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NEWS/FEATURE RELEASE

Opportunity Farm Kicks Off Capital Campaign with \$500,000 Gift from Libra: Foundation Gift to Support New Campus for At-Risk Girls

(New Gloucester, Maine)—At a capital campaign kick-off ceremony today, Opportunity Farm's trustees announced a gift of \$500,000 from the Libra Foundation toward the construction of its new campus for girls.

Opportunity Farm, a residential-style, group home for at-risk young people has been providing homes for boys since 1910. The Farm is now building a separate campus for girls. The girls' campus will comprise three homes, serving a total of 18-21 girls. Construction of the first home is now underway; the first residents are expected later this year.

"We're thrilled to have such an important boost right at the start of our first major capital campaign—and it couldn't be for a better cause," said Ron Scott, president of the Farm. "More and more girls in Maine need a place like

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Opportunity Farm, and The Libra Foundation has helped us take a major leap toward meeting that need.”

Trustees and volunteers announced a total goal of \$3.6 million for the fundraising campaign; with the Libra Foundation gift, they already have collected more than \$1.9 million, including \$500,500 from members of the board of trustees.

Governor John R. McKernan Jr., one of the Honorary Co-Chairs of Opportunity Farm’s campaign for the girls campus, was on hand to introduce the other Honorary Co-Chairs, including United States Senator Olympia J. Snowe, Olympic skier Julie Parisien and retired business executive and honorary Farm trustee John Staples.

Trustees John E. Palmer Jr., principal of Downeast Concepts in Yarmouth, and Mary Howe “Howsie” Stewart, retired educator and counselor, are serving as the Campaign Co-Chairs. “We couldn’t be doing this without the tireless efforts of John and Howsie,” said Michael T. Healy, chair of the board of trustees.

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Opportunity Farm was founded in 1910 as an orphanage for boys. Today, the Farm is a modern, social-service facility where daily life is guided by the Motivational Teaching Program, similar to the well-known program at Nebraska's Boys Town. While the Farm has adapted to modern times, its fundamental mission has remained unchanged: to provide safe, supportive, family-style homes for at-risk young people in Maine, and to help them become self-reliant, responsible and contributing adults.

Opportunity Farm for Boys and Girls is this year's charitable beneficiary of the Peoples Beach to Beach 10K Road Race to be held on Saturday, Aug. 3

www.opportunityfarm.org

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