community College System President John Fitzsimmons, Kennebec Valley Community College President Barbara Woodley, Governor LePage, Commissioner Bowen, state legislators like Kevin Ray and Bob Nutting, and other government leaders like Treasurer Poliquin all played important roles. And yes, let's not forget the parents and students.

And so, on behalf of the Harold Alfond Foundation, Bill Alfond and I want to thank each and every one of you for all you have done to make this first day of classes possible—and, as importantly, to thank you for doing so by opening the door to choice and alternatives in education for all Maine students.

I have two closing thoughts for you.

First, celebration of the first day of classes is...well, it's like the first day of classes. It's sort of great to be back, but then there's the realization that there's one heck of a lot of work to do in the days ahead. And so it is with being Maine's first charter school. With the distinction, pride and promise of being first, comes the great responsibility to work hard and succeed. And with the team assembled here this morning, we can be confident that Good Will's best days are ahead.

Second and finally, we have a presentation to make. The Foundation promised Good Will that if it became Maine's first charter school and was able to secure financial help from our state government for residential students, we would help fund the school operations in general and help cover the cost of the residence program in particular by making a gift to the school's endowment. Well, Harold Alford always kept his promises.

And so, on behalf of his Foundation, I am pleased to keep our promise and present you with a check for One Million Dollars.

Thank you, congratulations and good luck!