



ALFOND YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTER

✉ 126 North Street, Waterville, Maine  
☎ 207.873.0684 FAX 207.861.8016  
💻 [www.ClubAYCC.org](http://www.ClubAYCC.org)  
@ [info@ClubAYCC.org](mailto:info@ClubAYCC.org)



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 22, 2025

### Board Members

Joseph Reisert  
*Chair*

David Lockman  
*1st Vice Chair*

Susan Scacchi  
*2nd Vice Chair*

Andrew Livingston  
*Treasurer*

Brian LeComte  
*Secretary*

Kenneth A. Walsh  
*CEO*

Amy Bernatchez  
*Past Chair*

Marci Alexander  
William Bonney  
Paul Boudreau  
Sue Hawkes  
Brian Kelly

Terrell Koczynski  
Larissa Larrabee

Churchill Elangwe-Preston  
Maeghan Maloney  
Sarah Sachs  
Mitch Sammons  
Pam Trinward  
Dr. Caroline Watts

### Founders Club

Boys & Girls Club and  
YMCA Alumni

Bruce White  
*President*



BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE

## University of Maine and Alfond Youth & Community Center to Sign Groundbreaking MOU on Youth STEAM Education

**WATERVILLE, ME** – The University of Maine and the Alfond Youth & Community Center (AYCC) will formally enter into a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) during a signing ceremony on **Thursday, May 29, 2025, at 12:00 pm** at the AYCC, 126 North Street in Waterville.

This strategic partnership will launch a statewide model for youth enrichment, beginning with the Mary Frances McCarthy Discovery Center, located within the Burger-Roy After School Program at the Alfond Youth & Community Center (AYCC) in Waterville. Through hands-on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) programming, student internships, faculty-led trainings, and community workshops, the initiative aims to expand educational access and inspire the next generation of Maine's workforce.

"This is more than a partnership—it's a shared commitment to building a future-ready generation through collaborative innovation," said Ken Walsh, CEO of the AYCC. "Together with the University of Maine, we are creating a pathway to opportunity for Maine youth and their families."

### Key Program Outcomes:

- **STEAM Program Launch (Fall 2025):** Designed by the STEAM Program Development Team (SPDT), the initiative targets elementary, middle, and high school students with hands-on learning and evaluation-driven growth.
- **Phased Growth Model:** Starting with a 6-month pilot, the partnership will evolve through 3-, 5-, and 10-year strategic phases focused on long-term, statewide replication.



### **Additional Collaborative Components:**

- **Student Internships & Practicums** in counseling, early childhood education, and physical education
- **Joint Research & Grant Development** in youth development and education
- **Professional Development** for AYCC staff by UMaine faculty in trauma-informed care and child psychology
- **Community Financial Literacy Series** by the Maine Business School
- **Youth Mentoring & Service Learning** led by UMaine students
- **Shared Facilities & Guest Lectures** across institutions
- **Volunteer & Career Exploration Events** to guide youth pathways

This MOU sets a precedent for statewide impact by aligning resources and expertise to build a sustainable youth development infrastructure across Maine.

### **Media Contact**

Katherine Harvey

Senior Director of Philanthropy and Government Relations

207-872-8842

[kharvey@clubaycc.org](mailto:kharvey@clubaycc.org)

### **About the Alfond Youth & Community Center**

The Alfond Youth & Community Center (AYCC) is the 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that operates the nation's only merged Boys and Girls Clubs and YMCA. Located in Central Maine, the dedicated staff of the 85,000-square-foot facility serves over 9,000 members from throughout the 50 communities of the Greater Waterville area.

A true youth and community center, the AYCC boasts childcare and afterschool programs, wellness, fitness, athletics, aquatics, martial arts, and summer camps.

[www.clubaycc.org](http://www.clubaycc.org)