

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TO: Local Media Contacts**  
**FROM: Sunrise County Economic Council**  
**DATE: December 16, 2011**  
**RE: Rotary Club Donates \$1,000 to Economic Council in Memory of Longtime Member**

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Machias Rotary Club President Larry Finnegan presented the Sunrise County Economic Council (SCEC) with a \$1,000 donation to its annual fundraising drive in memory of longtime Rotarian Ed Plissey on Tuesday. Plissey, who served as the Council's Chair from 2007-2010, recently passed away due to complications from an illness.

"Ed meant a lot to us all," Finnegan said, "He exemplified everything a Rotarian should be. He was a warm, generous man who lived Rotary's motto of service above self by giving freely to the community. Ed was always the first to volunteer; he donated thousands of pounds of potatoes to area food pantries over the years; he helped raise funds for local charities, and he brought his enthusiasm for SCEC and other groups to Rotary every single week. He was the heart and soul of our club, and members felt this donation was the best way we could pay tribute to a great guy."

SCEC Board Chair Josh Bragg thanked Rotary for its generosity, adding that Plissey had an irreplaceable impact on both organizations.

"On behalf of SCEC, I am truly humbled by Rotary's donation, and would like to thank the club both for this gift and for all that they do for the Machias area," Bragg said. "Everyone at SCEC has been deeply affected by Ed's passing, because he did more than just show up to meetings every month. He dropped by the office on a regular basis and became close with staff. He was always first to welcome new board members and show them the ropes. He had an infectious laugh, and a resolve to get things done. I'm not surprised he was so well thought of at Rotary. He certainly brought more than a touch of Rotary to SCEC. I'm truly gratified that Rotary chose this way to honor SCEC's strongest supporters and most-long serving chairmen. Both organizations will miss Ed, and all that he has meant to them."

Machias Rotary meets every Tuesday evening at 5:30 at the Bluebird Ranch Family Restaurant in Machias. For more information about the club, visit them at [www.machiasrotary.org](http://www.machiasrotary.org).

Founded in 1993, SCEC initiates and facilitates the creation of jobs and prosperity in Washington County. The Council has offices on Stackpole Road in Machias and at Washington County Community College in Calais. For more information, visit [www.sunrisecounty.org](http://www.sunrisecounty.org); email [wtuell@sunrisecounty.org](mailto:wtuell@sunrisecounty.org); or "Like" them on Facebook. SCEC staff can also be reached by phone at 255-0983.