



## **Statement of the Harold Alfond Foundation on the report of the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability concerning Good Will-Hinckley**

*September 8, 2015*

On multiple occasions since early June 2015, the Harold Alfond Foundation (HAF) has been referenced publicly regarding its involvement in a matter concerning Good Will-Hinckley (GWH) and the possible loss of state funding for its residential programming. In response to these various press accounts, as well as the release this morning by the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability (OPEGA) on the matter, we make the following comments.

- The HAF has been a longtime supporter of GWH and its residential program. GWH's past state funding challenges reaffirmed for HAF a belief in the importance of strong funding and budget plans and insistence on financial accountability—for GWH and for all of HAF's grantees.
- The HAF awarded grants to GWH in 2011 and 2014. Both had, as key elements, the fundamental assumption that state funding for residential programming was of importance to the school's long-term sustainability.
- HAF's 2014 grant agreement with GWH relied upon a financial model provided by GWH, and reviewed by HAF and its consultant. That model assumed, among other elements, state funding for residential programming through 2017 (accounting for as much as 20% of budgeted revenues) and enrollment at the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences (MeANS) increasing to 210 by 2019. The enrollment growth was to be achieved, in part, through the residential program. Under the grant agreement, \$2.75 million of the \$5.5 million awarded would not be paid until 2019 and would be dependent upon GWH's performance, including enrollment at MeANS.
- Upon learning of the possible loss of state residential funding, the Foundation expressed concern to GWH and re-engaged its consultant to evaluate the GWH financial plan.
- While the HAF communicated with GWH concerning the importance of its financial accountability and achievement of its performance goals, at no time did the HAF communicate, or intend to communicate, that it would withhold its final grant payment to GWH, payable in 2019, if state funding was lost.
- HAF remains a supporter of GWH and its important mission on behalf of Maine young people.