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The Midcoast Council of the Maine Women's Fund awarded \$2,000 in Splash micro grants

Rockland – The Midcoast Council of the Maine Women's Fund awarded \$2,000 in Splash micro grants to four programs with ideas on how to improve the community and promote economic self-sufficiency and security for women and girls in Knox, Lincoln and Waldo counties.

The Midcoast Council launched the Splash micro grants pilot program to support local organizations making a "splash" with a great idea and a big impact.

"It's really a great, simple model," says Pam Maus, chair of the Midcoast Council. "If there's no money, it's hard to make something happen. But \$500 is enough to get something new off the ground. That's what Splash is all about."

During a live community event on September 22, eight grant finalists presented community project proposals. The audience and judges, Jan Anderson, Bettina Doulton, Alan Hinsey and Hannah Pingree, voted for and announced the winners making the Midcoast a better place to live.

This first time event was made possible through community collaboration and partnerships with organizations that share the Maine Women's Fund belief that when women thrive, communities prosper. "The Splash micro grant program is a perfect opportunity for Machias Savings Bank to partner with grant recipients to assist women and girls towards a more successful tomorrow," said Judy Brogden of Machias Savings Bank. Joanne Miller of Ask for Home Care continues, "Children are our future. Any investment in them will reap benefits for generations to come. The reverse is also true. Failure to invest in them will cost us for generations to come."

The evening also kicked off the Midcoast Leadership Series scheduled for November 8, January 10 and March 13 at Amalfi on the Water (Rockland) at 6 p.m. The sessions are free and open to the public. Attendees are welcome to arrive at 5:15 to network and enjoy tapas from the Amalfi menu! For more information and to register for the Women's Leadership Series visit the [Maine Women's Fund](http://www.mainewomensfund.org/wls) at www.mainewomensfund.org/wls.

We are pleased to announce and support four Splash micro grant recipients who are improving the lives of women and girls in our community!

Medomak Mobile Home Cooperative (Waldoboro)

The award will provide a leadership training retreat to help residents take on leadership roles in the new cooperative. The residents of the cooperative recently bought the land and manage the park as a residents' cooperative.

New Hope for Women (Waldo County)

New Hope will use their award to produce the All Starz: An Anti-Bullying Play to run in lower elementary classes in Waldo County. The play is a very powerful and effective tool to begin the conversation in schools and reverse bullying and aggressive behavior that often leads to domestic violence.

Game Loft Pathfinders Program (Belfast)

Teens representing the Game Loft Pathfinders Program provided a short play to successfully demonstrate the need for their award. The Loft is managed by kids on the fringe and provides games that focus on learning basic financial and life skills such as balancing check books, applying for jobs, and getting an apartment.

Camden Hills High School Garden Project (Camden)

Two students from Camden Hills High School representing The Rig captured the fourth award with their plans to start a community garden next to the Camden food pantry. Through this garden their goals include promoting gardening skills among food pantry residents and to plan and offer classes on food preparation and preservation.

About the Maine Women's Fund

The Maine Women's Fund is a public foundation for women and girls in Maine. Our work enables women and girls to use their vision, voice, and resources to create lasting change for everyone. Through our grantmaking, we fund programs that build economic security for women and girls, and through them, our broader community. In our grantmaking, we focus on four areas: education, public policy, entrepreneurship & better jobs, and financial literacy & asset building.

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