

## SPHS students award grants

Students in the Jobs for Maine's Graduates (JMG) program at South Portland High School participated in a new program to learn about the grant making process and give back to youth-serving organizations in their community.

Called "Jumpstart Our Youth" and funded by the Unity Foundation, the program allowed South Portland High School, along with many other Maine high schools, to award \$1,000 grants to community organizations. JMG students in South Portland reviewed dozens of proposals before granting \$500 each to Day One and Family Crisis Services.

On May 6, JMG students from teacher Randy Inosenio's class presented checks to both organizations. One of Inosenio's students felt so strongly about choosing Day One for the grant he made presentations to each of the four JMG classes at the school and shared his personal experiences with drugs and alcohol and the difference Day One had made in his life. Day One is Maine's leading agency in the fight against adolescent substance abuse.

In presenting the check to Day One, he said, "If the money went to you it would help more people like me with problems."

The student participated in Day One's Intensive Outpatient Program, designed for youth whose substance abuse is heavily interfering in their ability to attend school, participate as a member of the family and be a healthy member of their community. The program runs for three hours, three days per week for eight weeks. Since finishing the program, the student continues to see a Day One counselor on a regular basis.

The JMG program at South Portland High School intends to participate in the "Jumpstart Our Youth" program again next year. It gave them the opportunity to research and learn about local organizations that are making a difference in their community. Students then reviewed proposals, heard presentations and voted on the organizations to receive the grants. Day One's grant will be used to support its outpatient services program.

For more information about Day One, call 874-1045 or visit [www.day-one.org](http://www.day-one.org).

