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Wells Fargo “Pays It Forward” with Another \$10,000 Grant to My Place Teen Center.

(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 a \$10,000 grant from Wells Fargo for the second year in a row — this time to fund general year-round programming at the organization.

“Wells Fargo invested in our Youth Leadership Academy a year ago and we have all seen the results,” says MPTC CEO and president, Donna Dwyer. “Within only one year, the teens in the leadership program have learned the importance of leadership and how community service builds strong character and work ethics. Just as Wells Fargo has done for us, the teens learn how the “Pay It Forward” program engages youth in community service projects.”

The cost to provide a teen with a hot meal, a safe, warm, caring space, and a variety of enrichment programs is \$960. Each kid has FREE access to 1,250 hours of specialized programming and 250 hot, well-balanced meals per year. With a \$10,000 grant, Wells Fargo will support more than ten teens for the entire year.

“When you look at everything families face these days, often there are kids that need mentoring, need food, or just need a place to be appreciated. MPTC’s programs deliver that, and we believe in them,” said Rob Small, senior vice president for Wells Fargo Middle Market Banking in Portland. “We have been fortunate in our success over the years. We believe in this same model the center teaches the teens — that the only thing to do in return is to perform a deed of good service onto another group.”

Thanks to this grant, MPTC will continue the year-round goal of providing comprehensive programming during a critical time when some youth face the prospect of having nothing to do and lack safe, stable choices. Youth receive academic assistance through tutoring, study skills, the Learning Technology Lab, and Science, Technology, English, the Arts, and Math (STEAM) programs. Trauma informed staff offer instruction in character development, leadership development, life skills, job skills, and financial literacy.

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, 9,100 meals were served, figures sure to be surpassed this year.

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