

# Caleb Foundation to host first fundraiser reception in 18 years

## Talk on low-cost housing planned

The Caleb Foundation and The Caleb Group, an innovative non-profit based in Swampscott which provides services and/or operates nearly 2,000 units of affordable housing in four New England states, will host its first-ever fundraising event at Capt's Waterfront Restaurant, Grill & Pub in Salem on Thursday, May 6, to celebrate its role in both preserving historic buildings and providing housing opportunities.

The "Preserving History, Providing Homes with Opportunities" event will feature a short presentation by Salem historian Jim McAllister about the creation of affordable housing on the North Shore during the past 125 years.

The event will take place between 6 and 8 p.m. and will include a cocktail reception and silent auction, in addition to the talk by McAllister, founder of the Lyceum Lecture Series. Silent auction items range from Red Sox tickets to oil on canvas paintings of scenes in Gloucester, Salem and the Olde Woolen Mill done by Cape Ann American impressionist artist Dennis Poirier.

Tickets are \$50 per person. For more information or to make reservations, call Jessica Herrick at The Caleb Foundation at 781-595-4665.

"This is a chance to celebrate

our history of preserving old buildings and readapting them as new low- and moderate-cost homes. We are also pleased to unveil our newest plans for the Gloucester LePage property as affordable housing," says Debra Nutter, president and CEO of The Caleb Foundation and The Caleb Group "The North Shore has a long and largely unknown heritage of creating housing for low-income and working class families. We're hoping to draw attention to the important role that affordable housing has in supporting the economy."

Last year, Caleb opened 40 units of affordable elderly and disabled housing at the Olde Woolen Mill in North Berwick, Maine, which had once been a factory manufacturing Union wool blankets during the Civil War, but, in more recent times, had been abandoned and fallen into disrepair. The renovated property is now the centerpiece of the town overlooking the common green.

The mill, which had one of the first steam engines in the country, was closed in 1955 and, with the exception of it being used as a set location during the filming of Jumanji in 1995, had mostly been vacant. Now partially solar-powered, the property has a patio in the back that overlooks the Great Works River, offers a walking path along the river to residents for fishing and recreation and is easy walking for elderly residents to town services and local shops.

Caleb's latest undertaking is in creating 34 new units of affordable rental housing for families on what was once the site of the LePage glue factory on the banks of the Annisquam River in Gloucester. The LePage glue company, started in 1876, manufactured glue from fish waste and grew to be an internationally known adhesive brand. The LePage Apartments at Pond View Village, when complete, will offer social service coordination to the residents, as well as access to a computer center and community room. Like the Olde Woolen Mill, LePage Apartments will be partially solar-powered.

The Caleb Foundation owns or manages nearly 1,200 units of affordable housing at 22 locations in Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire and Connecticut and manages about 80 percent of the units owned. The Caleb Foundation, a non-profit organization, has created and maintained homes for low-income residents since 1992. Its affiliate, The Caleb Group, was created to provide the services and resources to help women, men and children achieve self-sufficiency.

The Caleb Group coordinates social services to more than 3,500 residents throughout New England. The Caleb Foundation and The Caleb Group remain committed to building communities one spirit at a time. For more information, call 781-595-4665 or visit [www.thecalebfoundation.org](http://www.thecalebfoundation.org).

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