



ALFOND YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTER



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AYCC Kicks Off “Our Next Chapter Starts Here” Campaign with a Successful Awards Dinner

Waterville, ME – June 11, 2026 – The Alfond Youth & Community Center (AYCC) welcomed community partners, longtime supporters, friends, families, and staff to its gymnasium on Wednesday, May 27, for a powerful evening celebrating impact, connection, and momentum during the launch of its Annual Appeal.

Centered on the theme, “**Our Next Chapter Starts Here**,” the gathering marked the first Annual Appeal under the leadership of newly appointed CEO **Steve Scraggs**, setting the tone for a bold and transformative future.

The evening featured compelling stories, videos, and remarks highlighting the AYCC’s impact across the community, demonstrating how the organization continues to support youth development, family well-being, and community vitality.

A call to action inspired immediate generosity, and by the close of the evening’s festivities, supporters had pledged over \$300,000, achieving the first milestone of the campaign. This amount will be fully matched by the **Harold Alfond® Foundation**, effectively doubling the impact. Reaching this initial benchmark also unlocks the next challenge: an **additional \$50,000 bonus match** from the Foundation, further accelerating progress toward the campaign’s ambitious **\$1.2 million goal**.

“This evening was a testament to the power of community and shared purpose,” said **Steve Scraggs, CEO of the AYCC**. “We are incredibly grateful for the generosity and belief shown by our supporters. Together, we are building the next chapter of AYCC’s impact, one that strengthens opportunities for every child and family we serve.”



BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE

As part of the celebration, AYCC proudly honored the 2026 Inspirational Hall of Fame Class, recognizing and honoring supporters who embody the spirit of philanthropy, volunteerism, youth development, and community service. This year's **Inspirational Hall of Fame, Class of 2026, includes:**

- **Paul Dunbar** – Paul's generosity of spirit and infectious enthusiasm create a welcoming, confidence-building environment where every Unified Champions Club athlete feels seen, supported, and empowered.
- **Kim Lindlof** – President & CEO, Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce - Through leadership and advocacy, Kim brings people together in ways that strengthen collaboration, spark innovation, and build a more connected, thriving community.
- **Richard "Dick" Upham** – Dick leads with heart, quietly encouraging, thoughtfully guiding, and inspiring young people to discover purpose, responsibility, and a lasting connection to the world around them.

Full details about our honorees are available on our [blog](#).

The event officially launched AYCC's 100 Days of Giving Campaign, which runs from May 27 to September 4, 2026. Throughout the campaign, AYCC will continue to share stories of impact and opportunities for donors to help meet and exceed the \$1.2 million goal.

Supporters can learn more by visiting our website:
www.clubaycc.org/giving/100-days-of-giving/

With early momentum, strong partnerships, and a shared vision for the future, AYCC is poised to make this year's Annual Appeal its most impactful to date.

About the AYCC

The Alford Youth & Community Center (AYCC) is a leading nonprofit community center in Waterville, Maine, dedicated to strengthening youth, families, and the greater community through impactful programs in youth development, health and wellness, education, and recreation. As the only fully merged Boys & Girls Clubs and YMCA in the world, the AYCC uniquely combines the missions and resources of both movements to deliver innovative programs that empower young people, support families, and foster life-long well-being. Serving thousands of individuals each year, the AYCC provides a welcoming, inclusive hub where children, teens, and adults can learn, grow, stay active, and build meaningful community connections.

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