



NEW HAMPSHIRE  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

# A BOLD VISION FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE'S NORTH COUNTRY

Celebrating the legacy of  
Neil and Louise Tillotson



Neil and Louise Tillotson made the North Country their home. And their legacy is helping make it a better home for others.

In 2016, we celebrate 10 years of grantmaking from the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund, and we celebrate the legacy of these generous people.

Neil Tillotson was the ultimate self-made man: an entrepreneur who, from the humblest beginnings, built numerous companies that employed thousands of people in the region and far beyond. His wife, Louise, was a force all her own — she had worked for the BBC, had once built her own house and her own business.

They traveled the world, but always — always — came back to the North Country. During their lifetimes, they gave quietly and consistently and generously to hundreds of community efforts.

When Neil Tillotson died in 2001, he left the bulk of his assets for charitable purposes. In 2006, Louise Tillotson created the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund at the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.

The fund supports a wide range of community and economic development efforts to help revitalize the North Country and support bordering communities in Vermont and Québec.

The Tillotsons' gift was among the largest charitable gifts in the history of the state. The fund is one of the largest permanent rural philanthropies in the country, and is positioned to support the region in perpetuity.

Look around, and the Tillotsons' legacy is visible everywhere — a new pharmacy here, a ball field there, thriving arts venues, high-quality early childhood education, jobs at small businesses, magnificent natural resources preserved, scholarships for great North Country students. And so much more.

We invite you to celebrate with us — with a series of free events honoring the Tillotsons, the great work that their generosity makes possible, and this beautiful and rugged place that they loved best of all.

Robert Wells  
*Chair, Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund  
Advisory Committee*

Richard Ober  
*President and CEO, New Hampshire  
Charitable Foundation*

LEARN MORE AT [NHCF.ORG/TILLOTSON](http://NHCF.ORG/TILLOTSON)

Cover photo courtesy of Steve Barba

## CELEBRATE 10 YEARS WITH US

Throughout October, the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund will sponsor **free community events** across the North Country and in Vermont and Québec. We hope you'll join us. **See back page for details.**



# A DAY IN THE LIFE

Since 2006, the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund has granted out \$34 million to hundreds of community projects throughout New Hampshire's North Country and in surrounding communities in Vermont and Québec. Here are just a few examples of what Neil and Louise's legacy helps to make possible for so many.



## 10 am: Coaticook, Québec

Nancy Couture and her fifth- and sixth-grade students from the École Sacré-Coeur set out on foot to meet their ancestors. They are making stops on the Pioneer Trail, a series of 20 steel installations with voice recordings in French and English which represent historical figures who made an impact in the Vallée de la Coaticook. The trail gives students and residents a chance to learn about and connect with the history and culture of the region — and draws tourists from the Province of Québec and from New England. The Pioneer Trail was designed, launched and built with Tillotson support.



## 2:30 pm: Montréal, Québec

Fernand Morin navigates the Accès Québec refrigerated delivery truck through the streets of Montréal, stopping at stores to deliver fresh meat, fish, vegetables, fruit, apple crisp, donuts, jams and jellies from farms and food producers in the M.R.C. of Coaticook. Accès Québec helps producers get their products to market and is building a vibrant local agricultural economy with help from the Tillotson Fund.



## 2:50 pm: Lunenburg, VT

The dismissal bell rings at Lunenburg Elementary, announcing the beginning of the weekend — which is a time when some kids don't get enough to eat. Those kids are going home with grocery bags of food in their backpacks — canned veggies and fruits, popcorn, milk, cereal, tuna fish — to help keep them nourished until Monday. The Vermont Food Bank's Backpack Program, which is supported by the Tillotson Fund, covers more than 1,200 kids in 28 schools.



## 6 pm: Lancaster, NH

Cynthia Keith harvests tomatoes from her plot in the Lancaster Community Garden and bikes home to make supper. Her crop has included carrots and beets, squash and radishes, beans and lettuce. Thirteen families and two nonprofits — including the local hospital — are growing fresh produce in this community garden, which also supplies the local food pantry. The garden was constructed with Tillotson support.

