



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT: Donna Dwyer, President & CEO

(207) 854-2800 or donna@myplaceteencenter.org

June 18, 2019

My Place Teen Center Receives \$14,000 from 100+ Women Who Care

(Westbrook, Maine) – My Place Teen Center (MPTC), a greater Portland organization whose mission is to provide a safe haven for youth ages 10-18, sustaining them with comfort, meals, resources, and hope, announced today it was awarded \$14,000 in donations from 100+ Women Who Care. Funding from 100+ Women Who Care will support a Restaurant Job Training Program (RJTP) for at-risk middle and high school youth.

“We developed the RJTP to (1) meet basic needs - feeding daily meals to hungry kids, (2) give vulnerable youth a sense of purpose and belonging in a loving, supportive, albeit demanding environment, (3) provide them with pertinent, translatable job and life skills, and (4) mentor their emotional health and well-being via small group culinary instruction and programming,” says MPTC president and CEO, Donna Dwyer.

“It’s another vote of confidence in our 21-year endeavor to transform kids’ lives,” says Dwyer, “and it’s validation from this dynamic group of powerhouse women the critical need for intervention in a youth population facing chronic hunger and trauma issues.”

“100+ Women Who Care has a rich history of support in Maine and we have personal connections to the people in our communities – many of whom we proudly call our neighbors,” said Deb Bergeron, Founder of 100 Women Who Care Southern Maine in Portland. “My Place Teen Center provides critical services to Greater Portland’s youth, serving as a positive outlet for our city’s young adults, who are in a critical stage of development, to learn, thrive and become successful adults.”

100+ Women Who Care Southern Maine is a group of women numbering around 380 who gather quarterly and choose a deserving area nonprofit to receive a donation from each member. At the meetings, three attendees are given the opportunity to pitch their favorite nonprofit to the group, who then vote by secret ballot. Each member gives her donation directly to the charity. They have raised \$200,000 since November 2014.

100+ Women Who Care is holding its next quarterly meeting on Monday, August 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Italian Heritage Center in Portland. All are welcome. My Place Teen Center will be recognized at the event, as well as three new non-profits who will pitch their cause.

About My Place Teen Center: MPTC is a year-round, free, after-school program for children between the ages of 10-18. Specializing in homeless, food insecure, cognitively-delayed, low-income, immigrant, and refugee teens and pre-teens, MPTC offers a multi-purpose, academically enriching, hunger-relieving youth development program that has been a focal point for greater Portland and York county kids since its inception in 1998. 467 kids were served by MPTC’s diverse offerings this past fiscal year, a figure sure to be surpassed this year.

###