

For Immediate Release

June 29, 2010

Contact: Paige Roth, 207-553-7777 x 210, proth@avestahousing.org**Dana Totman Selected for NeighborWorks® Achieving Excellence in Community Development Program in Collaboration with Harvard's Kennedy School of Government**

Portland, Maine — Dana Totman, President of Avesta Housing in Portland, has been selected to participate in the **NeighborWorks® Achieving Excellence in Community Development program in collaboration with Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government**. Totman is one of forty-nine leaders selected for this Achieving Excellence class – a prestigious and highly selective training program offered by NeighborWorks® America in collaboration with the Kennedy School of Government.

“This is a tremendous opportunity to work with some of the best practitioners in the country,” said Totman, “I am eager to develop new approaches for Avesta Housing to tackle the affordable housing challenges in Maine.”

Achieving Excellence is an 18-month educational program for senior leaders in community organizations that have a focus on affordable housing, community revitalization or community economic development. At the beginning of the program, participants select a specific and significant challenge facing their organizations for which solutions will not only dramatically change how their organizations do business, but also enable them to make lasting change in their communities.

For more information about the NeighborWorks® Achieving Excellence program, please contact Erin Angell Collins, 202-220-6317, ecollins@nw.org. For more information about Dana Totman and Avesta Housing, please visit www.avestahousing.org.

Avesta Housing's mission is to promote and provide housing opportunities to Southern Maine people in need. Avesta advocates for affordable housing, develops and manages high quality housing, and helps residents access other needed services.