## 6:30 pm: Stewartstown, NH

From car radios tuned to 90.3 come the strains of the theme to "All Things Considered" on National Public Radio. Tillotson funds helped New Hampshire Public Radio construct transmitters in Colebrook and Stewartstown to bring public radio programming to more than 6,000 North Country listeners.





### 5:55 am: Colebrook, NH

Swimmers start to arrive before the North Country Community Recreation Center opens for the day — eager to swim laps before heading off to work. All day, people will come and go from this center — seniors doing water aerobics, young families using the pool and playground, kids streaming in for after-school activities. Support from the Tillotson Fund helps keep the center running and programs affordable.



### 9:15 am: Gorham, NH

Jen Corrigan’s STEM Tech students at Gorham Middle High School dive deep into programming and code — skills that will help them succeed in college and in work. Corrigan directs the district’s K-12 STEM Program, and is spreading STEM education throughout the region. The program grew out of Corrigan’s experience with the National Institute for School Leadership, which is made available locally by the Tillotson-funded North Country Education Services.

### 12:30 pm: Berlin, NH

Teacher Colleen Miller settles her 3- and 4-year-olds in for their afternoon rest at the White Mountains Community College Early Childhood Development Center. The kids have had a full morning of learning and playing, have eaten lunch, brushed teeth, and are cozied onto cots as Miss Colleen reads “The Napping House” aloud. Since 2009, the Tillotson Fund has made a \$6.3 million investment in comprehensive early childhood education initiatives to improve outcomes for every child in Coös County.



### 1:30 pm: Lancaster, NH

Matt Michaud and Katie Mros are building carbon fiber skis in their new workspace at Sandwich Tech. The Northern Community Investment Corporation, which operates with support from the Tillotson Fund, helped the rapidly growing company find and finance this new building and improve it for energy efficiencies.

Courtesy photo

### 3:30 pm: Whitefield, NH

Two dozen high school students from 10 North Country schools are on their way to a Youth Leadership Through Adventure wilderness retreat. The kids will spend the weekend planning the annual YLTA conference, where students will create action plans for their schools and communities — including service learning, substance use prevention, improving school climate and mentorship projects. The program, which is a project of the North Country Health Consortium, is supported by the Tillotson Fund.



Cheryl Senter



### 4:30 pm: Colebrook, NH

Pharmacist Jessica Remillard is filling prescriptions at the Indian Stream Health Center Pharmacy. This pharmacy, built with Tillotson support, participates in a federal program that allows it to purchase medications at reduced cost — and it provides a sliding fee scale. On a recent day, a patient came in needing multiple medications. He had just \$50, and assumed he would have to choose between medications. Remillard filled all of his prescriptions. His total cost was \$20.



### 7:15 pm: Bethlehem, NH

The smell of fresh popcorn drifts through the lobby and volunteers serve drinks and tear tickets as the movie-going crowd assembles at the Colonial Theatre. With Tillotson support, this theatre, built in 1915, has been restored and expanded to become a premiere North Country arts venue — featuring concerts, films and more.

Courtesy photo



### 2 am: Berlin, NH

A maternity nurse who is working the overnight shift checks on a newborn and her mother at the Valley Birthplace at Androscoggin Valley Hospital. Four North Country Hospitals have recently affiliated — after a multi-year process funded by the Tillotson Fund — to ensure that they can all continue to provide local, high-quality care to North Country residents.



Courtesy photo





Courtesy photo

**Wednesday, October 12, 5-7 pm**

**Author visit and free book giveaway**

**Lunenburg Elementary School, Lunenburg, VT**

Join the Children's Literacy Foundation and New Hampshire authors Jon and Pam Voelkel. Each child in the audience will get a free book and refreshments will be served.

