



For Immediate Release  
January 10, 2017

Contact: Sara Olson, Communication and Development Manager  
cell: 207-317-3914; email: [solson@avestahousing.org](mailto:solson@avestahousing.org)

### **Avesta Housing presents 2016 Mike Yandell Award to the Portland Housing Authority**

Avesta Housing has awarded its 2016 Mike Yandell Award for extraordinary work in the field of affordable housing to the Portland Housing Authority. Avesta President & CEO Dana Totman presented the award along with Avesta Board members Tony Cipollone and Chomba Kaluba to Portland Housing Authority Executive Director Mark Adelson and Board Chairperson Shirley Peterson on January 5.

Avesta selected Portland Housing Authority (PHA) because it has been a key partner in the creation of Avesta's Housing First (housing for persistently homeless individuals) developments - Logan Place, Florence House, and Huston Commons. PHA has also provided strategic financing to enable Avesta to develop and improve affordable properties in Portland. In presenting the award, Totman talked about the long history of collaboration between the two organizations. He pointed to a recent partnership to develop Bayside Anchor, a 44-unit affordable apartment building in East Bayside for individuals and families. Additionally, Totman noted, "They have joined with us in many advocacy efforts, and we're honored to have such a vibrant, capable, and supportive partner in our affordable housing efforts in the region."

#### **About the Mike Yandell Award**

Since 2005, Avesta Housing has recognized an individual or organization for their service and dedication to the affordable housing industry. The award is named for the late Mike Yandell, a former Avesta Housing board chair and the former president of Gorham Savings Bank, who is remembered for his commitment to improving the community.

#### **Past honorees of the Mike Yandell Award**

2015 Press Herald  
2014 Jess Maurer, Maine Association of Area Agencies on Aging  
2013 John Ryan, Wright Ryan Construction  
2012 USDA Rural Development, Maine State Office  
2011 Gorham Savings Bank  
2010 The Genesis Fund  
2009 Ben Walter, CWS Architects  
2008 John Gallagher, Westbrook Housing Authority  
2007 David Bronson, TD Bank  
2006 Northern New England Housing Investment Fund  
2005 Preble Street Resource Center



Photo cutline: Avesta Board members Tony Cipollone and Chomba Kaluba join Avesta Housing President & CEO Dana Totman to present Avesta's Mike Yandell Award for extraordinary work in the field of affordable housing to Portland Housing Authority, represented by Board Chair Shirley Peterson and Executive Director Mark Adelson.

#### *About Avesta Housing*

*Avesta Housing is an affordable housing provider with over 40 years of experience as a leader in affordable housing development and property management in southern Maine and New Hampshire. The nonprofit organization is headquartered in Portland, Maine and currently has more than 80 properties and 2,000 apartments in its portfolio. Avesta's mission is to improve lives and strengthen communities by promoting and providing quality affordable homes for people in need. Its five areas of focus are advocacy, development, property management, assisted living, and home ownership. [www.AvestaHousing.org](http://www.AvestaHousing.org)*

#### *About Portland Housing Authority*

*The Portland Housing Authority (PHA) was established in 1943 under State-enabling legislation and authorized by resolution of the Portland City Council. It is covered under the federal Housing Act of 1937 as amended, and primarily funded and regulated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). PHA and its affiliated corporations provide long-term affordable rental housing and rental assistance to more than 3,000 low-income families, seniors, and disabled individuals through its Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) programs. It houses over 6,500 residents, close to 10% of the City's population. The agency believes that providing safe, quality, affordable housing gives its residents the stability they need and the opportunity for success they deserve.*