



For Immediate Release
June 17, 2024

Contact: Rod Harmon, Communications Manager
cell: 207-272-3986; email: rharmon@avestahousing.org

AVESTA HOUSING PRESENTS MISSION CHAMPION AWARD TO KENNEBUNK SAVINGS

FALMOUTH, Maine — Avesta Housing, the largest nonprofit affordable housing provider in northern New England, has presented its Mission Champion Award to Kennebunk Savings for its work to provide safe, quality, affordable homes for older adults in Kennebunk.

Avesta's Mission Champion Award is presented annually to an individual or organization who has made significant contributions to the promotion and provision of affordable housing. Winners of the award embody Avesta's belief that *everyone deserves a safe, affordable place to call home*. Avesta Housing President & CEO Rebecca Hatfield presented the award to Kennebunk Savings on May 29 at The Woodlands Club in Falmouth.

Motivated by the housing crisis, Kennebunk Savings donated 12 acres and more than half a million dollars to Avesta Housing in 2023. The donation will facilitate development of a new 70-unit affordable housing community for ages 55 and older in Kennebunk and support future phases of affordable housing in the area.

Kennebunk Savings' contribution didn't stop with the donation. Knowing the project faced a major hurdle — a town-wide ballot measure to approve zoning — bank leadership solicited support by hosting and participating in extensive community engagement and education. Thanks to these efforts, Kennebunk was the sole Maine community where an affordable housing ballot measure passed in the March 2024 election.

"The land and financial donation by Kennebunk Savings was unparalleled and represents the single largest philanthropic donation in Avesta's 52-year history," said Avesta Housing President & CEO Rebecca Hatfield. "What's more, the bank leadership's tireless efforts to ensure that the zoning change was approved was crucial to the development moving forward and is indicative of their dedication to providing affordable homes to the Kennebunk community. This represents a bold and creative solution to addressing the housing crisis, and we are hopeful that other businesses will be inspired by it."

"We are incredibly thankful to be honored by Avesta Housing with their Mission Champion Award. And we can't say enough about their leadership and incredibly talented staff," said Kennebunk Savings CEO Bradford C. Paige. "We knew from day one that we had found the right organization with the right creativity and, importantly, the right motivation to help make this project happen. We are proud to have collaborated so successfully with Avesta Housing to help facilitate the creation of much-needed affordable housing for older adults in our community, and we hope there are more partnership opportunities in the future."

PHOTO: Avesta Housing presents its Mission Champion Award to Kennebunk Savings. L-R: Douglas Stockbridge, board member, Avesta Housing Board of Directors and vice chair, Kennebunk Savings Board of Directors; Rebecca Hatfield, Avesta Housing president and CEO; Bradford C. Paige, CEO, Kennebunk Savings; Liz Torrance, vice president and social responsibility manager, Kennebunk Savings; Dennis Byrd, senior executive vice president and COO, Kennebunk Savings; and Nate Howes, senior development officer, Avesta Housing. (Avesta Housing photo)

###

About Avesta Housing

Avesta Housing is a nonprofit affordable housing provider with more than 50 years of experience as a leader in affordable housing development and property management in Maine and New Hampshire. The organization is headquartered in Portland, Maine, and operates more than 100 affordable properties, more than 3,000 apartments and two assisted living facilities, providing safe, affordable homes for more than 4,000 people every day. An additional 800 new homes are in the development pipeline. Avesta's mission is to improve lives and strengthen communities by promoting and providing quality affordable homes for people in need. www.AvestaHousing.org

307 Cumberland Avenue • Portland, Maine 04101
207-553-7777 • 1-800-339-6516 Voice/TTY
207-553-7778 Fax • www.avestahousing.org



In accordance with Federal Law and USDA Policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability (not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 1-800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.