



## KATAHDIN VALLEY HEALTH CENTER

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## NEWS RELEASE

SOURCE:

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### KVHC Receives \$50,000 from Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation

PATTEN, ME – May 30, 2007 – Katahdin Valley Health Center (KVHC), headquartered in Patten, Maine, has received a \$50,000 grant donation from the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation of Bangor.

“The Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation was created because its founders wanted to give back to their communities. The Foundation strives to fulfill its mission with respect, integrity and consideration,” said Stephanie Leonard, administrator for the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation.

The Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation grant dollars will be used toward expansion of KVHC’s facilities in Millinocket and Patten.

“We genuinely appreciate the confidence shown by Stephen and Tabitha King’s Foundation in support of KVHC with their very generous gift of \$50,000 earmarked for expansion of KVHC’s clinics in Millinocket and Patten. On behalf of KVHC’s board of directors, staff and the neediest patients and communities within northern Penobscot, northern Piscataquis and southern Aroostook Counties, we truly appreciate the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation’s generous funding and support of this project.

“KVHC seeks to raise 10% of the total project cost in support to build and develop 9,500 square feet of new clinical office space. This expansion will create 24 new exam rooms between KVHC’s Millinocket and Patten clinics. This project will significantly impact the community by making a major improvement to the existing health care delivery system and also support the local economy through the immediate creation of construction jobs and the ongoing creation of professional healthcare positions,” said Durward Humphrey, KVHC’s executive director.

Katahdin Valley Health Center first opened in Patten in 1974, with support from the Rural Health Initiative and local fundraising by citizens. In 1979, KVHC became a Medicare certified rural health center. In 1986 KVHC received federal funding through the Health Resources and Services

Administration as a Federally Qualified Health Center in the network of Rural Health Centers of Maine. KVHC applied for, and subsequently received, independent Section 330 Grantee status from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 1999.

KVHC has realized growth and expansion over the past several years. A primary care clinic in Millinocket opened in 2004, followed by a dental clinic in Millinocket in February 2005. Ten months later, in December 2005, KVHC realized expansion with a fourth primary care site in Houlton. KVHC's service area includes 26 municipalities, 5 plantations and 22 unorganized towns in northern Penobscot, southern Aroostook and northern Piscataquis Counties, revolving around the four primary care practice sites and one dental clinic.

"Presently, KVHC's Patten and Millinocket facilities are far too small to accommodate the growing need in our service area. Currently, our Millinocket primary care clinic has only four exam rooms in 2,600 square feet while our Patten clinic has six exam rooms in 2,800 square feet. Based on call volume and a needs assessment conducted in 2006, we estimate that nearly 700 additional patients will seek treatment at KVHC's Millinocket center and 340 additional patients will seek treatment in Patten," said Humphrey.

"By expanding the two clinics, KVHC will be able to provide a medical home to an additional 1,019 patients, equating to approximately 6,567 patient visits per year. The vast majority of these patients are poor, uninsured and vulnerable.

"KVHC's plans are to create 5,600 square feet of clinical space in Millinocket, enabling the Center to develop 14 new exam rooms. Ten of these exam rooms will be dedicated to medical primary care, two to oral health and two to mental health and substance abuse treatment.

"In Patten, plans are to create 3,900 square feet of clinical space, allowing the Center to develop 10 new exam rooms, eight for medical primary care and two for mental health and substance abuse treatment," added Humphrey.

"Estimated cost for these expansions is \$3.85 million (\$2.1 million for Millinocket and \$1.75 million for the Patten project). These expansions represent major construction projects in areas that are economically depressed. It is KVHC's intention to use local contractors and construction firms whenever possible. It is our goal to use local talent and keep the expansion dollars for these projects in the local communities.

"The generosity shown by the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation is a huge step towards making these projects a reality so that KVHC can better service our patients. Our goal always has been and will continue to be to provide the high quality, cost effective care our patients deserve," said Humphrey.

***Katahdin Valley Health Center (KVHC) is a provider of high quality, cost effective primary health, dental, substance abuse and mental health care to the people in the Greater Katahdin Region. A Federally Qualified Health Center, 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 provides high quality health care to low income, uninsured and under-insured community members who may not otherwise have those services available to them. KVHC accepts all insurance, including Medicare and MaineCare and will submit claims to your insurance company for you. Sliding fee programs are also available. KVHC employs 60 people at its facilities in Houlton, Island Falls, Millinocket and Patten.***

***For additional information about Katahdin Valley Health Center, feel free to call 207-528-2285 or visit KVHC's website at [www.KVHC.org](http://www.KVHC.org).***