

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: **Debra Silva**
Vice President Center Operations and Public Education
Spectrum Generations
1-800-639-1553

Cohen Center Expands to Meet Growing Demand for Community Dining

\$100,000 needed from community to complete expansion

Hallowell, Maine--Spectrum Generations, the Central Maine Area Agency on Aging, is expanding the William S. Cohen Community Center in Hallowell to meet increasing demand for dining and other programs. The final \$100,000 is needed from the community to complete expansion.

In 2005, the Center's popular dining program served 2,900 meals. This year, over 16,000 community members will participate. "Our evening meals have been so successful that we've had to turn people away," said Muriel Scott, president and CEO of Spectrum Generations. "More and more people, especially older adults, are looking for ways to connect with their community. They want affordable food in a nice place with friends. Clearly, they've found it at the Cohen Center."

Since its opening in 1995, the Center has attracted thousands of citizens from surrounding communities for dining, life-long learning, wellness and physical activity programs, assistance with a host of medical, prescription, and money-saving benefit programs, dances, card parties and other special events.

"This expansion is essential to allowing us to accommodate everyone who wants to participate in our programs," said Scott.

Financed in part by a \$225,000 USDA Rural Development low interest loan, the Center is now hoping to raise the final \$100,000 from the community for décor and furniture and fixtures for the expanded area and to replace the floor of the Center's kitchen and purchase a 10-burner stove.

To contribute you may mail your check to Cohen Community Center Renovation Project, PO Box 272, Hallowell, Maine 04347. Contact Debra Silva at 1.800.282.0764 if you are interested in making a stock donation or would like additional information.

###

Spectrum Generations is the Central Maine Area Agency on Aging. The public is invited to call the agency's Information & Help Line at 1-800-639-1553 for more details; to join the Spectrum generations Volunteer Corps; or to request a bulletin from the community or resource center closest to you. On the Internet Spectrum generations can be found at www.spectrumgenerations.org.