

Friends of Casco Bay / Casco BAYKEEPER®
43 Slocum Drive, South Portland, Maine 04106
tel: 207-799-8574 fax: 207-799-7224

Jane's Trust Gift Helps Friends of Casco Bay Mature

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For more information contact
Mary Cerullo, (207) 799-8574

How does one grow a business? One way is get an infusion of capital from investors. For non-profits, growth depends on donors. Friends of Casco Bay has benefited from a \$100,000 investment from Jane's Trust to build organizational capacity. Jane's Trust was created in 2003 through the beneficence of Jane B. Cook. Mrs. Cook was a down-to-earth woman whose lifelong generosity continued after her death in 2002 with a Trust that funds projects benefiting the environment, education, arts and culture, and health and welfare.

One of Jane's Trust first awards was an annual gift of \$50,000 for both 2004 and 2005 to the Maine-based environmental organization. Executive Director Cathy Ramsdell, CPA, who wrote the grant proposal, explained how this infusion of funding has benefited Friends of Casco Bay, "The support of Jane's Trust helped us make significant and lasting improvements in our operations, our strategic focus, our board strength, and our relationships with donors, while we refined our water quality monitoring program and significantly increased our visibility in the community and the state. All of this has been essential to helping us more effectively improve and protect the environmental health of Casco Bay."

Revenues for the non-profit have continued to grow after the Jane's Trust funding ended. Friends of Casco Bay is now a \$650,000 a year operation, 28 percent larger than when the grant proposals was submitted in late 2003. Board President Anna Marie Thron believes that the large donation from Jane's Trust influenced other foundations and individuals to support the organization as well. "Everyone wants to know that their largess is going to an organization that will use the money wisely. Their significant donation expressed in tangible terms the confidence that Jane's Trust had in Friends of Casco Bay."

Since 1989, Friends of Casco Bay has been working to improve and protect the environmental health of Casco Bay through advocacy, education, collaborative partnerships, and water quality monitoring.

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