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### **NEWS/FEATURE RELEASE**

#### **OPPORTUNITY FARM NAMES GIRLS' HOME IN HONOR OF SENATOR OLYMPIA SNOWE**

(New Gloucester, Maine) Opportunity Farm announced today that the Board of Trustees have unanimously approved the naming of a new residential home to provide shelter and services for young women in need of support in honor of Senator Olympia J. Snowe. The home will be built and opened in 2004-05.

Opportunity Farm was founded in 1910 as an orphanage for boys. While the Farm has adapted to modern times, its fundamental mission has remained unchanged: to provide a safe, supportive family-style home to at-risk young people in Maine, and to help them become independent, responsible adults. The Farm provides a well-structured daily routine, including a good mix of chores and fun, physical activity, academic studying, rest, and opportunities to give back to the community through volunteer services.

The Snowe House will be the second new home built for girls. The Barbara G. Welch House, the first girls' home, will be dedicated on September 19, 2003.

"We are very excited to name this home for a woman whom the young girls we serve can read about and follow in the news, and whose accomplishments can provide inspiration," said Ron Scott, President of Opportunity Farm. The trustees and staff of Opportunity Farm believe Senator Snowe will be an excellent role model for all who live and work there.

"Choosing to honor Senator Snowe in the naming of this home was an easy decision for the Board," adds Michael Healy, Chairman of the Board. "She has had a life of considerable challenges, as have many of the girls for whom we provide services. Her life story, her overcoming tremendous adversities and her incredible accomplishments as a highly respected Maine and national leader will serve as an inspiration to everyone at Opportunity Farm," said Healy.



Senator Snowe's parents died while she was still very young. Subsequently, she attended St. Basil's Academy, a Greek Orthodox school in New York, returning to Maine to complete her high school years and to live with her Aunt and Uncle, Mary and James Goranites, in Auburn.

Senator Snowe graduated from the University of Maine, where she studied political science. She married Peter Snowe in 1969 and was widowed in 1972 when he died in a car accident on his way home from Augusta where he served in the Maine House of Representatives. In 1989, she married Jock McKernan, who was then serving as Governor of Maine.

Senator Snowe served in the Maine House and Senate before she was elected to Congress, where she served 16 years in the U.S. House of Representatives. She was elected to the United States Senate in 1994 and re-elected in 2000. She is widely regarded as a leader on women's health issues and in the Senate Centrist Coalition. Senator Snowe currently serves on the Senate Finance and Commerce Committees, and chairs the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

For more information about Opportunity Farm, visit the website at [www.opportunityfarm.org](http://www.opportunityfarm.org) or call Julie Poulin, Director of Development at 926-4532 or email [jpoulin@opportunityfarm.org](mailto:jpoulin@opportunityfarm.org).

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