

PURPOSE



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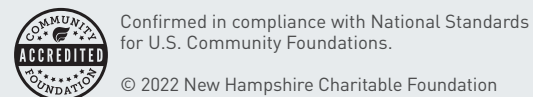
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Cover: Election Day in Milford, NH

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION is dedicated to making New Hampshire a more just, sustainable and vibrant community where everyone can thrive. As New Hampshire's statewide community foundation, we are the place where generosity meets the dedication and ingenuity of nonprofits and the potential of New Hampshire students. Since 1962, thousands of people have entrusted their charitable resources to the Foundation, creating a perpetual source of philanthropic capital. That generosity makes it possible for the Foundation to award more than \$60 million in grants and scholarships every year and collaborate and lead on high-impact initiatives.

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NURTURING OUR CIVIC HEALTH

By Richard Ober, president and CEO



Civic health undergirds every issue and is a good in and of itself: People are more productive and happy when they are informed, welcomed and respected.

The Foundation's purpose is to make New Hampshire a more just, sustainable and vibrant community where everyone can thrive. Because when a community can draw on the potential of every person, it will be a healthy, happier, more prosperous and better place for everyone to live.

It's easy to draw a straight line between that aspiration and public and individual health, basic needs like housing, environmental protection, education, arts and economic opportunity. That's why we are humbled and proud to support and partner with some 2,000 nonprofits doing work in those areas in every community, every year.

But what about "civic health?" Where does that fit in?

Everywhere. Civic health undergirds every issue and is a good in and of itself: People are more productive and happy when they are informed, welcomed and respected.

We are living in a time of polarization and disinformation — and where a small but vocal minority is increasingly hostile to the people and institutions dedicated to practicing and protecting democracy at all levels. That is all undeniable.

But just look around. It's equally true that people and organizations are working tirelessly and in countless ways to repair our civic life, sustain our democracy and build a sense of belonging. This issue of Purpose illustrates just a few examples.

Our lead story on page six shows how local officials and volunteers in Milford keep democracy running smoothly, how nonprofits are nurturing civic health, how young people and New Americans are leaning in and how 20 local media outlets are collaborating to help Granite Staters understand critical issues and make informed decisions.

In these pages you will also meet students who are getting the education that will help them thrive in their communities thanks to generous scholarship donors; volunteers in Nashua converting a former youth camp to a permanent fund to benefit children and families; and Raude Raychel and Hershey Hirschkop, who are working tirelessly on behalf of our communities.

All of it contributes to civic health — to making our New Hampshire a community where everyone can thrive. ■



Waypoint staff and community members celebrate Waypoint's new emergency overnight shelter in Manchester at an event in October

Courtesy photo

WAYPOINT EXPANDS SERVICES FOR YOUTH

Waypoint is expanding services for young people experiencing homelessness in New Hampshire. Grants totaling \$200,000 from the Foundation's Community Crisis Action Fund are helping to support new resource centers in Rochester and Concord and an expansion to provide emergency overnight shelter in Manchester — the state's first for people aged 18-24.

Waypoint estimates that as many as 14,000 people between the ages of 12 and 24 experience homelessness in

New Hampshire in a year's time.

The center in Rochester provides services for young people from 12 to 24 — including basic needs (food, clothing, showers, laundry), plus help with school, job training, driver's licenses, life-skill building, housing, recreational opportunities, access to mental health and substance misuse treatment and other services that contribute to long-term stability. The same services will soon be offered in Concord. ■

TESTING NEW MODELS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Foundation is working to elevate community voices, share decision-making power and create solutions alongside people most affected by the challenges we seek to address. That goal is central to the Foundation's new strategic plan, Together We Thrive. As we advance that goal, the Foundation will be winding down its current system of regional advisory boards so we may test and implement new models of community engagement and decision-making.

Since the early 1980s, the regional advisory boards

have helped the Foundation to become more embedded in communities statewide, and helped build the Foundation's current capacity to make grants and scholarships to benefit people in every community in New Hampshire. This legacy will be sustained as we broaden and deepen how we listen, engage and share power with communities.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has served on our eight regional advisory boards, and to the current chairs and members who engaged in the wind down discussions. ■



The Foundation is deeply grateful to Katie Merrow, who served as Vice President for Community Impact from 2008 until the fall of 2022.

