



NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

THE NEIL AND LOUISE TILLOTSON FUND

2018 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

A teacher's fierce and joyful dedication to her students. An ingenious nonprofit team working to coordinate partnerships and strategies to increase economic vitality. A community health center figuring out how to turn a local dentist's retirement from a regional loss into an overall gain — taking over the practice and expanding services for people who needed them most.

These are people, and efforts, and collaborations that are a reflection of a region — one where ingenuity and perseverance are applied every day to build stronger communities. The Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund supports these efforts — and many more — that improve the quality of life in the North Country and surrounding communities.

When Neil Tillotson died, he left most of his estate for charitable purposes. It was his wife Louise, working with the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, who turned his simple wish into the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund.

Since 2006, the fund has invested nearly \$45 million in northern New Hampshire and bordering communities in the United States and Canada. The fund has a dedicated

staff team who live and work in the North Country, and is advised by a committee of volunteers, many of whom knew the Tillotsons. All of us — advisers and staff — are deeply dedicated to stewarding these resources to do the most possible good for Coös County and surrounding communities.

The Tillotsons gave generously during their lifetimes. The Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund will carry on that generosity forever.

We are honored to steward that legacy, and awed by the dedication and ingenuity of North Country nonprofits and people. The fund made 72 grants in 2018 — to protect natural resources, boost economic development, improve outcomes for kids, expand arts offerings, build workforce housing and so much more. This report details just a few of them. I believe Neil and Louise Tillotson would be proud and inspired to see the good work that their generosity makes possible in this place they loved so well.

Ben Gayman
Chair, Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund Advisory Committee

Photo: More than 170 people from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York gathered in November 2018 at the OMNI Mount Washington Resort for the second Northern Forest Regional Symposium, supported in part by the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund.

The Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation was established in 2006 with a bold vision:
To serve as a catalyst for the region to move toward sustainable community and economic development in Coös County and surrounding communities in the United States and Canada.

To learn more about the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund or to apply for a grant or scholarship, visit www.nhcf.org/tillotson.

HIGHLIGHTS

A small sampling of accomplishments made possible by the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund in 2018.



2018 BY THE NUMBERS

72 GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TOTALING \$3.3 MILLION

8 SCHOLARSHIPS TO NH AND VT STUDENTS TOTALING \$40,000

Courtesy Photo



Courtesy Photo

IN THE BUSINESS OF CREATING DREAMS

Stewart Gates, the New Hampshire Small Business Development Center's North Country business advisor, helps small businesses thrive. A grant from the Tillotson Fund supports his position **providing free technical assistance on everything from business planning and financial management to marketing and human resources**. Gates works with all kinds of small businesses — bakeries and breweries, school bus companies and motor sport dealers, yoga studios, plumbing contractors and more — to help them start, expand or transition. "Our business is not only helping dreams come true, but also kind of creating the dream in the first place," Gates said.



Courtesy Photo

MAKING ISLAND POND A DESTINATION

Island Pond, in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, has a picturesque lakefront downtown with new restaurants and an inn and easy access to trails for hiking, snowmobiling and ATV use. The town and its merchants just need more visitors to show up, year-round, to expand local economic development. **A grant to the Brighton Community Forum is supporting a series of events** — including summer concerts, a winter carnival, a snowmobile banquet weekend, a weekend for the LGBTQ community and more — to help make the area more vibrant for residents and draw visitors year-round.



Courtesy Photo

FROM NORTH COUNTRY FARMS TO NORTH COUNTRY SCHOOL LUNCHES

A grant to the school district that includes Colebrook, Pittsburg and Stewartstown is **helping to support a farm-to-school initiative**, including design of a regional farm map, expanded use of locally produced food in school cafeterias and expanded opportunities for students to grow, prepare and eat local foods.

TENDING TO A COMMUNITY'S HEALTH

The North Country Health Consortium provides a range of programs and services — from youth substance use prevention to a "molar express" mobile dental clinic, from addiction treatment services to emergency planning to a team of community health workers serving the region. **A three-year grant is helping keep all of NCHC's programs and initiatives running smoothly.**



Courtesy Photo

BUILDING LIVELIHOODS THAT LAST

The Tillotson Fund is **supporting a multiyear approach for regional economic development in two key sectors of the North Country economy: outdoor recreation and energy efficiency.** Sometimes called “value-chain,” the approach has been used successfully in communities nationwide, and focuses on connecting a community’s assets to meet market demand in ways that help people build lasting livelihoods. The energy efficiency work is coordinated by the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, and is focused on energy efficiency as a means to develop local economic prosperity. The North Country’s aging housing stock and higher energy-cost burden underscore the urgency. Goals include **developing energy-efficient workforce housing and creating an “energy circuit rider” position to work with municipalities to increase efficiencies and save costs.** The Appalachian Mountain Club and The Conservation Fund are coordinating the outdoor recreation work. A variety of efforts are underway by key partners, including **improvements to the professional guide industry, more easily accessible trail and map data, and development of small businesses that serve locals and tourists alike.** “We find partners that are after the triple bottom line: how can I grow my business, support my community and create livable wages?” said Chris Thayer of the AMC.