Learn more at [clifonline.org](http://clifonline.org)

# FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Celebrate with us! To mark its 10th anniversary, the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation is sponsoring a series of free community events throughout October — from pancake breakfasts to concerts — across New Hampshire's North Country and in Vermont and Québec. These events are presented in partnership with businesses and organizations that have benefited from Tillotson Fund support. We hope you'll join us!

**Sunday, October 2, 8-11 am**

**Free pancake breakfast with the Whitefield Lions Club**

**Mount Washington Regional Airport Whitefield, NH**

Join the Whitefield Lions Club for an all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet of pancakes, sausage, OJ and coffee. A great opportunity to connect with friends old and new.

Learn more at [whitefieldnh.org](http://whitefieldnh.org)

**Tuesday, October 4, 7-9:30 pm**

**Free performance by the Outside Track Kaufmann Theatre at the Tillotson Center Colebrook, NH**

One of the world's top Celtic bands will perform songs, tunes and dance from Scotland, Ireland and Cape Breton. Brought to you by The Great North Woods Committee for the Arts.

Learn more at [gnwca.org](http://gnwca.org)

**Thursday, October 6, 7-9 pm**

**Free entry to Foresta Lumina Parc de la Gorge de Coaticook, Québec**

Foresta Lumina is a night-illuminated, multimedia trail that wanders through the Parc de la Gorge. Free entry for residents of the M.R.C of Coaticook, Québec; Coös County, NH; and Essex County, VT. Please bring your ID.

Learn more at [forestalumina.com](http://forestalumina.com)

**Saturday, October 8, 1-10 pm**

**Free entry to Les Amis du patrimoine St-Venant-de-Paquette, Québec**

Bring the family and enjoy a full day of activities including a poetry walking tour and concert at this culture and heritage center.

Learn more at [amisdupatrimoine.qc.ca](http://amisdupatrimoine.qc.ca)

**Thursday, October 20, 5-7 pm**

**Free gallery exhibition of local artists' work WREN Makers Studio, Berlin, NH**

Join us for opening night and enjoy fine hand-made crafts by local artists. We will raise a toast at 5:30 pm to open the exhibit, with refreshments provided by Libby's Bistro.

Learn more at [wrenworks.org](http://wrenworks.org)

**Saturday, October 22, 10 am-1 pm**

**Free walking tour with lunch Canaan Community Forest, Canaan, VT**

Join a local forester, a high school teacher and students from Canaan schools for an informational walking tour of Canaan's community forest and school-run sugarbush. Lunch will be provided by April's Maple.

Learn more at [canaan-vt.org](http://canaan-vt.org)

**Sunday, October 23, 2-4 pm**

**Free public skate Notre Dame Arena, Berlin, NH**

Bring the family and your skates and head to the Notre Dame Arena for a free public skate. Complimentary rentals are available.

Learn more at [notredamearena.org](http://notredamearena.org)

**Tuesday, October 25, 7-9 am**

**Free cup of coffee White Mountain Café & Bookstore, Gorham, NH**

Learn more at [whitemountaincafe.com](http://whitemountaincafe.com)

**Thursday, October 27, 7-11 am**

**Free cup of coffee Polish Princess Bakery, Lancaster, NH**

Learn more at [polishprincessbakery.com](http://polishprincessbakery.com)



**NEW HAMPSHIRE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

**UP TO THE PROMISE**

37 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH

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[www.nhcf.org](http://www.nhcf.org)

The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation was created in 1962 by and for the people of New Hampshire, and is dedicated to strengthening communities across the Granite State. The Foundation manages a growing collection of 1,700 philanthropic funds created by generous families, individuals and businesses, and awards more than \$30 million in grants and scholarships every year. For more information, please visit [www.nhcf.org](http://www.nhcf.org) or call 800-464-6641.

**THE NEIL AND LOUISE TILLOTSON FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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**LEARN MORE AT [NHCF.ORG/TILLOTSON](http://NHCF.ORG/TILLOTSON)**

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