During Katie's tenure, the Foundation more than doubled its grantmaking, leveraged millions in outside funds for important work in New Hampshire, deepened partnerships with nonprofits and donors, streamlined its grant application processes and increased multiyear operating support. Katie's work was instrumental as the Foundation helped lead policy initiatives, from working on criminal justice reform to strengthening practice in substance use prevention, treatment and recovery, and administering the Nonprofit Emergency Relief Fund program at the height of the pandemic. Katie was a primary architect and leader of New Hampshire Tomorrow, the Foundation's initiative to increase equity of opportunity for children and youth.

"Katie has served in this role with extraordinary distinction, and her work has helped make people's lives better all over New Hampshire," said Dick Ober, president and CEO of the Foundation. ■

TRULY LOCAL FOODS



Photo by Mara Hoptamajian, courtesy of NHPR

Fifty growers across the region are growing and sharing traditional Abenaki foods through the Abenaki Seeds Project, a partnership among the Abenaki Trails Project, Kearsarge Food Hub, Hopkinton Historical Society and the Warner Public Market. The truly

local foods being produced include flint corn for cornmeal, Abenaki rose corn, skunk pole beans, true red cranberry beans and crookneck squash.

The produce is distributed through the Abenaki Helping Abenaki food pantry in Contoocook. Abenaki chefs prepared some of the foods for a tasting event in celebration of Indigenous People's Day in October. The project was launched in 2021 to support the local indigenous community with culturally appropriate foods. A Foundation grant has helped support operations. ■

KUDOS



Photo by Aaron Baker/Mulberry Creek Imagery

Riverbend Community Mental Health presented former Foundation Director **Lucy Hodder** with its 2022 Champion for Mental Health Award in October.



Photo by Tammy Byron

Kittery artist **Rick Fox** was awarded the Foundation's 2022 Artist Advancement Grant. The annual grant helps cultivate the Piscataqua Region's arts community, boost artists' careers and helps keep them living and working in the area.



Mary Ann Dempsey, general counsel for New Hampshire's Judicial Branch, has been named the 2022 recipient of the Caroline and Martin Gross Fellowship. The recipient attends a three-week, intensive program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government with public servants from around the world.



TENDING TO OUR CIVIC HEALTH

“For everything else to work, the civic health of our communities needs to be robust”

Poll workers are sworn in for duty on Election Day in Milford

On Election Day in Milford, NH (pop. 9,212), a cadre of 150 townspeople shows up at the high school to make democracy work.

The first shift of 50 starts to arrive at 5:30 a.m., coffee in hand, to be sworn in before polls open at 6. Volunteers work alongside the town clerk, moderator and checklist supervisors and do everything from managing the queue and reminding people to have their IDs ready to helping new voters register to handing out ballots and coordinating lunch for poll workers.

The sheer numbers involved — and the checks and balances built in — do more than make the process run smoothly. They also help people to trust the process.

“Especially in this climate, being involved helps people see how elections work,” said Milford

Town Clerk Joan Dargie. “To people who question the process, I say ‘Come and volunteer and you’ll see what it’s like.’”

In many places in New Hampshire, democracy is sustained by a healthy dose of neighborliness and dedication. But, as in the rest of the country, New Hampshire is seeing troubling trends that undermine trust in the process, exacerbate polarization and threaten to contribute to an overall decline in civic health.

The Charitable Foundation has long invested in nonprofits that seek to strengthen civic health. Its new strategic plan, *Together We Thrive*, calls for New Hampshire’s statewide community foundation to work to address polarization, misinformation and other forces that threaten democracy, as well as to invest in

leadership and representation by people of color in our communities.

“For everything else to work, the civic health of our communities needs to be robust,” said Deborah Schachter, who oversees civic health grantmaking at the Foundation.

Nonprofits nurture civic health

Much of what nonprofits do is about creating a sense of belonging that drives community connection and participation — even those nonprofits whose missions are not explicitly about voting rights or civic health. From mentoring programs that show young people they are valued to health care advocacy organizations that encourage people to use their voice, to organizations that promote the understanding of our shared history to show that we all belong.

