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New Castle Couple Receive “Outstanding Philanthropist Award” from the Association of Fundraising Professionals of Northern New England

New Castle, NH – Cyrus and Barbara Sweet of New Castle, New Hampshire have been friends to organizations at the local, national and international level. And as far as many people in the Seacoast are concerned, it’s about time they were recognized. That’s why the news of the Sweet’s receipt of an “Outstanding Philanthropist Award” feels so fitting.

The award, from the Association of Fundraising Professionals of Northern New England (AFP-NNE), covering New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine, recognizes individuals who participate in and gift support of nonprofit organizations in the community, support innovative approaches to problem solving, and encourage and motivate others to take leadership roles in philanthropy.

Six local and national organizations came together this year to nominate the Sweet’s as a way to say thanks for their ongoing generosity. United Way of the Greater Seacoast, The Music Hall, Americans for Campaign Reform, Seacoast Science Center, Strawberry Banke Museum, and Ocean Conservancy, led by Sue Suter of United Way, highlighted just a few of the many ways the Sweet’s have proven themselves to be leaders in philanthropy.

Larry Yerdon of Strawberry Banke Museum said, “What distinguishes them is not only the generosity of their giving, but the manner in which they give.”

Several of the organizations emphasize the Sweet’s use of challenge matches to encourage others to give, promising that new or increased gifts will be matched dollar for dollar by the Sweet’s challenge gift.

Patricia Lynch of the Music Hall emphasized the way the Sweet’s do more than simply write a check. “Equally as valuable as the generosity they’ve historically shown is their creative manner and thoughtful participation in their gift-making – asking tough questions and challenging us to think more broadly.”

Sue Suter of United Way of the Greater Seacoast summarized the nominators’ feelings about Cyrus and Barbara Sweet as something that goes beyond the facts of their giving, “What every one of us feels is love and appreciation for Barbara and Cyrus. The emotions this process brought up for us as we recalled the many gifts we’ve received from the Sweets is one of sincere thanks.”

The award ceremony will be held at The Balsams in Dixville Notch, NH during the AFP-NNE celebration of National Philanthropy Day, November 6, 2008.