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HARVARD PILGRIM HEALTH CARE HOSTS 11th ANNUAL DAY OF SERVICE AT OCEAN AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN PORTLAND

Volunteers built garden beds, painted murals and held healthy eating workshops for students

(Portland, Maine) May 17, 2019 – More than 50 volunteers from [Harvard Pilgrim Health Care](#) and other community and business partners joined together today for a day of service at Ocean Avenue Elementary School in Portland. At the 440+ student school volunteers built garden beds, painted murals, landscaped the outdoor areas, and held healthy eating workshop for 3rd grade students.

“We are so thankful to Harvard Pilgrim Health Care for such an empowering service day, working on projects to support the Ocean Avenue Elementary School,” said Beverly Stevens, Principal, Ocean Avenue Elementary School. “Building garden beds, and painting and cleaning up the grounds and play areas will create a beautiful environment for our students to grow and learn. We are grateful for the support of all the community partners today who took time out of their busy schedules to help us.”

Ocean Avenue Elementary School opened in 2011 and is Maine’s largest and most diverse public school district. For parents and guardians whose home language is other than English, the school offers multilingual supports including district community liaisons, and cultural brokers who consult with teachers and administrators.

This marks the 11th year that volunteers from Harvard Pilgrim gathered for a day of community service to benefit the Greater Portland community. This year’s community and business partners included American Heart Association, Cross Insurance and others community partners, Cumberland County Food Security Council, Let’s Go!, Maine Red Claws, MaineToday, Northern Benefits, St. Mary’s Nutrition Center, United Way and United Insurance.

“We are thrilled to volunteer at Ocean Avenue school to help create an environment that focuses on growing and eating fresh fruits and vegetables and expanding the weekly food service offerings for the fall,” said Janelle Woods-McNish, Director of Service and Giving at Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation.

Community Service Days in Maine are part of Harvard Pilgrim’s corporate commitment to the state. In 2018, Harvard Pilgrim’s charitable giving and service in the region totaled more than \$1.25 million, and staff

volunteered more than 3,824 hours within the local communities in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.

About The Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation

Created in 1980, The Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation supports Harvard Pilgrim's mission to improve the quality and value of health care for the people and communities we serve by providing the tools, training and leadership to help build healthy communities throughout New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maine, and Connecticut. Since its inception, the Foundation has distributed more than \$145 million in funds. In 2018, the Harvard Pilgrim Foundation awarded more than \$1.25 million in grants to 855 nonprofit organizations across the region. For more information, please visit www.harvardpilgrim.org/foundation.

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