America Votes is part of a coalition of groups providing nonpartisan support to local election officials. A Foundation grant to the nonprofit NH Democracy Fund helped that coalition organize nonpartisan recruitment for poll workers and survey every town and city website in New Hampshire to create a “best practices” template for sharing information about elections, polling places and voter registration.

“Our democracy runs on election officials who are not well paid doing thankless work and doing it because they care about their community and about democracy,” said Kate Corriveau, New Hampshire state director for America Votes.

“Local election officials have really borne the burden of disinformation about voter fraud. We want to make sure they are supported.”

“Especially in this climate, being involved helps people see how elections work. To people who question the process, I say ‘Come and volunteer and you’ll see what it’s like.’”

—Joan Dargie, Milford Town Clerk

The Foundation has long supported an array of organizations and efforts that advance civic health and civics education in the state — from the production of New Hampshire’s Civic Health Index to funding for NH Civics, Citizens Count, and the award-winning Civics 101 podcast on NHRP.

Additional recent grants have supported research on youth voting in New Hampshire, grassroots efforts to encourage voter registration, nonprofit news that provides information to help people make informed decisions, outreach and leadership development that aims to engage more leaders of color in our communities — and more.

Young people vote

A Foundation-commissioned report by the national, nonpartisan Civics Center aimed to help understand the landscape of youth voting in New Hampshire. The report found that when young people are registered, they do vote — but that just 13.2 percent of 18-year-olds in the state are registered.

Open Democracy is working with local high schools to get more young people to register to vote. During “walking field trips” 18-year-olds walk from school to their city or town hall with the required paperwork and register. Its “Congratulations, Graduate!” program provides registration information to graduating seniors.

“This is one hundred percent nonpartisan, and we want them to understand that voting is part of your civic life and part of good citizenship,” said Olivia Zink, executive director of Open Democracy.

In Portsmouth, 18-year-old Sam Borne heard about Open Democracy’s efforts in schools and ran with the idea. He led a voter registration drive for his peers, inviting the Portsmouth city clerk to graduation practice at Portsmouth High School last spring, and getting as many as 50 18-year-olds onto the voting rolls.

“A lot of people feel very passionate about issues, but don’t necessarily correlate those with voting,” Borne said. He tries to help his age-mates see the correlation. He also wishes New Hampshire — like the most other states — allowed online registration to make the process more accessible. “It needs to be easier,” he said. “But you also need to find a way to make people care more.”

Grant are supporting multiple grassroots efforts focused on understanding barriers to voting and helping people overcome them — including among New Americans, people of color and people with impaired vision.

In Nashua, Martha Alvarado is part of a new outreach project of the

[Continued, p. 8]



Photo by Gabriela Lozada, courtesy of NHPR

Eva Castillo and Martha Alvarado (to right of table) help fellow citizens understand the election process as part of a new outreach project of the New Hampshire Alliance of Immigrants and Refugees

New Hampshire Alliance of Immigrants and Refugees to encourage citizens who are Latino (New Hampshire's largest ethnic minority population) to register and vote.

When Alvarado voted for the first time after becoming a citizen, she found the process to be confusing and the language barrier challenging. Not knowing what the down-ballot offices even did, she simply voted for president and left the rest of the ballot blank. In her new person-to-person outreach role, she makes the rounds from grocery stores to bakeries, barbershops and bookstores to encourage her fellow New American citizens to vote. She is armed with explanations in Spanish and English about the process, about required documentation and the responsibilities of the different offices on the ballot.

The Alliance has long advocated for New Hampshire to make voting materials available in Spanish, which they are this year for the first time. (Materials are also available for the first time in French and Mandarin.)

Alvarado encounters people who have been American citizens for years, but never registered to vote. Some, she says, came from places where they felt that participating was fruitless — or dangerous. She encourages them to register and exercise their rights as U.S. citizens.

"Now they are participating," she said.

"Your vote is your power, and if we do not claim our power, no one is going to hand it to us," said Eva Castillo, executive director of the Alliance. "In order for us to be taken seriously as a so-called 'minority community' we have to vote. If we do not vote, then we put our destiny in the hands of people who do not know anything about us."

