

Pine Tree Camp to host ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of Harold and Bibby Alfond Dining Hall

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Hundreds are expected to gather at Pine Tree Camp on July 28 at 5 p.m. to celebrate the grand opening of the Harold and Bibby Alfond Dining Hall. The \$1.6 million dollar state-of-the-art building was made possible in part thanks to a \$500,000 grant from the Harold Alfond Foundation.



"We are delighted to support Pine Tree campers and their families with a new and more accessible dining hall," said Greg Powell, Chairman of the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

"Now even more campers will be able to enjoy a very special summer camp experience right here in Maine's beautiful Belgrade Lakes Region."

"The support from the Harold Alfond Foundation was vital in completing this critical project," said Anne Marsh, Executive Director of Pine Tree Society.

"The dining hall is the heart of any summer camp, and as the heart of Pine Tree Camp, the Harold and Bibby Dining Hall certainly breathes new life into the entire camp."

The Harold and Bibby Alfond Dining Hall is a significant project of Pine Tree Camp's master plan for capital improvements, which addresses each part of the camp's 285-acre campus. Developed five years ago, the plan's goal is to

modernize Pine Tree Camp's campus while retaining the rustic summer camp environment. These modernizations will ensure the care, comfort and safety of hundreds of summer campers, and will allow Pine Tree Camp to provide innovative programming in the fall, winter and spring.

"Moving forward with the master plan was essential," Marsh said. "Many of camp's buildings date back to the 1960s. In fact, parts of the dining hall dated back to the 1950s. Because so much has changed since these buildings were designed and constructed, Pine Tree Camp needed to transform to meet the evolving needs of the people we serve."

These needs have evolved in dramatic ways. Today, Pine Tree Camp serves many more campers, and their medical needs have increased. Many campers are unable to regulate their body temperature, making the heat and humidity dangerous. Today's campers use large, heavy motorized wheelchairs, yet Pine Tree Camp's buildings were not designed to accommodate them. The master plan addresses these changes and reduces extensive annual maintenance that aging buildings require.

Pine Tree Camp, a program of Pine Tree Society, is Maine's only ACA-accredited summer camp exclusively serving people with disabilities. Driving down the camp road, campers enter a barrier-free world designed so that each camper can fully participate in all the activities for which Maine is famous – fishing, kayaking, hiking on accessible nature trails and swimming – experiencing freedom and independence. Families benefit from a six-day respite from the demands of caring for a loved one with a disability. Pine Tree Camp has never turned away a camper due to inability to pay tuition. This open door policy has been firmly in place since Pine Tree Camp opened in 1945.

About the Harold Alfond Foundation

Founded in 1950, the Harold Alfond Foundation furthers the philanthropic legacy of Harold Alfond, the founder of Dexter Shoe Company and a longtime supporter of Maine communities in which he and his family worked and resided. Harold Alfond awarded matching challenge grants to

organizations to build community partnerships and to inspire and leverage additional giving by others. He ensured that his philanthropy would live on by committing nearly all of his wealth to the Foundation, which continues to support charitable causes in the State of Maine.