

## **JMG STUDENTS NAMED ‘OUTSTANDING YOUTH IN PHILANTHROPY’**

AUGUSTA – The students of Jobs for Maine’s Graduates (JMG) have been awarded Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy for Maine by the Association of Fundraising Professionals of Northern New England. JMG students are being recognized for demonstrating commitment to their communities through direct financial support and development of charitable programs.

The JMG students were nominated for the award by Kate Vickery, Volunteer Director of the Make a Wish Foundation. In her nomination letter Ms. Vickery states, “The example set by the students of JMG across the state of Maine not only serves as one for other programs under the Jobs for America’s Graduates national program to follow – but also for any youth group or school group to follow. The community service efforts of the Jobs for Maine’s Graduates program are an outstanding example of youth becoming actively engaged in their communities.”

Governor John Baldacci is the chair of the national organization Jobs for America’s Graduates and is proud of the achievements of the Maine students. “JMG is leading the way for other states with the success of its program here in Maine and the positive outcomes of the JMG students. These young people are a shining example for all of us of how we can make a difference in our own communities.”

The Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award was presented at the National Philanthropy Day Dinner hosted by AFP/NNE on Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Eastland Hotel in Portland. Two students from JMG’s middle school program, Project Reach, were on hand to accept the award on behalf of JMG students statewide.

Community service learning is a critical part of the JMG curriculum. By getting involved in community projects, students develop a bond with the people in their towns. The students also learn leadership skills, teamwork skills and communication skills that they will use after high school graduation either in the workforce or in post secondary education. Throughout the school year, JMG students organize fundraisers for organizations like the Make A Wish Foundation, the Special Olympics and other non profits. JMG students also volunteer at nursing homes, food kitchens and in community clean up projects and Keep ME Warm.

JMG was established in 1993 by the Maine State Legislature. JMG is currently serving approximately 2,600 students in more than 50 school-based sites statewide. The vision of JMG is to be a champion for all Maine students who face barriers to education and to guide each one on to a successful path toward continued education, a meaningful career, and productive adulthood. We understand Maine’s future will be a reflection of what we commit and contribute to our youth.

For more information about JMG or the Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy award, please contact Maureen Duggan at (207) 620-7180 or email [mduggan@jmg.org](mailto:mduggan@jmg.org).

For a complete list of JMG school sites, please visit [www.jmg.org](http://www.jmg.org)