
\$165,000 is added to burying ground coffers

PORTSMOUTH — The African Burying Ground Memorial Park received a \$165,000 boost in its fund-raising campaign thanks to several large donations from individuals and foundations.

Their contributions to the creation of the memorial park campaign, We Stand in Honor of Those Forgotten, on Chestnut Street, comprise more than 30 percent of total funds raised so far. They also represent a commitment of large and small donors to the realization of the park, said African Burying Ground Committee Chairwoman Vernis Jackson.

Donors are Dana and Shaula Levenson; Nike and David Speltz; Chris Dwyer and Mike Huxtable; Frank and Tracey Clarkson; John and Skye Maher; George and Susan Carlisle; Jay McSharry; Janet Prince and Peter Bergh; and three funds of the N.H. Charitable Foundation, including the Josephine A. Lamprey, Joan Dwyer and Jane Dwyer, and Thomas W. Haas funds.

The total amount raised so far includes \$534,000 in cash and pledges, equaling

44 percent of the \$1.2 million estimate for the project.

“The community support for the creation of the African Burying Ground Memorial Park is amazing,” Jackson said.

“So far, we have received individual donations ranging from \$5 to \$40,000. The wonderful thing about these donations is that they will, we hope, cause others to see this project as a signature project for our city — an effort that is so historic and so distinctively Portsmouth that everyone who is able will want to support it.”

The African Burying Ground site in Portsmouth is an archaeologically authenticated African burying ground, a unique site in New England.

“This city is rightfully proud that we have helped make American history at so many stages in the past nearly 400 years,” Jackson said. “Standing up for those forgotten here in the African Burying Ground is the sort of thing we do here. It’s part of who we are.”

For details, visit www.africanburyinggroundnh.org.