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

AVESTA HOUSING AWARDS 2024 EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

PORTLAND, Maine — Avesta Housing, the largest nonprofit affordable housing provider in northern New England, has named the recipients of its 2024 educational scholarships. The \$1,000 scholarships are awarded annually to Avesta Housing residents who are enrolling in a post-secondary education program — such as college, graduate school, trade school or certificate program — in the next 12 months.

“Many of our residents face significant financial barriers to pursuing higher education,” said Avesta Housing Resident Service Manager Nicholas Kjeldgaard. “These scholarships help remove those barriers and give them a chance to pursue their career goals.”

This year’s recipients are:

- **Gertrude Armelle Akimfura**, Westbrook: Gertrude plans to attend the University of Southern Maine and become a licensed child therapist. Her career choice was inspired by her mother, who counsels homeless adults, and her own experiences, which includes starting a babysitting club with her cousins and volunteering at the community center of Portland Community Squash. She also works two jobs to help pay her family’s bills. “I am very thankful that I won this scholarship, because it will really help,” she said.
- **Nancy Assoutovi**, Portland: Nancy plans on attending Southern Maine Community College to work toward a nursing degree, which was inspired by her own experiences as a patient in the U.S. healthcare system. She intends to use the scholarship money to purchase school supplies. “I love the Avesta community, because it gives the same chances to everybody,” Nancy said. “I know everybody who applied for this scholarship is hoping for a good future, and that’s what it will do for me. It will help give me a better future.”

PHOTOS:

- 1) Gertrude Armelle Akimfura, left, receives a \$1,000 educational scholarship check from Avesta Housing Resident Service Coordinator Grace Mitchell.
- 2) Nancy Assoutovi, right, receives a \$1,000 educational scholarship check from Avesta Housing Property Management Assistant Albert Larose.
- 3) Gertrude Armelle Akimfura
- 4) Nancy Assoutovi

(Photos by Avesta Housing)

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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 100 affordable properties, 3,200 apartments and two assisted living facilities, providing safe, affordable homes for more than 4,500 people every day. 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



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