



Hour Exchange Portland

470 Forest Avenue, Portland, ME 04101

(207) 874-9868 Fax 773-4701

www.HourExchangePortland.org

For Immediate Release
August 27, 2009

CONTACT: Marena Blanchard
Marena@HourExchangePortland.org

Hour Exchange Portland, United Way, and USM mobilize for 9/11 Service Awareness Week

Portland, Maine – Hour Exchange Portland (HEP) is organizing a Service Awareness Week from 9/7-9/11 in partnership with United Way of Greater Portland and USM Muskie School of Public Service. In April 2009, President Obama signed legislation establishing September 11th as a National Day of Service and Remembrance. The hope is that citizens will pledge to do just one good deed during the week of 9/11. In this way, we honor those who so tragically passed while reaffirming our shared lives as a community. (Visit www.911day.org for more information about events nationwide.)

HEP members will be working with local organizations like (including) Preble Street's Day Shelter and Resource Center providing support in the soup kitchen; Ready, Set, Go childcare facility reading to children; beautifying St. Lawrence Arts & Community Center; Catholic Charities' Welcome Refugee House; gardening for Goodwill residences; and more. The group service project with HEP, United Way and USM on 9/11 will be a clean-up/beautification effort of Deering Oaks Park open to anyone who wishes to get involved. Participants will clean-up the park and paint city garbage receptacles from 11am to 4pm. The City of Portland will distribute the garbage receptacles throughout the city. HEP will have an open house at their offices from 5-7pm to encourage people to continue the spirit of service everyday with Hour Exchange and join the effort to manifest a better society.

WHO: Hour Exchange Portland, United Way, USM Muskie School of Public Service, and Community Volunteers.

WHERE: Deering Oaks Park bandstand in Portland, Maine.

WHAT: Remembrance Ceremony and Park beautification/clean up with city garbage receptacle painting.

WHEN: September 11, 2009, 11am - 4pm.

"Collectively investing in programs, organizations, and public spaces that make Portland a better place to live is vital; it's important to serve because it reminds us of our unity. At Hour Exchange Portland, we've been answering the call to service every day (two words) for the past 13 years as a network of neighbors exchanging one good deed for another," says Marena Blanchard, Hour Exchange Portland's Americorps*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America). Likened as a domestic Peace Corps, VISTAs pledge a year of service to fight poverty across America. The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, passed with bipartisan support from all of Maine's Representatives and signed into law by President Obama on April 21, 2009, expands the Americorps program with the goal of funding 250,000 volunteers engaged in targeted service in areas of national need, such as energy conservation, healthcare and education.

HEP is a membership organization where services are exchanged for Time Dollars. Members utilize the skills and talents they choose to share in exchange for services they want or need in return. Everyone's time and talents are valued equally. These exchanges enhance the lives of members by building new relationships and strengthening community. Hour Exchange Portland prides itself in connecting members of the community through its own unique, thriving community currency. FMI: www.HourExchangePortland.org.

Hour Exchange Portland is a service exchange organization based on the currency of time that empowers individuals to utilize their assets to enhance their lives, neighborhood and community.