



NEWS RELEASE

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MLK Day Projects Bring Warmth to Island and Coastal Communities

Island Fellows Work with Local Volunteers to Build Energy-Saving Interior Storm Windows

Rockland, Maine—Thanks to a \$500 grant from the Maine Commission for Community Service, the Island Institute completed Martin Luther King Day of Service projects on Monday, January 16 in four of Maine’s year-round island and working-waterfront communities through its Island Fellows program. All of the projects involved community members in the construction of interior storm windows for installation in local public buildings to help reduce energy consumption by increasing energy efficiency. The Island Fellows’ projects were designed to address the issue of high energy costs in these remote communities, and to provide a meaningful volunteer opportunity for local residents.

On Chebeague Island, Island Fellow Caitlin Gerber led a workshop for several island volunteers, including four teens, who built five storm windows for the Island Commons building. On Vinalhaven, Andy Dorr and his volunteer team constructed 15 windows for the Union Church. The church basement is used as a community space for many occasions and the windows will fill the remaining windows after last year’s workshop.

Across the bay in St. George, Alex Brasili, the Louis W. Cabot Island Fellow at the Herring Gut Learning Center, along with Island Fellow Alex Hodges of Islesboro, and their volunteers, constructed and installed interior storm windows in the Jackson Memorial Library in Tenants Harbor. Alex was especially pleased with the results, saying, “The library is a great place for the windows because it is a really old building with a lot of drafts. I also led a storm window building project last year, and this year we were able to complete storm windows for the rest of the windows on the first floor.”

In the Downeast region, Wes Norton, the Deer Isle-Stonington Elementary School/Historical Society Fellow, Sara Ebel, the Penobscot East Research Center Fellow, and Kaitlin Webber, the Swan’s Island Memory Project Fellow, worked with local volunteers to build six windows for installation in the historical society’s building on Sunset Road in Deer Isle.

Since 1999, more than 80 Island Fellows – bright, talented college and master’s-degree graduates – have worked and lived in coastal and year-round island communities, weaving themselves into the fabric of community life for up to two years while addressing critical local issues. The Institute is now accepting applications for both Island Fellows and host sites for the 2012-2013 placements. For more information on either becoming an Island Fellow or applying for the “extra set of hands” that a Fellow can provide for local projects in schools, libraries, town offices, community centers, historical societies and other nonprofit organizations, please visit http://islandinstitute.org/island_fellows.php or contact Christine Wolff, the Island Institute’s community service director, at cwolff@islandinstitute.org or 207-594-9209 x102.

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