Strengthening local news

A partnership between the Granite State News Collaborative and NHPR has helped the state's Latino community in this regard. "¿Qué Hay de Nuevo, New Hampshire?" provides daily Spanish-language news reports — another first for the state.

In New Hampshire, as in the rest of the country, local news overall has taken a seismic hit, with newsrooms shedding reporters' positions and the ability to cover community issues severely diminished. The Foundation has supported the News Collaborative — a nonprofit coalition of 20 outlets that share content and work together on projects — since its inception. Grants have also supported a Report for America reporter covering education at the Concord Monitor, solutions journalism projects at the Union Leader and newsgathering at NHPR and NHPBS.

"If New Hampshire is going to be a community where everyone can thrive, then everyone needs to feel that they belong and that their voice can be heard," Schachter said. "They need access to accurate information to make decisions, the ability to think critically about what they read and hear, and confidence in our democratic process. The future of our democracy and our communities depends on all of those things." ■

REASON TO HOPE

Traci Fowler, the Charitable Foundation's director of behavioral health, co-chairs the Budget Task Force of the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs and is a member of New Hampshire's Opioid Abatement Commission and Children's System of Care Advisory Council. She spoke with Lois Shea about the current substance use crisis, why an integrated approach to addressing mental health and substance use makes sense, and promising practices that offer reason for hope.

What should we understand about our substance-use crisis at present?

It's important to understand that, unlike an acute condition such as bronchitis or a broken bone, addiction is a chronic, relapsing disease, and the solutions for preventing and treating it are multifaceted. The epidemic of addiction is a public health issue touching every community. Use of illicit opioids, particularly fentanyl, accounts for the vast majority of overdoses and deaths. New Hampshire has been on the front lines of trying to save lives lost to this disease for many years.

Through the pandemic, the coordinated efforts of our state's behavioral health and healthcare workforce, including the Public Health Networks, first responders, school social workers and recovery organizations have been critical. These folks rose to the challenge, providing services and supports throughout the pandemic. They brought hope and healing to a lot of people during lockdown.

Addiction is a complex issue, but New Hampshire is making progress. By 2019,

we had significant decreases in alcohol and prescription drug misuse among high school-age people, and between 2018 and 2020, we saw decreases in overdose mortality. In fact, while throughout the U.S., overdose mortality increased dramatically during the height of the pandemic, in New Hampshire we saw a reduction of more than 10 percent.

Unfortunately, due to a combination of factors, including access to a new wave of synthetic, highly lethal fentanyl that's now in the state, we are seeing overdoses and deaths increase again. This is why harm-reduction efforts are such a critical element of our continuum of care. People are working extremely hard to put an end to this spike.

And substance use and mental health are related.

Absolutely. In order to effectively address complex conditions such as addiction and suicide risk, we must have an integrated trauma-responsive approach to care. By talking about addiction and mental health in the same breath we are *not* saying that the responses or the expertise to respond to them are the same. But they do have

shared risk and protective factors. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of many advocates and providers, state-level action plans are in place that focus on the intersections between physical, emotional, spiritual and behavioral health. This is a huge step forward.

The Foundation braids these two areas of work — substance use and mental health — together in our behavioral health grantmaking. Talk about the philosophy behind that.

This is a way for us to better align with not only our state's action plans, but with the most current understanding of the science and the ways to best address these issues.