Courtesy Photo



Photo by Cheryl Senter

MATCHED SAVINGS HELP EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

The Tillotson Fund has made deep, multiyear investments in improving outcomes for children. One issue identified as needing remedy is the high turnover and widespread economic insecurity among early childhood development professionals. (In Coös County, early childhood educators make an average of \$10.15 an hour, many without benefits.) A new pilot program, being administered by Affordable Housing, Education and Development (AHEAD) and the Bank of New Hampshire, is **offering matched savings accounts along with financial coaching to early childhood development professionals.** The matched savings can be used for everything from tuition and student loan repayment to transportation, housing, health care costs and retirement. Seventy educators at 14 centers in Coös County are eligible to participate in the pilot.



Photo by Cheryl Senter

DENTAL NEEDS BEING MET

William Evatte lost most of his bottom teeth in a logging accident. Evatte is 72 and retired. His only income is Social Security. He has Medicare, but Medicare does not cover dentures, or almost any other dental care. Evatte had been saving up for dentures. Then he heard about Coös County Family Dental — a practice on Berlin’s Main Street that is part of Coös County Family Health Services. All services here are on a sliding fee scale. That meant that Evatte could afford to get dentures. The clinic serves everyone — insured and uninsured alike. It is one of the few practices in the area accepting new Medicaid patients. Everyone who comes through the door gets the same standard of care. **A grant from the Tillotson Fund helped Coös County Family Dental upgrade its equipment.** The practice has new dental chairs and instruments, lighting and computers.



Photo by Cheryl Senter

NEW EARLY LEARNING CENTER TO OPEN IN 2019

Families in the eastern township of Saint-Malo, Quebec, have few options for early childhood care. Many parents drive 30 minutes out of town to drop children before work — and retrace the same hour-long route at days’ end. A grant to Garderie Le Petit Moulin is **supporting the startup of a new early childhood development center in Saint-Malo.** Slated to open in fall of 2019, it will serve up to 25 children, infants to age 5.

MOBILE STEM LAB IS ROLLING

When the White Mountain Science Inc. mobile STEM lab rolls into a school driveway, students know they are in for an afternoon of engineering, coding, robotics, videography, animation, game design and more. These STEM lessons help students think critically, work together and build creative problem-solving skills and confidence that will help them prepare for the workforce of tomorrow. **A two-year grant from the Tillotson Fund is helping to keep the mobile STEM lab rolling.**

Courtesy Photo





**EMPOWER COÖS YOUTH
GRANTMAKING PROGRAM**

Young people take the lead

Zachary Brown wants to come back to the North Country.

But before he leaves for college, he wants to do what he can to help make the place where he grew up “into the place where I want to come back to, and raise a family.”

One of the ways he and some of his peers are helping do that is by joining a new committee that is giving young people a say in grantmaking in the region.

The Empower Coös Youth Grantmaking Program of the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund is giving high school students the opportunity to help strengthen their communities, support local programming for youth, deepen their connection to place and develop leadership skills. The students will recommend \$25,000 in grants that will be distributed to nonprofits in the spring of 2019.

“A lot of times, as a kid, it feels like you really kind of can’t do anything,” said Jonah Cote. “This is where we can make a long-lasting change.”

Photo by Cheryl Senter



Photo by Cheryl Senter

**LOUISE TILLOTSON
TEACHING FELLOWSHIP**

Mrs. Hood is the light in our school

Patty Hood grew up in Berlin, graduated from Berlin High School in 1975 and left town just long enough to earn her degree and teaching certificate at Plymouth State University. She brought that credential right back to her hometown and went to work.

“I had a wonderful educational experience here,” she said. “We had dynamic teachers who cared about us as people.” She has spent her career paying that forward to generations of Berlin students.

Hood has been awarded the 2018 Louise Tillotson Teaching Fellowship, a \$10,000 stipend to support excellent public school teachers and reward their commitment to schools in the North Country.

Hood teaches health at Berlin High, incorporating overall wellness, stress reduction, mindfulness and respectful communication. She created a women’s studies class, advises the Youth Leadership Through Adventure program, helped launch women’s ice hockey and soccer teams, and was a longtime coach and former athletic director. Students know her as a teacher who is always there for them, helping them see their own strengths.

“Mrs. Hood,” wrote one student, simply, “is the light in our school.”



**NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

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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 2,000 philanthropic funds created by generous families, individuals and businesses, and awards more than \$40 million in grants and scholarships every year. For more information, please visit www.nhcf.org or call 800-464-6641.

THE NEIL AND LOUISE TILLOTSON FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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