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Grantmaking By and For Girls

Portland – On October 15, more than 30 girls in grades 8-12 from across Maine will come together from 1:00 -5:00 p.m. at Gilsland Farm Audubon to award five social change grants of \$1,000 each to five projects in Maine serving girls.

The [Maine Women's Fund](#) has teamed up with [Bangor Savings Bank Foundation](#) to give girls hands-on experience with charity, philanthropy and grantmaking. At the conclusion of the day, the girls will collectively select five of the eighteen grant applicants that they feel have the most merit and award them \$1,000 grants to promote lasting social change in Maine.

“In addition to making grant allocations, the girls will gain a deeper understanding of philanthropy, as well as practical experience and tool sets for working together to make decisions,” said Lauren Dietlin, Director of Development at the Maine Women's Fund. “And it will be a lot of fun for them to work with a group of girls who are passionate about the social and environmental issues affecting all girls.”

In their applications, girls gave many reasons for wanting to participate in this initiative. The most common: they want a say in the process, and they know what is best for girls. “I would like to participate because I think it is important that girls have a say in how grant money is used. They are the ones who know what programs they need and what programs will do the most good [for girls].” – Applicant.

Who can argue with that?

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. Our leadership programs provide resources, community, skills, and experience that enable women to tap fully into their leadership potential in service to others and in their personal and professional lives.

About the Bangor Savings Bank Foundation

Philanthropy is a prominent aspect of our Community Investment efforts, and the most prominent centerpiece of our giving is the continuing work and contributions of The Bangor Savings Bank Foundation. The Bangor Savings Bank Foundation was created in 1997 to help fulfill our commitment to improving community life in Maine. Today, the Bank has chosen to improve the impact and coordination of its giving by channeling all major charitable contributions from the Bank through the Foundation's grant-making process.

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