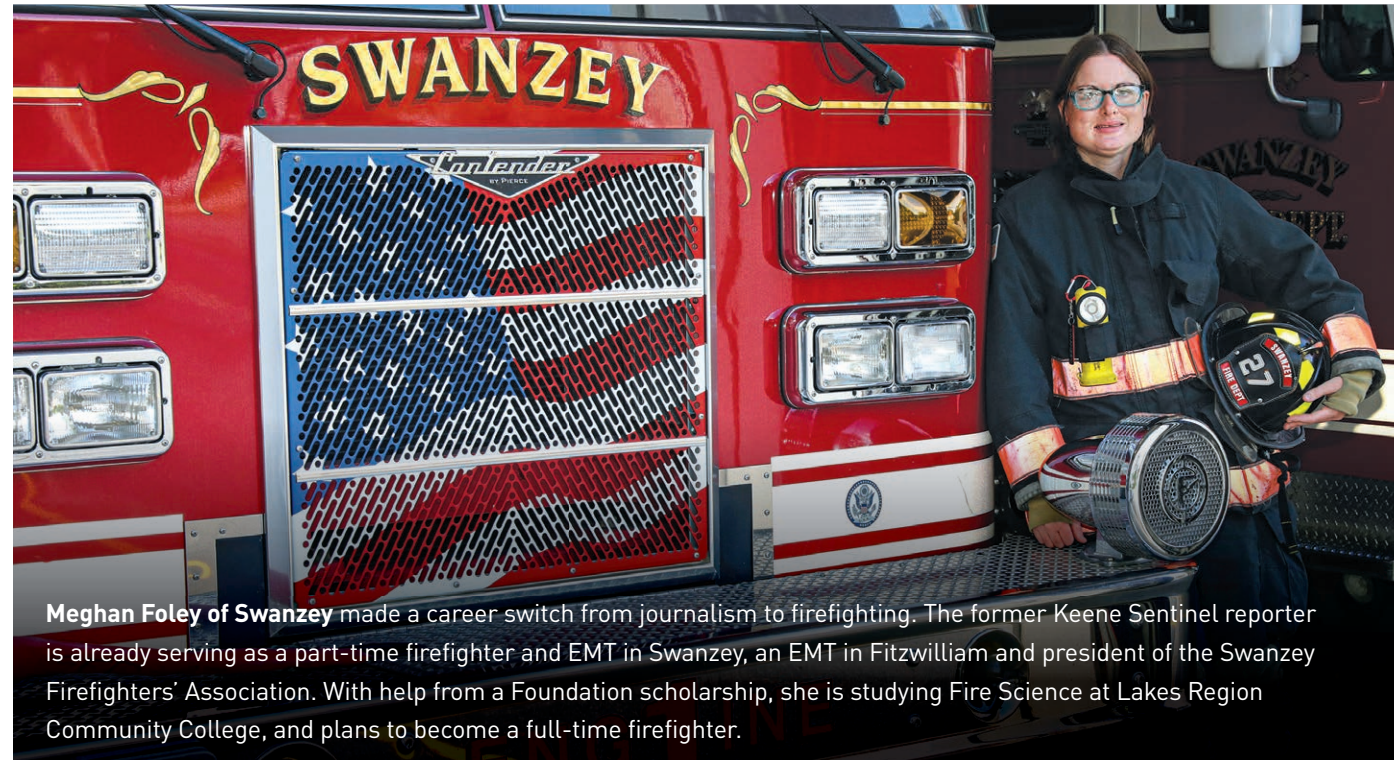
What is giving you hope right now?

There is always hope and there are many bright spots across the state. Although these issues are big, they are not insurmountable. Prevention works, treatment is effective, and people do recover. ■

If you or someone you care about is experiencing a mental health and/or substance use crisis, you can call and speak to trained and caring clinical staff. For NH Rapid Response, call or text 833-710-6477 or chat nh988.com.

ACHIEVING THEIR DREAMS

Meet seven New Hampshire students who are on their way to achieving their dreams with help from Foundation scholarships — all made possible by the generosity of New Hampshire people, families and businesses.



Meghan Foley of Swanzey made a career switch from journalism to firefighting. The former Keene Sentinel reporter is already serving as a part-time firefighter and EMT in Swanzey, an EMT in Fitzwilliam and president of the Swanzey Firefighters' Association. With help from a Foundation scholarship, she is studying Fire Science at Lakes Region Community College, and plans to become a full-time firefighter.

Dhiren Timsina of Concord is in his second year at the University of New Hampshire majoring in mechanical engineering. He plans to work toward a master's degree in aerospace engineering and hopes to help improve on spacecraft design and fuel systems to support expanded space exploration. "I hope to one day be a part of the team that gives humanity that final push towards space travel," he said.



Felicia Fekay of Whitefield is studying to become a licensed practical nurse with help from Foundation Medallion Fund scholarships. Felicia is already an LNA who works in a nursing home. She thrives on the daily challenges of caring for patients. "I'm excited to be able to be part of a team and just help out and do what I can to be the best nurse I can be," she said.

