I met Richard through one of the HEP potluck dinners. He impressed me as humble and caring. He didn't reveal that he was from the Rockefeller family to me until at the end of our conversation when he gave me his card. He wanted to get to know me as a peer and a fellow human being, outside of socioeconomic class...He was what I call a "quiet hero", someone that needs no accolades for his work. The indigent community of Maine need more heroes like him, willing to be compassionate to our needs, establishing poverty recovery and relief programs, that protect dignity. His death is a significant loss not only to the poor, but to all the state of Maine.

- Carol Aft/Camille Desoto - Portal Properties
  Author, Project 1201 Union Street

No matter how long I knew and loved Richard, he always surprised me with something or someone new he had discovered. The richness of our long friendship was cultivated by his curiosity, his sense of wonder, and his courageous ability to uncover the essence of life and love. To borrow a line from one of Rilke's Letters from a Young Poet, Richard taught me to “believe in a love that is being stored up for you like an inheritance, and have faith that in this love there is a strength and a blessing so large that you can travel as far as you wish without having to step outside it.” I miss him deeply, am so grateful for his friendship and send much love to his family.

- Ann Marie Almeida

One thing that I find especially meaningful is not just that Richard founded Hour Exchange Portland, but that he did so as someone who probably didn't need to think too much about the exchange of money for day to day affairs. He had an ability to think about the equality of everyone's time, regardless of how larger society has decided to compensate for that person's skills, and then create an institution that allowed for this idea to become a reality. As someone who comes from hard-working parents who always struggled to make ends meet, I believe strongly in this ideal, and as a community, we are blessed that someone with the means to do so made HEP happen.

On a side note, I really enjoyed the time that Richard shared his photography at the HEP office on a first Friday art walk - I felt like Richard never erected barriers to keep people at a distance, but rather invited them into his world, and the photography show was just one example of this.

I am tremendously sad for Richard's sudden death, and my heart and love goes out to his family - and to all of us who were touched by him.

- Anonymous

Through HEP I was able to exchange sewing services and garden watering for folks on vacation for yard cleanup and digging of new flower beds which I couldn't do due to back problems. Met some great people in the process! What a lovely legacy Dr Rockefeller has given the people of Greater Portland.

- Gail Blanchette
I've had the privilege of knowing Richard since the 1990s when he first became involved in the time bank movement. From the very first time I met him, I was struck by this smart, thoughtful and generous man who was determined to make a positive impact on his local community and the world. I was so impressed with how much of his time and energy he devoted to the causes that were near and dear to him.

He opened his home and his heart to myself and so many others. One of my favorite memories was the night spent sitting with him and other guests from around the world on Bartlett Island while he played guitar and led us in a Beatlemania chorus. It was a joyful time for all of us and a welcome break from all the planning and brainstorming meetings.

Richard was a good friend and an inspiration to so many. The world was a better place with him around. I am going to miss our chats and lunches. He will always be in my heart.

-Mashi Blech, TimeBank Director

Dr. Rockefeller was truly a hero living among us. His life exemplified compassion for our fellow brothers and sisters worldwide and concern for our Earthly home. His legacy of love and generosity will continue to benefit us for untold generations.

-Sally Breen

Time banking to me means "No More Throw Away People". When I became disabled, I found that people treated me differently, and devalued me. In fact, I felt unproductive myself and wondered what good I could do, what value I had in society. Then I found Time Banking. I learned that I had plenty of value; people wanted and needed services and skills that I possessed. I could fill a true need. It was not a case of someone finding something for me to do to keep me busy, or allowing me help just because they felt sorry for me. I was no longer sitting around feeling sorry for myself I felt like I was contributing to society, not just a taker. The isolation of disability was broken.

I have met many wonderful people. I have learned new skills, and tried things I may not have been able to afford, but the best thing has been re-gaining a sense of purpose and value.

-Joan Bullock

I was fortunate to volunteer in the office two days a week in 2006-2007 (when we were still the Portland Time Bank). I so enjoyed the wonderful staff and the wonderful space that Richard's generosity made possible.

-Jennifer Caven

I began reading about local currencies in 1996 and initiated my first study of them in 2002. I had heard about the Maine Time Dollar Network after we moved to Portland from California. One day in early 2004 I was driving down Cumberland Avenue, saw their office, and stopped. I met Robin Lakin and Auta Main and joined on the spot. I noted that I would love to analyze their transaction records to see the amount and types of exchanges occurring. They were very receptive and as time went on I began to conduct some analyses. In 2006 I approached the staff about conducting a membership survey. I heard back that Richard and the Board were very interested. We formed a small committee and successfully fielded a high-quality instrument with more detailed results than have ever been achieved. I first met Richard when I was invited to a
Board meeting in 2007 to present on the survey. Soon thereafter I accepted the Board’s invitation to become a Director.

