

The Portland Sun

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New group, 100 Women Who Care Southern Maine, donates over \$5,000 to Simple Gifts

NEW GROUP, 100 WOMEN WHO CARE SOUTHERN MAINE, DONATES OVER \$5,000 TO SIMPLE GIFTS

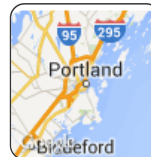
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Written by Contributed Report

Eighty women were in attendance last Thursday evening when members of 100 Women Who Care Southern Maine held their inaugural meeting at The Woodfords Club in Portland. Founded by Deb Bergeron of Falmouth, the group meets quarterly, operating as a "giving circle." Each woman donates \$50 and votes on one of three nominated local nonprofits to receive the collective amount.

"It was an amazing evening," said Bergeron. "Our first winner, Simple Gifts of Maine, does wonderful things for people who are hospitalized or have serious medical needs, and for their families. The organization is completely volunteer. and provides gas gift cards, payment for utility bills and just about anything people may need or want." Other nominees

were The Root Cellar and The American Heart Association. Simple Gifts President, Mary Irace, agrees. "I'm completely

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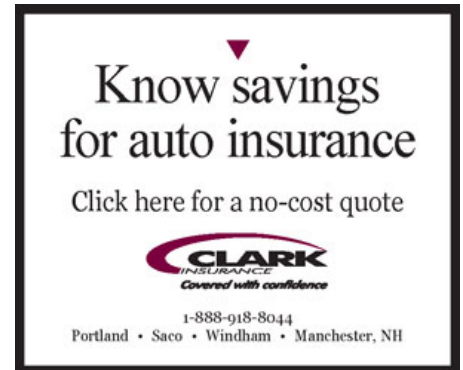
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overwhelmed," said Irace. "The impact of all the people here is so appreciated. This is one of the largest gifts we've ever received."
"As of right now, we have over 108 registered women who are committed to this process," said Bergeron. "There are many chapters of the organization across North America and I can see it expanding to Northern and Western Maine. Many people gave their time and resources to help me launch this. It was a party atmosphere with food, a cash bar and of course the serious business of voting on three worth nominees. There is something so powerful about pooling resources and being able to make such a large donation to a single group."
Companies wishing to sponsor or make operational donations to 100 Women Who Care Southern Maine, or any of the nominated organizations, should contact Bergeron at 797-9007.

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- Yes
- No
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