Adrianna George of Milford is studying Animal Science and Marine Biology at the University of New Hampshire with the goal of becoming a veterinary pathologist. She is embarking on 12 years of study, including undergraduate work, veterinary school and more advanced study for a pathology degree. "This is going to be a long road, but I'm ready for it," Adrianna said.



As he studies to become a licensed plumbing contractor, **Steven "Chico" Martinez of Manchester** puts in long days on the job and in the classroom. On class days, Chico is up at 5:30 a.m., working a full day as a plumber's apprentice before heading to four hours of evening classes at the New Hampshire School of Mechanical Trades. Scholarships from the Foundation's Medallion Fund are helping him to achieve his career goals.

Joshua Williams of Grafton is on his way to becoming an electrician with help from a Foundation scholarship. He is majoring in Electrical Systems Maintenance and Installation and Electrical Power and Control Technologies at Lakes Region Community College. He plans to go on to earn his journeyman's license and then his master electrician's certification. He dreams of opening his own business.



Hamza Abdulrahman of Concord is studying digital marketing at Husson University in Maine. His scholarship is from the Elizabeth I. Bickel Scholarship Fund, which was created by a woman whose own family had emigrated to America, and always found ways of helping the immigrants who followed behind them. Hamza's mom is his hero. Her formal education ended when she turned 12, and she now works stocking shelves at Walmart. "I just want to have a very, very, very good job," he said, "so that in the future my mother don't have to worry about working."





THIS BENEFITS THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

The nonprofit Indonesia Community Connects is working to create the country's only Little Indonesia district in Somersworth — drawing business and tourism, while driving community strength and connection

Raude Raychel waves the Indonesian flag at the 2022 Somersworth Indonesian Festival

“I want more people to really see what this vision is all about and how we can grow together and thrive together in the community.”

—Raude Raychel, founder and executive director, Indonesia Community Connects

Raude Raychel has a clear — and bold — vision. She, along with a team of dedicated volunteers, public officials and international diplomats, are on the way to making it a reality. Raychel is the executive director and founder of the nonprofit Indonesia Community Connects in Somersworth. Her vision: To create, in a revitalized economic center of downtown, the country's only Little Indonesia district — drawing business and tourism, while driving community strength and connection. It will include a welcoming archway and urban park, businesses, a food hall, a museum of Indonesia, outdoor stage and a cultural center.

The current Little Indonesia Center, where ICC is now housed, already provides a hub for people to gather, enjoy events and access community resources — plus purchase an array of goods imported from Indonesia. Somersworth is already being billed as having “The only Little Indonesia in the United States.” “It’s all about putting Somersworth on the map. This benefits the whole community,” Raychel said. The combination of community connection and business and tourism development is already proving powerful for this small city on New Hampshire’s Seacoast. “From my perspective, it’s

extraordinary,” said Robin Comstock, the city’s economic development manager. The Little Indonesia project, she said, demonstrates Somersworth’s desire to welcome people and helps promote the city to businesses. “It brings state, regional and national attention to the city, provides educational experiences and is perceived as an advantage and an attribute,” she said. Somersworth has been home to an Indonesian community for decades. Expressed as a percentage, this small city has the largest Indonesian population in the country, with 17 percent of Somersworth’s 12,000 people identifying as Indonesian.

Raychel’s dad was the first Indonesian pastor in the Seacoast area, arriving to minister to a small group of Indonesian families in the 1990s. By the time Raychel was 10, she was acting as a language interpreter for her family and community, helping people navigate the systems and structures of their new homeland. Raychel left New Hampshire to study business tourism at NYU and then earn a master’s in business management with a focus on growth strategy at Harvard. She studied Chinatown neighborhoods and their effect on economic development, tourism and community connection.

Then she brought all that education and expertise back to serve her hometown. (She still works as a business consultant while serving in her role at ICC as a volunteer.) “You can have greater impact by creating something in a smaller space,” Raychel said. “This vision is about how much we care about the city.” The annual Somersworth Indonesian Festival — featuring food, performances and activities — draws people from all over New England. This year’s festival featured the regent of Mimika of the Indonesian province of Papua.

Indonesian government leaders and diplomats, including the Indonesian vice ambassador to the U.S., have visited and are promoting Little Indonesia. When the Indonesian flag was raised in Somersworth to celebrate Indonesian Independence Day, the event made the news in Indonesia.

