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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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August 20, 2007

Our 8th Annual 6 WHO CARE Honors Community Volunteers

PORTLAND, Maine – A group of outstanding volunteers will be the honored guests at the 8th Annual

6 WHO CARE AWARDS, a celebration of outstanding volunteers in our community. The awards are to be presented at a gala ceremony on Wednesday, October 17, 2007 at the Marriott Hotel in South Portland, to be televised as a primetime special on WCSH 6 later in October. **6 WHO CARE** was developed by WCSH 6 in partnership with the United Way of Greater Portland and TD Banknorth.

Hosted by NEWS CENTER 6 anchors Cindy Williams and Pat Callaghan, **6 WHO CARE** will treat viewers to some truly exceptional people – men and women from throughout Maine who unselfishly make a difference in the lives of others. In addition to the **6 WHO CARE** Award winners, Dr. Francis Kleeman of Kennebunk will be presented with the **MARY RINES THOMPSON AWARD**, a volunteer recognition award of the United Way of Greater Portland since 1985. Camp Sunshine of Sebago Lake will be honored with the **AGENCY OF DISTINCTION AWARD**.

The following is a brief highlight of our honorees, and their outstanding community work:

Sergeant Robin Gauvin (Portland) has been in a fulltime position with the Portland Police Department for 24 years. He is working together with law enforcement and National Alliance on Mental Illness of Maine (NAMI Maine) to establish Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) statewide in police departments, jails, hospital emergency rooms, and social service providers. He has worked to create 40 specialized teams of law enforcement officers, and organizes their annual trainings to learn how to de-escalate a person in psychiatric crisis. Robin received the NAMI Maine CIT officer of the year award in 2005. He has been volunteering his services to NAMI Maine since 2001. In 2003 Robin was instrumental in establishing the first in-jail CIT team in the nation. The CIT program and Robin are making a difference in lives everyday in an effort to avoid arrests of individuals who are in psychiatric crisis.

Sylvio Normandeau (Winslow) has worked tirelessly to raise awareness and money on behalf of the Maine Children Cancer Program's Annual WALK since 1991. Since then he has raised approximately \$160,000. In 2007 his personal goal is to raise \$40,000 on behalf of the WALK. Sylvio is 83 years old and devotes his life to raising money for the Maine Children's Cancer program. His inspiration comes from his beloved wife who was diagnosed with cancer years ago. In her memory Sylvio continues to raise money to find a cure for childhood cancer. He donates proceeds of each hotdog and soda he sells at his cart, and collects money in canisters he places around town. Sylvio's fundraising truly comes from the heart.

Denise Pollard (Gray) has volunteered for 25 years at Russell Elementary School in Gray. She started her volunteer work in a second grade classroom talking about her physical disability and the experience of living with cerebral palsy. She is an inspiration, working with the students with her philosophy that "people with disabilities are like everyone else, they just do things differently." Working with students who need extra help academically, Denise assists with computer lessons

and leads handicap awareness. She teaches students social studies and science along with helping students with reading, writing, spelling and developing math games. Denise inspires those around her to overcome challenges, whether it be learning to walk or learning to read.

Nancy Sulides (Scarborough) has been a constant presence at Maine Medical Center since 1989, creating and participating in a wide variety of projects. During these 18 years, her service has included Special Care (Intensive Care), Geriatrics, and the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital. She has been a Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP) volunteer, providing extra care to elder patients to maintain their physical and mental vigor during their hospitalization. For more than a dozen years Nancy introduced expectant parents to what their birth experience might be like. And in 1999 Nancy created Hats with Hugs, through which a team of volunteer knitters have made nearly 15,000 hats for chemotherapy patients. MMC's Director of Volunteer Services Sandra Cranford says that Nancy's "energy is boundless, and she serves straight from the heart."

Donald Walsh (Lewiston) is the Emergency Disaster Services Supervisor for The Salvation Army Corps in Lewiston. For 20 years Don has been instrumental to The Salvation Army's humanitarian efforts in Androscoggin County and beyond. He makes sure that the Disaster canteen is available for firefighters and other emergency personnel at fires as they occur all over Northern New England. His service provides support to the workers and comfort to victims. Don and a team of 5 other volunteers run a year-round feeding program for people in need in the Kennedy Park neighborhood in Lewiston. This summer the Boys & Girls Clubs of Auburn/Lewiston had an immediate need for a driver for day trips; Don stepped in and met the need, providing a fun summer for many school-age children. He manages the Christmas Kettle campaign in the L/A area. Major Richard Lyle, the Commanding Corps Officer in Lewiston says that Don "has a heart for God and a hand that reaches to man."

Jeffrey Wood (Westbrook) founded eHope three years ago. The eHope Foundation is "real hope, real community" focused on building community among families and neighborhoods, providing a safety net of compassion and care for the seriously ill. Jeffrey recognizes that when families struggle with terminal illness even very little tasks become monumental. With this to inspire him Jeffrey organized eHope and has been instrumental in engaging over 1500 volunteers since. A volunteer himself, Jeffrey inspires individuals, families, and communities to come together in times of need, helping one another in small and immense ways during a loved ones ending stages of life.

Mary Rines Thompson Award

15 years ago, **Dr. Francis J. Kleeman, M.D.** (Kennebunk) founded the Biddeford Free Clinic, designed to serve uninsured patients living with limited incomes. The idea to start a free clinic was triggered by a family conversation with his then-college-age children, who vehemently described this particular plight of the working poor. Frank, his family, and a group of passionate volunteers went to work; the Biddeford Free Clinic opened in 1993. Volunteers come from Southern Maine Medical Center, private practice, and UNE's School of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Kleeman is personally involved as a caregiver every week. The Clinic serves patients in the midst of an acute health incident, but their greater goal is to promote community wellness and healthier lifestyles. Joan Gordon, Director of the Clinic, says that "Dr. Kleeman exemplifies the finest in the medical profession, using his energy and passion for his work to ensure that medical care is available to all who need it."

Agency of Distinction

Camp Sunshine helps children suffering with life threatening illnesses and their families restore hope, love, and laughter through their many support programs and an unforgettable experience. Since 1984 Camp Sunshine has served about 6,300 children (and more than 23,500 family members) from 46 states and 15 countries. Through workshops, recreation, and peer support, this year-round American Camping Association Accredited Program helps restore the quality of life to hundreds of families a year. During their stay children have tons of much needed fun, while parents receive the respite and peer support they need. After their stay families are grateful for

the life-changing experience Camp Sunshine provided them, and many return later as volunteers. Camp Sunshine has been formally recognized for their efficient management and growing finances. The real distinction of this agency is in the families' appreciation of Camp Sunshine for showing them the "true value of life", giving them the "strength to fight", and helping them find the courage to "heal."

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