

**For Immediate Release**

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Contact: Paige Roth, 207-553-7777 x 210, [proth@avestahousing.org](mailto:proth@avestahousing.org)**Florence House Named Finalist in *Affordable Housing Finance* Readers' Choice Awards**

**Portland, Maine** – *Affordable Housing Finance* magazine named Avesta Housing's Florence House a finalist for their 2010 Readers' Choice Award. Avesta Housing is the first affordable housing developer from Maine to be named a finalist for this award in its six year history.

*Affordable Housing Finance* readers will select the overall winners by voting at [www.housingfinance.com](http://www.housingfinance.com) from July 16 to August 13. The finalists will be published in the July/August 2010 issue.

Florence House provides three types of supportive housing without barriers to chronically homeless individuals in Portland – including independent apartments, safe haven spaces and emergency beds. "Florence House recognizes that one size doesn't fit all when it comes to confronting homelessness in our communities," said HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan at the June 4, 2010 Grand Opening ceremony in Portland.

The \$7.7 million development employs cutting-edge technologies and sustainable design features including a geothermal heating and cooling system, solar water pre-heat, and heat recovery systems.

Avesta Housing provides 1,600 affordable apartments and 1,200 housing vouchers to Maine families. Maintaining headquarters in Portland, Avesta is led by a volunteer Board of Directors drawing from backgrounds in banking, business, public, community, social service and housing organizations. Avesta Housing is a chartered NeighborWorks® affiliate.

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

**For more information, please contact Avesta Housing at 207-553-7777 or [www.avestahousing.org](http://www.avestahousing.org)**