

NEWS RELEASE

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2011 Maine Breast Health Leadership Awards Presented at Blaine House

Professionals and Volunteers Honored for Dedication and Commitment

AUGUSTA, ME – In recognition of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Maine Breast Health Leadership Awards were presented at the 14th annual Silver Tea hosted by First Lady Ann LePage at the Blaine House in Augusta on Wednesday, September 28, 2011. This year's recipient in the Professional category is Donna Green, Clinical Manager of Outpatient Oncology for Maine Medical Center's Cancer Institute. The recipient of the volunteer award is PATCO Construction of Sanford. Each winner is recognized for their leadership in advocating for the breast cancer needs of Maine women.

Throughout her 25 years as a nurse at Maine Medical Center (MMC), Donna Green, a resident of Pownal, has demonstrated her commitment to patients and families with cancer. Under Donna's leadership, the Breast Cancer Center has evolved to insure patients are cared for physically and emotionally before diagnosis, during treatment, and into survivorship. She actively advocates for patient needs and is always seeking ways to assist patients with their day-to-day necessities. She is constantly seeking grants to help patients with financial assistance; and works tirelessly to find creative solutions when a patient lacks resources for basic needs or access to care is being compromised. "Donna's service to women facing breast cancer has made a difference to all women she touches," says Heather Ciccarelli, American Cancer Society Patient Navigator at Maine Medical Center. "There isn't a day that goes by that I'm not inspired by Donna's strength, drive, and passion."

PATCO Construction of Sanford is a 26-year-old, family owned construction business. Because so many families – including those of PATCO employees – have been touched by breast cancer, PATCO co-owner's Mark and Greg Patterson chose to help provide financial support to the Maine Breast Cancer Coalition's (MBCC) Support Service Fund. PATCO's efforts over the past four years to raise awareness about breast cancer and to help those in need are an extraordinary example of how businesses can be actively involved in charitable work and social change. Since 2008, with the help of designer/art director Mark Medford, they have raised more than \$20,000 for the Support Service Fund through a variety of innovative fundraisers including the *Pink Key Project* in 2008; the *R.O.S.E (Remember One Self Exam)* in 2009; *Kitchens That Care* in collaboration with Lavalley Lumber (now New England Building Materials) in 2010; and in 2011, the soon to be launched *PINK ALBUM*, a two CD collection of over two dozen of Maine's most talented female performers. According to Christine Haiss, volunteer chairperson for MBCC's Support Service Fund grants, "This year's *PINK ALBUM* project is unique and bold, and underscores the passionate dedication that PATCO has for helping people facing breast cancer."

The Maine Leadership Award for Breast Health, created in 1998, is a collaborative effort of the American Cancer Society, the Maine Breast and Cervical Health Program, the Maine Cancer Foundation, the Maine Breast Cancer Coalition, Maine Breast Nurse Network, and the Maine Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Leadership Awards are presented annually during the month of October to recognize Maine residents who have made exceptional contributions to promoting breast health, improving understanding of breast cancer, and/or working toward the elimination of the disease at the national, state, or local level. Nominations are accepted year round and nomination forms can be found at www.cancer.org/blainehousetea.