I got to know Richard well working with him over the years. I was amazed at his level of involvement with HEP. He invested a tremendous amount of his time and energy to this organization and led with a hands-on approach. He was a visionary and I cherish all of our conversations about bettering the world. I found his focus on real-world solutions to be inspirational.

When Richard stepped down from the Board at the end of 2011, I thanked him for changing my life. His work and vision has had such a major impact. For a period of six years nearly all of my scholarship was focused on time banking. Without Richard there would be no HEP. Without his support and interest, I wouldn’t have written a book on the topic. I was so grateful that he agreed to introduce me at a presentation I was invited to deliver at USM in April, 2011. Then again, in 2012, Richard generously wrote a letter of support on my behalf as I was applying for promotion to Professor. Of course, Richard impacted thousands here locally through HEP and inspired what is now a global movement. I am very fortunate to have known him, miss him dearly, and send my most sincere condolences. I know how much he loved his family as he spoke of you often.

- Ed Collom, USM Professor of Sociology
  HEP Board of Directors Member since 2007

Richard's work within the time banking movement was incredibly inspiring. His passion for this concept impacted so many people in a positive way. I hope we can all carry on the goodness he sparked!

- Lenore Eklund

I first joined HEP around 2004. I joined in order to help transport immigrants to events and programs sponsored by HEP member Catholic Charities Maine. I joined because everywhere I went, people were talking about Time Banking. I joined because I had skills to offer and I had chores to be done. But when I met Richard Rockefeller and I listened to this gentle man who had so much money and yet was willing to invest it along with his time and energy so that others could benefit from such a simple and easy trading mechanism, I was "sold." I then went to work for HEP and was privileged to work directly with Richard on the annual campaign. What impressed me the most about him was his loyalty to both the HEP Concept and the people who lived it. Richard will be missed by thousands of people whose hearts he touched in so many real and tangible ways.

- Christina Feller, vice chair, Living With Peace

Gratitude for his commitment to alternative economies.

- Carolyn Gage

I honor and celebrate all the memories and dimensions of my long relationship with Richard. We met when I was a child care director and Richard was a practicing physician. He described himself as an environmentalist who believed if people were living more healthy lives within a compassionate, affordable and accessible health care system they might find the connection to better care of the planet. And then along came the thing called Time Dollars, a passageway for people to access that vision. His generosity is legendary. It was personal. It flowed in many
directions. Here's one of my favorites-- When we built The Family Workshop on Munjoy Hill, there was a call for volunteers to paint the interior. Richard had negotiated space in the building to house the Maine Time Dollar Network and he'd made a financial contribution to the capital campaign. We were very grateful for that gift. But on the day of the painting party, there he was, wearing an old teeshirt, a cap and holding a paint roller. He worked all afternoon, in community with many others, and left smiling. He said he loved being there, building social capital with others and it made the intention of the Time Dollar Movement more real for him. The room he helped paint is called Safe Harbor, a lovely, enduring symbol of his good work in the world. I will always be grateful to have known, worked and played with Richard. Love,

- Linda Hogan, Social Architect
  Former Executive Director for Hour Exchange Portland

Richard not only embraced the community but also each individual. He took the time to get to know everyone he encountered and made an impact on all of our lives. He went out on a limb with me and asked me to join the HEP Board before knowing me very well. He had faith in my abilities and strengths and encouraged me even after he stepped down from the board. I always looked forward to catching up with him to talk about HEP's progress but also to get his advice on my career path and hear about his new, exciting endeavors.

He will be missed within the entire world. Few people can say that when they pass, their work will ripple through communities and people, but Richard's work will. Personally, I will continue to think about his choices and positive impact before making large choices in my life.

- Lori Hutchins, HEP Board Member

The hour exchange has helped introduce me to so many amazing people. I'm deeply grateful for the friends I've made and for the deeper sense of community that the hour exchange offers us all....

- Jess

So sad to hear, my heart goes out to Richard’s family, friends and all the lives he touched. He truly was a kind, compassionate and special man.

I will forever be thankful to have met Richard and grateful for the opportunity to work for the time bank. I had the wonderful opportunity to see lives transformed, friendships made locally and across the globe, quality of life enhanced, entrepreneur's succeed, healthcare become an option, basic needs met, dreams realized, access to the arts, bridging the gap with youth and computers, cultures collaborate and mostly, neighborhoods invigorated and communities strengthened. All of this happened because of Richard’s vision and commitment. The world is a better place because of him.

