

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



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**Silent Disabilities Focus of Northeast Bank-Sponsored Disabilities Awareness Program Held at Longley Elementary**

**LEWISTON**, Maine (February 11, 2008) – Teamwork, acceptance and understanding were learning objectives as Longley Elementary School fourth-graders participated last week in the second part of a three-part Student Disabilities Awareness Program sponsored by Northeast Bank and conducted by the Portland-based Jeremiah Cromwell Disabilities Center.

In the highly interactive one and a half hour session, students participated in group activities creating environments that a person with silent disabilities might experience. For example, one exercise had students attempting to create an origami cup from jumbled instructions, what someone with dyslexia would encounter. Another, demonstrated what it was liked to be excluded using colored dots to break into groups, leaving one student without a group.

Northeast Bank Branch Manager, Karen Shaw was on hand to observe and learn more about the program. "It was truly amazing to see all the children working together as 'ONE' as tasks were given to them to complete. Their facial expressions said it all. They were engaged and really heard what the instructor had to say. Learning about differences and the importance of inclusion are important subjects. I was glad to have this opportunity to experience the program first-hand and to see how the Bank's sponsorship was benefiting these students."

The Jeremiah Cromwell Disabilities Center launched its Student Disabilities Awareness Program four years ago and now has over 70 schools across the state conducting the program. The Cromwell Center is able to provide the Program at no cost to schools as a result of private and public funding sources. The cost for one day of classroom sessions at a school runs approximately \$1,000 a day. Northeast Bank funding allowed us to provide three days of the Program classroom sessions at the Longley School.

For more information, visit [www.cromwellcenter.org](http://www.cromwellcenter.org) or call 775-9955.

**About Jeremiah Cromwell Disabilities Center:**

The Jeremiah Cromwell Disabilities Center is a federally tax-exempt non-profit organization that was founded on the premise that people with all types of disabilities – behavioral and emotional, developmental, learning or physical – deserve the same dignity, inclusion, and respect that every person deserves as a birthright. The Center fulfills this mission through programs that (1) promote and foster sensitivity, understanding, and recognition of value of children and adults with disabilities, and (2) provide publicly available educational and informational resources for parents, educators, peers, and siblings of children with disabilities. The Student Disabilities Awareness Program is one of those programs. The Center’s web site is [www.cromwellcenter.org](http://www.cromwellcenter.org). To contact the Center, please call 775-9955 or send an e-mail to [info@cromwellcenter.org](mailto:info@cromwellcenter.org).”

**About Northeast Bank**

Northeast Bank, a leader in delivering one-stop financial services, is headquartered in Lewiston, Maine and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Northeast Bancorp (NASDAQ: NBN). The Company has over \$588 million in assets as of December 31, 2007 and operates 25 retail outlets, including 11 branches, 11 insurance offices and 1 financial center serving the financial needs of western, central and mid-coastal Maine. Information regarding Northeast Bank can be found on its website at [www.northeastbank.com](http://www.northeastbank.com) or by contacting 1-800-284-5989.