

November 2009

# Support Us

Dear Friend:

The Maine Downtown Center, a program of the Maine Development Foundation, is truly making an impact on historic downtowns throughout the state!

Using the 30-year proven model from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, we promote downtowns as a way to **support economic growth, provide jobs, rehabilitate historic buildings** and **strengthen community pride**. We believe that vibrant downtowns can attract young people, retirees, creative economic ventures and diverse populations. Healthy downtowns also help mitigate the impact of sprawl.

This past year we:

- More than doubled the number of communities involved in our programs
- Convened over 250 downtown enthusiasts at our annual conference
- Launched the Downtown Institute - a series of affordable workshops open to all
- Were awarded a first ever Environmental Funders Network grant to launch our *Green Downtowns!* initiative
- Helped downtown leaders leverage \$25 for every \$1 invested downtown

However, Maine's downtowns still need help. Historic buildings remain underutilized, small businesses struggle or close altogether and public improvements are postponed. Where a vibrant Main Street once pulsed with energy and community pride, people now go elsewhere for their needs. We need your assistance to turn the tide – to strengthen and sustain the distinctive quality places that define Maine.

Whether your company makes a financial gift or you make a personal one, your tax-deductible contribution will provide needed resources to help the Maine Downtown Center accomplish three goals:

- **Designate** downtown communities in *every county of the state*
- **Double** the number of local downtown leaders by providing increased training in downtown revitalization
- **Deliver** creative solutions and quality technical assistance in downtown revitalization to more communities statewide

We thank you for making a difference and caring about the future of Maine's downtowns!

Sincerely,

  
 Jon Edgerton, Co-Chair  
 Maine Downtown Center Advisory Council

  
 Kristen Cady, Program Director  
 Maine Downtown Center



Historic downtown Gardiner

Designated  
**MAIN STREET MAINE**  
 Communities:

- Bath
- Biddeford
- Eastport
- Gardiner
- Rockland
- Saco
- Sanford
- Skowhegan
- Van Buren
- Waterville

Designated  
**MAINE DOWNTOWN NETWORK**  
 Communities:

- Augusta
- Bucksport
- Farmington
- Lisbon
- Millinocket
- Norway
- Presque Isle