Rest in peace.

- Robin Lakin, member/member Coordinator Maine Time Dollar Network

My Wishes and Prayer are with family of Richard Rockefeller

- Muhidin D Libah Somali Bantu Community Association Lewiston of Maine

I never met Dr. Rockefeller, but I am sad that he is gone from the world. Since his passing, I have read more about what good things he did to make the world a better place, but as a member of Hour Exchange Portland, I am a direct beneficiary of his legacy. I have been a member of
HEP for many years. I currently use time credits to pay for massage and healthcare. In exchange, I earn time credits largely by offering counseling to uninsured or underinsured people. HEP allows me a way to help people who need help but have no economic resources. In turn, it allows me to get the healthcare I need. Additionally, over the years, HEP members have cleaned my house, washed and vacuumed the interior of my car, spread compost, mended a favorite jacket, hemmed some pants, knitted slippers, and on and on. Just the other day, I pruned somebody's lilac and met some nice people while I was at it. In a time when community is so hard to find, HEP is one way that I have access to community. Richard Rockefeller may have passed on, but his legacy lives on, and for that, I am grateful.

- Jennifer Lunden, LCSW, LADC, CCS
  Executive Director, The Center for Creative Healing

While I never had the privilege of meeting Richard Rockefeller in person I have seen him on several videos and of course heard many stories of his love and support of TimeBanking. As a member of Maine TimeBanking I am of course saddened at such an unexpected and tragic loss of a man who has been such an instrumental fixture in TimeBanking here in Maine and around the world. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and all those who knew him and loved him.

- Sheila Malone, member of HEP
  Membership Director T.I.ME. Initiative of Maine

I enjoyed working with Richard Rockefeller in 2011 as a member of the HEP Board of Directors, his work impacted many lives of new Mainers with Time Banking. Thank you for your efforts. RIP. Condolences to Richard Rockefeller's family.

- Mia Ntahobari, Community Organizer

I am a teacher with Portland Adult Education. We have worked with HEP since the beginning when Auta Main and Richard started the local chapter. Over the years we have shared hours of support from HEP and HEP members have taken classes through PAE. Thanks to Richard Rockefeller for having the ambition and foresight to start this successful community based program.

- Marie Pollard

I was always struck by a gentleman who had such influence, both locally as well as internationally, being so compassionate and caring. My experience included, Richard always had time. Richard was always interested and took time for the individual, their well being. Even today, after my return to Michigan over seven years ago, I speak highly and fondly of Richard. His death is a tragic loss for humanity.

- Stuart P. Ray former Executive Director

What a wonderful contribution Richard has made to Portland, Maine and to the world at large with the movement of Time Banking. Through HEP, I have made many wonderful connections in the community and provided and received great services that may not have happened otherwise due to financial restrictions.

I feel that Richard was a visionary and pioneer in founding HEP, and am very thankful he brought it to being. What our society needs most is greater community and the opportunity for
individuals to share their talents and strengths with one another, and that's exactly what HEP does.

I'm sorry for your loss, but I hope that you take comfort in knowing that Richard has left a wonderful legacy behind. Peace and Blessings, Robyn

- Robyn

Reading about it in our local papers, here in Portland, Maine, was unbelievable shock, to me. He was SUCH a GREAT MAN! My sincere sympathy, to ALL of his family! He certainly did a LOT of GOOD things, for a LOT of people! My thoughts are with you, ALL!

- Joan Sheedy - on the Board, for some of those years
  HEP Member - Portland, ME.

The hour exchange not only helps people accomplish things in our daily lives without having to exchange money, but creates more of a community than I had ever imagined it could before I became a member. I'm not often around people of varying ages and backgrounds, and the hour exchange allows me to get to know people in my community who have families, who are senior citizens, who are refugees and immigrants, and really adds to the color of my life. Thank you!

- Alison Violette, HEP member since 2009

A Blessing. May Richard's family and friends find comfort in the sharing of memories and in extending Richard's far-reaching acts of kindness by doing the same in honoring his legacy. Richard's life work and accomplishments were extraordinary, even in the shortened time he had on this path. His love of life, nature and humanity was captured in his photography and every action. May his visions become reality through our efforts and through his eternal spirit.

- Deena R. Weinstein, storyteller, HEP member,
  mother of Rachael Alfond
  (who knew Richard far better than I and who served on the board of HEP)

I have been a member of HEP since 2004. Membership has benefited me in more ways than I can express and the opportunity to give back has been very rewarding. I currently work as an employee at True North, were some of those professionals are members as well. I cannot express the sorrow that we are all feeling over the loss of this incredible individual. You are all in my thoughts...

- Gail D. Wyman