



Rumford Group Homes, Inc.

160 Lincoln Ave.

Rumford, Maine 04276

(207) 364-3551 FAX: (207) 364-3544

E-mail: rghinc@rumfordgrouphomes.org

Web: www.rumfordgrouphomes.org

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Paula Paladino, M.A., Executive Assistant

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ppaladino@rumfordgrouphomes.org

Pinewoods Supported Housing Project Opens

(NORWAY) – On Wednesday, June 18, from 3:00-6:00 pm, Rumford Group Homes, Inc. held an open house for its Pinewoods Supported Housing Project. The project is a new construction 4 unit apartment building for four homeless families ages 18-28.

Situated in Norway, Pinewoods will open at the end of the month after three years of planning and development. It consists of two 3-bedroom units, one 2-bedroom unit, and one 1-bedroom unit which is handicap accessible. Two of the units will be reserved for chronically homeless families who have a disability.

Alan J. Monier, Executive Director, shared during the open house “These are homeless families that will get a fresh start. We know that Pinewoods will meet a great need in the community.” Nicholas Waugh, President of the Board of Directors added “Rumford Group Homes, Inc. is committed to developing resources for homeless individuals in our county. We have received much support from the community, businesses and foundations, which have helped to make this project a reality.”

During the open house, approximately 40 people toured the apartments and attended the ribbon cutting ceremony. The Keynote address was conducted by Nancy Fritz, who is the Director of Homeless Initiatives. Fritz serves as the Governor’s primary liaison on homeless issues and is a member of his Cabinet.

In her remarks, Fritz emphasized “The creation of permanent supportive housing, which combines housing and supportive services so badly needed by many who are homeless is one of

the most effective ways to reduce homelessness in our state. We know that some 600-800 families right here in Maine experience homelessness every year.”

She adds “Because of Pinewoods Supported Housing Project, we know that four households right here in Oxford County will be able to do much more than just ‘get through the night.’ We know they will get the help they need to maintain and sustain safe and affordable housing and we know they will get the support they need to work on issues that may have led to homelessness.”

In her reflection, Reverend Anne Stanley of Christ Episcopal Church stated that “We know that we need to reach out to those in times of need. Pinewoods Supportive Housing will provide a permanent solution to homelessness for four families, who can stay there indefinitely. This is an important resource for our community.”

In addition to providing housing, Pinewoods will provide supportive services to participants in the program. They will receive individual/family case management to access existing mainstreamed resources, mental health and substance abuse referrals, as well as life skills assistance. The targeted population is homeless individuals, families, and youth that are located in Oxford County.

Pinewoods received funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, MaineHousing, the Region II Council in addition to private foundations who helped to support the construction costs and purchase of furniture and appliances for the apartments. Foundation support includes the Agnes M. Lindsay Trust, JTG Foundation, the Betterment Fund, Maine Association of Realtor’s Foundation, Simmons Foundation and Frances Hollis Brain Foundation.

Rumford Group Homes, Inc. is a nationally accredited (Council of Accreditation [COA]) non-profit social service agency. For over thirty four years Rumford Group Homes Inc. has served abused, neglected, and homeless youth and their families from throughout the state of Maine with an emphasis on the tri-county region of Oxford, Androscoggin, and Franklin Counties. The agency provides a variety of supportive services through our residential treatment programs, crisis program, housing and case management programs, homeless youth outreach services, and low-income housing to children, adolescents, young adults and families in need of treatment, housing, or support due to abuse, neglect, family crisis or abandonment. For more information, please call 369-9439.

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Photo Caption:

Nancy Fritz, Director of Homeless Initiatives for the Governor's Office cuts the ribbon during the Pinewoods Open House in Norway on June 18th. Pictured from left to right, Nicholas J. Waugh, President of the Board of Directors, Alan J. Monier, Executive Director of Rumford Group Homes, Inc., Nancy Fritz, Roger Rossignol, co-owner of Salmon Falls Architecture, Dan Brennan, Director of Development for MaineHousing, and in the back, Stephen J. Keltonic, Project Manager for the Thaxter Company.

