

## Businesses donate to Waban, Imelda Fund

Howard also presented Meltzer and MacConnell with a gift card for Thanksgiving turkeys.

Waban also received another generous donation of \$1,000 from Sanford Institution for Savings, presented by SIS President and CEO Mark Mickeriz.

"We are very grateful for the generosity demonstrated by Priority Group and Sanford Institution for Savings," Meltzer said. "It's not common for a real estate developer to make that kind of financial contribution. It shows Priority Group's commitment not only to the people who have developmental disabilities, but to the greater Sanford-Springvale community. It makes a huge difference."

The businesses also presented a \$2,500 donation to The Imelda Fund, which helps local residents with their heating costs and is administered through the town's General Assistance office. Director Diane Sheldon accepted the checks and gift card on behalf of the town, along with Town Manager Mark Green.

"We were very concerned with how to get through this year's heating season with the soaring oil prices, but with these donations that concern has been alleviated," Sheldon said. "This money will go directly to our elderly citizens who don't have a safety net in place."

Nouria Energy and McDonald's Restaurant also joined the team effort with substantial donations as well. Josh Sandahl, of Nouria, presented a check to the Imelda Fund through Diane Sheldon for 150 gallons of heating oil.

McDonald's owners John and Anne Maragus, along with their son, Harry, the manager of the new store in South Sanford, provided a \$1,000 donation to the Sanford Food Pantry. On behalf of the pantry, Director Carol Cail and Rosie Cluff, a longtime volunteer, accepted the check.

Priority Group, of Topsham, is the developer of the new complex in Sanford.

"We feel good about giving back to the communities where we do business," Howard said. "They support us, and we are proud to support them."

Priority Group, LLC, was formed in 1994 and specializes in commercial real estate and development. The group also includes project management (Priority Management Group, LLC) and real estate investment (First Priority Capital, LLC).

Courtesy photo Priority Group, of Topsham, recently donated \$2,500 to Waban Projects, Inc. Seen here from left are Steve Weber, of Priority Group; Jim Howard, the president and CEO of Priority Group; Waban Executive Director Neal Meltzer; Waban Board Chair Jerry MacConnell; and Kerri Prescott, the director of marketing and communications for Priority Group.