Each ICC event builds toward a larger goal. The Little Indonesia Café and the Indonesian Night Market, held at the Indonesian Community Center, provide a venue for local caterers to promote their delicacies, test products and build a following. At the same time, Raychel has connected these local entrepreneurs with the Small Business Development Center, so that when the Little Indonesia Food Court eventually opens, they will be ready to set up shop.

And the nonprofit provides an array of services to meet the needs of the

Somersworth community. ICC held a Covid vaccine clinic open to the entire community soon after vaccines became available, provides space that is open for members of Congress to hold open hours for constituents, and hosts job fairs to connect local people with employment opportunities.

The organization is plugged into the specific needs of the region’s Indonesian residents, providing a range of community supports, including interpretation and translation, immigration support, connection to health care resources, workforce and business development, acting as a liaison with law enforcement and more. During the height of the pandemic, Raychel learned that emergency food supplies that were being made available were sometimes going to waste — particularly because Indonesian elders were not accustomed to cooking with things like milk and cheese. So ICC created a partnership with Gather, a hunger-relief nonprofit in Portsmouth, to offer culturally appropriate food that would go to better use in the community.

Raychel hopes the full Little Indonesia district will be developed by 2026. “I want more people to really see what this vision is all about,” Raychel said, “and how we can grow together and thrive together in the community.” ■

LEARN MORE @ INDONESIANCONNECT.ORG

Association Doucet, Inc.
Board of Directors (left to
right): Robert Pelletier,
Robert Lavoie, Joseph
Moreau and Robert Cormier

HELP OTHER PEOPLE AT ALL TIMES

A CAMP CONVERTED INTO GOOD WORKS

When Camp Doucet fell out of use, the nonprofit association that managed it decided to create two funds to benefit children and families in the Nashua region forever

Camp Doucet was a labor of love — and of community. The nonprofit Association Doucet, Inc. was established in 1939 after Monsignor Louis Doucet, pastor of St. Aloysius of Gonzaga Church in Nashua, made a gift of 20 acres in southwest Nashua to benefit the children of Nashua. The land would become a year-round camp with a hand-dug swimming pool, a baseball diamond that was converted to a hockey rink in the winter, frontage on Salmon Brook and plenty of space for children to learn to love the outdoors.

Camp Doucet was used by scout troops, boys' and girls' clubs, church groups and other nonprofits. Over the decades, thousands of Nashua kids would swim, play ball and hockey, and make lifelong memories at the camp.

The plan from the outset was that when the camp could no longer be

maintained, the land would be sold and the funds put into a trust to benefit the children of the Nashua area.

For decades, an all-volunteer force — mostly associated with the St. Aloysius parish — built, maintained and fundraised for everything the place needed. They sold Sunday newspapers from a wagon in front of the church after Mass; collected and sold paper for recycling; and held ham-and-bean suppers. In its heyday, the volunteer team of men and women was more than fifty strong, and included plumbers, masons, electricians and businesspeople who all gave their time and expertise to keep the place maintained and running.

"We had all the talent needed to do anything that was required," said Bob Cormier, who remembers making the five-mile hike from downtown Nashua to the camp as a Cub Scout, learning

to swim in the camp pool, and who became Association Doucet's final board president.

Larry Noel, a retired Nashua firefighter and camp committee chairman, devoted thousands of hours to every job at the camp that needed doing — from pool maintenance to sweeping floors, wiring and mowing grass.

Once, when the septic system malfunctioned in the middle of a scout camp week, Bob Lavoie remembers being out there at 11 p.m. along with Bob Pelletier and a couple shovels, making sure things were up and running again by daylight.

When windows or steps were broken and needed repair, Gil Tarrier was always the guy who did the glazing and carpentry.

When concrete blocks needed to be hauled for a new building, when the swimming pool needed to be dug by hand, when picnic tables needed to be

"When we found out how the Foundation worked, it was obvious to us. That is exactly what we wanted our funds to do. That is how we became partners, and we are thrilled with the outcome."

—Bob Lavoie, Association Doucet Board of Directors

built and stained, when the boards for the hockey rink needed to go up for the season, volunteers did it all. No one took any money — just the promise of a cold beverage at the Club National (another local supporter of Camp Doucet), from a fellow volunteer when the work was done.

