

HealthReach Community Health Centers



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Food For All Farm Stand Makes Fresh Produce Accessible in Rural Maine **Farm Stand Launches at Bingham Area Health Center on September 18**

BINGHAM - Bingham Area Health Center will host a low-cost farm stand sponsored by the Maine Federation of Farmers' Markets and Good Shepherd Food Bank. The cost of the food is subsidized by the sponsoring organizations and payment will be accepted in cash and EBT.

The Food for All Farm Stand is a pilot project geared towards creating an alternative food access model that will make fresh local produce available and affordable for rural Mainers who are low income or use SNAP benefits. The farm stand will be open from 11:00 Am to 3:00 PM on Thursdays for six consecutive weeks on the following dates:

- September 18
- September 25
- October 2
- October 9
- October 16
- October 23

"Our goal with this event is to create a win-win distribution model where local farmers are fairly compensated for their product and low-income Mainers have access to fresh, local produce," said Connie Coggins, President and CEO of HealthReach Community Health Centers.

Representatives from MaineGeneral RSVP (Retired Senior and Volunteer Program), Somerset Public Health, and Bingham Area Health Center will also be on hand to provide information on topics including volunteer opportunities for seniors, wellness and nutrition, and health insurance reenrollment.

Bingham Area Health Center is located at 237 Main Street in Bingham. For more information, call 207-672-4187 or visit www.BinghamCHC.org.

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About Maine Federation of Farmers' Markets:

Founded in 1991, the Maine Federation of Farmers' Markets' mission is to cultivate a vibrant and sustainable farmers' market community in the state of Maine. The Federation provides resources, promotion, and advocacy for Maine's 140+ markets, and is also involved in projects to enhance food access for low-income Mainers and rural communities. MFFM's statewide listing of Maine farmers' markets can be found at mainefarmersmarkets.org.

About Bingham Area Health Center:

Bingham Area Health Center is one of 11 Federally Qualified Health Centers of HealthReach Community Health Centers. The HealthReach practices are located throughout Central and Western Maine, dedicated to providing high quality healthcare to all individuals. Medicare, MaineCare and most major insurances are accepted. For individuals who are uninsured or underinsured, a sliding fee program that will reduce costs for health center visits is available. HealthReach is a private, non-profit organization that has been serving the communities of Maine for 39 years.

About Good Shepherd Food Bank

As the largest hunger relief organization in Maine, Good Shepherd Food Bank provides for Mainers facing hunger by distributing nutritious food to 600 partner agencies across the state, including food pantries, meal sites, and youth programs. Together with its network, the Food Bank leads a statewide effort to combat the root causes of hunger by engaging in advocacy, nutrition education, and strategic partnerships. In 2013, the Food Bank distributed more than 15 million pounds of food to families, children, and seniors in need throughout Maine. Website: feedingmaine.org; Phone: (207) 782-3554; Facebook: facebook.com/feedingmaine; Twitter: twitter.com/feedingmaine.

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