



KATAHDIN VALLEY HEALTH CENTER

PO BOX 500
30 HOULTON STREET
PATTEN, ME 04765

PHONE: 207-528-2285 FAX: 207-528-2880
E-mail: kvhc@kvhc.org

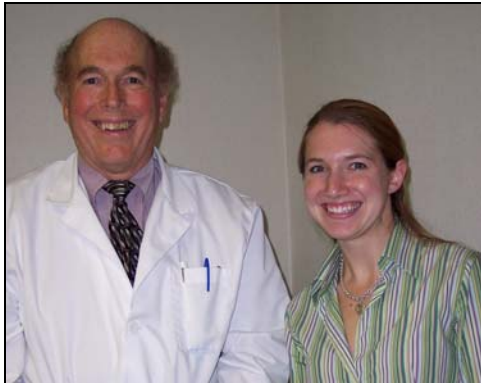
NEWS RELEASE (w/photo)

SOURCE:

Durward L. Humphrey, Executive Director

For additional information, please contact:

Gaile Nicholson
Director, Marketing and Public Relations
207-528-2285, Ext. 301
gnicholson@kvhc.org



KVHC OFFERS OPTOMETRY SERVICES WITH NEW ASSOCIATES **ROBERT ELLIS, O.D. AND JESSICA PHILBROOK, O.D.**

HOULTON, ME – August 21, 2006 -- Katahdin Valley Health Center, with healthcare facilities in Patten, Houlton, Island Falls and Millinocket, is pleased to announce that Robert Ellis, O.D. and Jessica Philbrook, O.D. are now associated with the organization.

Dr. Ellis and Dr. Philbrook are Maine licensed optometrists, committed to providing quality vision care services to patients of all ages at affordable rates.

Dr. Ellis is a graduate of the Houlton schools, attended Fryeburg Academy in Fryeburg, Maine, and the University of Maine at Orono. He earned his Doctor of Optometry degree from Ohio State University College of Optometry in 1970. While in college, he served as a surveyor and glaciologist, working on glaciers in Alaska and Antarctica. He completed his military service as an optometrist at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas and Fort Polk Army Hospital in Louisiana. While at Fort Polk, he served as assistant chief in the eye clinic, which was staffed by five optometrists.

Since returning to Houlton in 1973, Dr. Ellis remains very active in the community. He served on the board of directors for the Houlton Chamber of Commerce, Houlton Salvation Army, as president of the Houlton International Flying Club, past president of Chiputneticook Lakes International Conservancy (CLIC), past president of the Aroostook County Optometric Society and the Maine Optometric Association. He is currently a board member for Houlton Regional Hospital Health Services Foundation, associate staff member of Houlton Regional Hospital and a member of the Houlton Rotary Club. His hobbies include flying, hunting, camping, skiing and nature photography.

Dr. Ellis says, “My father, Donald Ellis, O.D., opened his eye care practice in 1941. I joined my Dad’s optometry practice at 40 Court Street in Houlton in 1973. Over the past 33 years, I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing my patients and providing eye care services to all my patients.

“Katahdin Valley Health Center is providing valuable services to the people of our area, and I am very pleased to become part of an organization that provides quality health care to our citizens. Dr. Philbrook and I look forward to providing vision care to people of all ages for many years to come,” said Dr. Ellis.

Dr. Jessica Philbrook, a Maine native, earned her Doctor of Optometry from New England College of Optometry in Boston in June 2006. She graduated *cum laude* with a bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Maine at Orono. Dr. Philbrook was raised in Brunswick, Maine and graduated from Brunswick High School.

While attending the New England College of Optometry, Dr. Philbrook was honored for her clinical work at the South End Community Health Center, Vision Care of Maine, New England Eye Institute Contact Lens Clinic, and for clinical work during her pediatric rotation at Boston Medical Center and Framingham (MA) School Vision Center.

Her experience includes detection and management of pediatric ocular disease and prevention and treatment of amblyopia, commonly called ‘lazy eye.’ As part of her pediatric training, Dr. Philbrook participated in vision screenings for Boston school children.

She has experience working with optometrists and ophthalmologists in the treatment and management of eye diseases, including glaucoma and macular degeneration. She presently provides eye care to pediatric and adult patients to prevent irreversible vision loss.

“I like the small-town atmosphere and friendly people in our area; I’m elated to work with Dr. Ellis to serve this area’s vision care needs. My personal goal is to help our patients, of all ages, in the prevention of irreversible vision loss. Our Houlton office has the latest information and technology available for optometric procedures so we can provide high quality vision care to our pediatric and adult patients,” said Dr. Philbrook.

KVHC Executive Director Durward Humphrey said, “We are delighted that Dr. Ellis and Dr. Philbrook are now associated with KVHC. Their offices have the latest technology available to enable them to provide valuable vision care to our patients. Dr. Ellis’ and Dr. Philbrook’s personal commitment of providing excellence in customer service and satisfaction mirrors KVHC’s mission of providing high quality, cost-effective health care to all who need our services. KVHC does not discriminate based on a person’s ability to pay and is committed to providing high quality health care to the insured, uninsured and under-insured community members who may not otherwise have our services available to them.

“Eye care problems affect people of all ages. We only want the best for our patients’ eyes so they can enjoy vision for life. Dr. Ellis and Dr. Philbrook can keep our patients healthy with personalized, quality eye care. Their expertise and standard of vision care are superb.

“An added benefit for KVHC patients is that Dr. Philbrook’s pediatric experience in vision care is a wonderful complement to KVHC’s pediatric dental and primary care programs.

“We are especially pleased that Dr. Ellis and Dr. Philbrook are offering their eye care services to benefit KVHC patients,” said Humphrey.

Dr. Ellis and Dr. Philbrook are accepting new patients. For your personal eye care appointment, call 521-0022 or 1-866-366-5842.

A Federally Qualified Health Center, Katahdin Valley Health Center (KVHC) is a provider of high quality, cost effective primary health, dental, substance abuse and mental health care to people of all ages in the Greater Katahdin Region. KVHC is a nonprofit business governed by a board of directors, comprised of area volunteers, funded by a federal grant under Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. KVHC employs 55 people at its facilities in Houlton, Island Falls, Millinocket and Patten.

-8/21/06-