"We had a lot of fun and did a lot of good out there," Lavoie said.

The committee had help, for decades, from families of scouts, scout leaders and others who all pitched in. As the volunteer pool dwindled over time, a small board of directors (including Bob Pelletier, Bob Lavoie, Bob Cormier, Gil Tarrier and Joe Moreau) was left staring down an aging infrastructure that required an overwhelming amount of maintenance — and the reality of less and less demand for use of the property by local youth-serving organizations.

The Association Doucet board realized it was time to sell the camp property and set up that trust for Nashua's kids.

"It was a hard decision," Tarrier said. The Association's accountant, Peter Houde, and attorney Andrew Bauer both independently suggested the group contact the Charitable Foundation for information about setting up funds to benefit area youth.

"When we found out how the Foundation worked, it was obvious to us," Lavoie said. "That is exactly what we wanted our funds to do. That is

how we became partners, and we are thrilled with the outcome."

The land sold in 2021 and the Association Doucet board set up two funds at the Charitable Foundation to benefit Nashua's children, youth and families. One fund — a designated fund — sends annual grants to 14 different Nashua-area organizations — including the Boys and Girls Club, Girls, Inc., Marguerite's Place, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, the New Hampshire Food Bank, the Greater Nashua Dental Connection and more.

The second fund — a field of interest fund — gives Foundation grantmaking staff the discretion to use the resources to meet the most pressing needs for Nashua's children and families — and significantly increases the Foundation's annual available dollars for the Nashua region.

"This is an incredible gift to the children and families of the Nashua region," said Sandeep Bikram Shah, a senior program officer at the Foundation who focuses on the Nashua and Monadnock regions.

"Kids in the area will get summer camp opportunities, dental care, shelter, food, mentoring and more — for generations to come."

Both funds are set up to benefit Nashua-area kids and families in perpetuity.

"A lot of members up there," said Lavoie, pointing heavenward, "would be incredibly happy to know this." ■

For Sale

Giving non-cash assets

The vast majority of charitable donations in the U.S. come in the form of cash. Gifts of other kinds of assets can also be converted into good works in the community, including:

Appreciated securities. Giving stock directly (rather than selling it and donating the cash) means there is more to give. Because the donor does not incur capital gains tax on the growth, the full value of the securities goes directly to good works.

Real estate. Direct donation of real estate, similarly, can make for a donation with a larger impact than a donation made after a sale.

Tangible personal property. Assets like jewelry, art and antiques can be donated to a nonprofit to be sold with the proceeds supporting that nonprofit.

Royalties and distribution rights. Artists and inventors receive residual income from their creations, which can be directed to a nonprofit as a donation.

Closely held stock/business interests/partnerships/interests in LLCs. Gifts of non-publicly traded stock can be made directly to a nonprofit, which can then sell the stock and put the proceeds to work.

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). People who are 70½ or older can donate their distribution directly to nonprofits without that QCD being subject to income tax.

For more information, contact Rick Peck, vice president of development and philanthropy, at Rick.Peck@nhcf.org or 1-800-464-6641 ext. 265.

A CHAMPION FOR LGBTQ+ YOUTH

Hershey Hirschkop remembers what it was like to be 16, in high school, and dating her first girlfriend.

She was bullied and threatened by classmates. But three prominent adults stood up for her: her principal, guidance counselor and psychology teacher. And things got better. She thrived.

Now, after a lifetime of social justice work plus career chapters in construction, architecture and affordable housing development, Hirschkop has devoted herself to being an adult who stands up for LGBTQ+ kids.

She is executive director of Seacoast Outright, which supports, provides services and advocates for LGBTQ+ kids and their families and offers community training and education. Outright also organizes Portsmouth Pride, which saw a record turnout in 2022.

Hershey recognizes the vast progress that has been made by and for LGBTQ+ Americans — and stands vigilant against attacks and attempts to roll that progress back.

Here is what she wants every LGBTQ+ kid to know: “If you’re struggling, it gets better. Know you are loved and fabulous and you are going to turn out okay. There is a place you can go to be accepted, and there is a whole community and wide world waiting to embrace you.” ■

