



PRESS RELEASE

Katahdin Trust Company partners with Bangor Public Library to launch Reading Buddies Program

BANGOR (8/24/2010) – Katahdin Trust Company President and CEO Jon Prescott today announced that the bank has entered into a partnership with the Bangor Public Library to help establish and provide the funding for a new initiative, the Reading Buddies program. Reflecting the bank’s commitment to working in the communities it serves, Katahdin Trust Company has offered to donate \$25 for each new account opened at its new Bangor Office, 609 Broadway (next to T.J. Maxx), up to a total of \$10,000.

The Reading Buddies program which targets students ages 4 to 14 is designed to encourage students to find pleasure in books and reading. Reading aloud to children provides many wonderful opportunities for both the adult and the student. It affords an opportunity to discuss many topics that might not otherwise come up. It models the behavior of reading and delivers the message that reading is an important activity. It expands the literature available to children and can be a source of new vocabulary and concepts. It is also a shared experience which can build trust between an adult and a child. Volunteers from the community will read weekly to a child and have that student read aloud to them. If time permits, the volunteer may assist the student with homework or even do research on interesting topics at the library, all of which encourages the young participant to enjoy reading and learning new ideas. It is estimated that up to 2,000 children in the Bangor area could benefit from the Reading Buddies program. Additionally, the library will be making bus passes available to children accompanied by an adult to come to the library who might not otherwise be able to participate because of the distance from their home and the financial resources needed for transportation.



(l-r) Anne Mundy, Head of Children’s Department Bangor Public Library; Danelle Weston, Regional VP & Manager, Broadway Office Katahdin Trust Company; Jon Prescott, President & CEO Katahdin Trust Company; Barbara McDade, Director Bangor Public Library; and Norman Minsky, President Bangor Public Library Board of Trustees.

Barbara McDade, Director of the Bangor Public Library, was quick to express appreciation to Katahdin Trust Company for their gift to the library. “Those businesses such as Katahdin Trust Company, who take their corporate citizenship seriously, help make a difference in the lives of people who may or may not be their customers,” she said. “It’s a critical part of our Reading Buddies budget to have their active participation and I am grateful to Katahdin Trust Company for all their assistance and willingness to step up to help others.”

At the luncheon announcement, Atticus the Listening Lab and Miguel the Listening Poodle, were present to help promote the program. Atticus and Miguel will participate on special occasions with Reading Buddies participants. By having the dogs available, children can read stories to the dogs, helping build bonds while enhancing the child's confidence in reading all in a relaxed environment. "Many children are hesitant to read out loud, or are shy about their reading abilities," said McDade. "We believe the Listening Lab and Poodle are a unique way to help children participating in this program."

Katahdin Trust Company had operated only a Commercial Loan Office in Bangor until early August this year, when it opened the doors to a full-service location on Broadway, which is managed by Regional Vice President Danelle Weston. Ms. Weston said, "It has long been Katahdin Trust Company's commitment to work in the community. Our mission extends beyond offering a unique brand of banking to families and business owners in the Bangor area," she said. "We will be working both corporately and individually in civic, charitable, educational and economic development endeavors throughout the community, as we seek to enhance the quality of life we share."

The Bangor Public Library will be recruiting and training volunteers to become Reading Buddies. By spending as little as one half hour per week, a volunteer can impact a child's reading skills, confidence and love of books. Anyone interested in this opportunity to give back to area youth is encouraged to contact the children's department at the Bangor Public Library, 947-8336, Ext. 111.

Prescott said that Katahdin Trust Company's personnel have truly embraced the concept of the Reading Buddies program. "What began as a gesture of working with a public entity which would benefit Bangor has really blossomed," he explained. "Our staff is looking forward to serving as volunteers and we are eager to involve as many eligible children as possible in this program. We look forward to working in close partnership with the library to ensure as many children as possible have access to this resource. It will certainly make a difference in the lives of the students who participate."

Established in 1918, Katahdin Trust Company has over \$500 million in assets and provides banking services to individuals and businesses from 15 full service offices throughout northern and central Maine, online at www.katahdintrust.com, and operates commercial loan offices in Bangor and Scarborough.

Katahdin Trust Company is owned by a one-bank holding company, Katahdin Bankshares Corp. Stock is quoted on the Over-the-Counter Bulletin Board (OTCBB) under the symbol KTHN, with current stock information available at www.otcbb.com. Katahdin Bankshares Corp. recently received recognition by U.S. Banker magazine as one of the Top 200 community banks in the country, for the 4th consecutive year.

###