

Fuel and Food Assistance Alliance Working with Variety of Agencies to Support Those in Need

The Washington County Fuel and Food Assistance Alliance meeting was called to order on November 12 by the Rev. Gini King of Center Street Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, at the Three Angels Seventh-Day Adventist Community Church in Whiting. Area churches, community social service agencies and representatives from the offices of Sen. Olympia Snowe and Sen. Susan Collins were present.

Wendy Harrington from Maine Sea Coast Mission announced that Corey Grout from

AmeriCorps will be handling the day-to-day activities of the Alliance.

Deb Eckart of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension reported that 150 people in Washington County had been served by eight volunteer teams winterizing homes with Keeping ME Warm kits.

Hugh Stevens of the University of Maine Home Finance reported that his program was available to assist families with home ownership and budgeting issues.

Sheryl Hughes from the United States Department of Ag-

riculture said her grant program was for home repairs.

Tim King of the Washington Hancock Community Agency reported that Maine fared well with increased funding for the LiHEAP program and with a new formula that allows more families to participate in the fuel assistance program.

Don Carpenter said that 20 area churches and agencies have banded together to form the Washington County Faith Fuel Cooperative. The co-op has negotiated with local fuel dealers for reduced pricing for

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heating fuel.

Michael Hinerman, director of the Washington County Emergency Management Agency, will give a PowerPoint presentation at the next meeting on the concept and implementation of "warming centers."

The next meeting of the alliance is scheduled for 10 a.m., January 28, at Centre Street

Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in Machias. All are welcome. For more information about the Washington County Fuel and Food Assistance Alliance, call Gini King at 255-6665 in Machias or Wendy Harrington and Corey Grout at 546-4466 at the Maine Sea Coast Mission in Cherryfield.

*—Submitted by
Ellen Farnsworth*

Week of December 2-8, 2008

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SPECIAL GUESTS at a recent meeting of the Washington County Fuel and Food Assistance Alliance were Deidre Anderson, staff assistant to Sen. Susan Collins; Andy Varisco, staff assistant to Sen. Olympia Snowe; and Ron Carpenter of Addison, a member of the Faith United Methodist Church.