

PURPOSE



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NEW HAMPSHIRE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

SPRING/SUMMER 2018

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Cover: Installing a solar array at Whole Village Family Resource Center in Plymouth.

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION is New Hampshire's statewide community foundation, founded in 1962 by and for the people of New Hampshire. We manage a growing collection of 1,900 funds created by generous individuals, families and businesses, and award more than \$40 million in grants and scholarships every year. We work with generous and visionary citizens to maximize the power of their giving, support great work happening in our communities, and lead and collaborate on high-impact initiatives. Learn more at www.nhcf.org or call 800-464-6641.

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ACTS OF HOPE

By Richard Ober, president and CEO

When former Gov. Huntley Spaulding left his family's fortune to charity, his attorney Dudley Orr said, "He expressed his confidence in the future, his conviction that justice and mercy would endure in America." Initially, Dudley called that an act of courage. Later, he added another word: Hope.

The same can be said of every act of generosity no matter the size — especially when the givers know that the results will outlive them.

The Spauldings earned their wealth in New Hampshire manufacturing. Huntley and his sister Marion Potter paid it back — and forward — when their bequests directed their trustees, including Dudley Orr, to distribute their assets to charity.

From 1957 to 1972, the Spaulding-Potter Trusts gave \$16.8 million to causes from health care to education to the environment, and started many nonprofits that define the state today. Recognizing the need for a permanent source of philanthropic capital for the state, the trustees used the final \$2.7 million to seed the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. Other generous New Hampshire citizens embraced the idea and added funds of their own, during their lifetimes and through their estates.

The Foundation that started with less than \$3 million from Huntley and Marion's bequests is now comprised of nearly 1,900 funds totaling more than \$750 million and distributing more



A generous bequest from the Lois Roy Dickerman Fund (see p. 14) supports Girls at Work and many other nonprofits. Dick Ober is pictured here with participants of Girls at Work.

"A community foundation like ours is a promise — to connect generous people's hopes for the future with the organizations and people working every day to realize those same hopes."

than \$40 million *every year*. Now that's a legacy.

A community foundation like ours is a promise — to connect generous people's hopes for the future with the organizations and people working every day to realize those same hopes. A few stories of those connections — and the results — are told in these pages. The story of Lois Roy Dickerman, who "hated to see anyone unhappy or unfed." The story of a grant made possible by Louise and Neil Tillotson, whose philosophy was "be humble,

be creative and be kind." This year, bequests will come to the Foundation that were established decades ago. And new bequests are being written today that will benefit New Hampshire communities starting a generation from now.

Every single one of them is an act of hope. And of courage.

Dick



Matt Faucher is studying information technology at White Mountains Community College with help from a Foundation scholarship.

INCREASED AID TO COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS

The Foundation will award a half-million in scholarships each year for the next four years to students studying at New Hampshire's community colleges. This increased support is possible because generous people and businesses have stepped up to provide new scholarship dollars.

Community colleges are key in boosting economic opportunity, and key to achieving the goal that 65 percent of New Hampshire adults have a high-value degree or credential by the year 2025. Students who go to college in New Hampshire are more likely to stay and work in New Hampshire, sustaining our communities and our economy in future decades.

Our community colleges — in seven locations, from Berlin to Nashua — offer two-year degrees, credential and certificate programs, apprenticeships and dual-admission programs that allow students to transfer all credits to one of New Hampshire's four-year public colleges or universities.

Increased aid to students at community colleges is one part of the Foundation's "New Hampshire Tomorrow" initiative to increase opportunities for New Hampshire's young people — especially those from struggling families, who do not have the same access to opportunity as their more-affluent peers. ■

EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTMENTS HONORED



The Foundation is grateful to have received two recent honors related to the New Hampshire Tomorrow initiative to increase opportunity for New Hampshire's kids.

Early Learning NH named the Foundation a 2018 Early Learning NH Champion in April, and the New Hampshire Bureau of Child Development and Head Start Collaboration selected the Foundation to receive a 2018 Mary Stuart Gile Award for helping to build statewide infrastructure in the field of early childhood. We are deeply honored and grateful for all that these organizations do on behalf of New Hampshire's kids. ■



COÖS CAMPAIGN ELEVATES YOUTH VOICES

Coös County high school students have created the 2018 "Empower Coös Youth" public awareness campaign — the fourth in a series — to engage community members in conversations about values, activities and resources that create positive school and community experiences for Coös County youth.

The campaign, funded by the Foundation's Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund, includes newspaper inserts, a social media campaign inspired by "Humans of New York," empowerment t-shirts and a website with an archive of students' stories.

Students built their campaign based on findings from the Coös Youth Study, a longitudinal research project conducted by the Carsey School of Public Policy at the University of New Hampshire and funded in part by the Tillotson Fund.

"Youth involved in the project feel like North Country celebrities, and it draws attention to the great things happening in our schools and communities," said Christina Asher, a senior at Groveton High School.

Learn more at www.empowercoosyouth.com. ■

GRANT HELPS CONTINUE PROGRESS ON GREAT BAY

A \$100,000 grant to the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire is helping to protect and restore Great Bay. This investment is a continuation of the Foundation's multiyear support of Great Bay 2020, a collaborative effort by nonprofits and the public sector to protect and restore the critical habitats of the Great Bay estuary. Since 2011, the Foundation has made \$2.6 million in grants to organizations working to protect Great Bay. These efforts are complemented by a \$250,000 loan to The Nature Conservancy's Gulf of Maine Fisheries Restoration program from the Foundation's Impact Investment Fund. ■

KUDOS



Maureen Beauregard is Manchester's Citizen of the Year

The Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce named Families in Transition President and Foundation Director Maureen Beauregard its 2017 Citizen of the Year.



Honoring nonprofits

Many Foundation friends were honored at the New Hampshire Center for Nonprofits' recent Nonprofit Impact Awards, including Helen Taft, Mary Susan Leahy, Hope on Haven Hill and the White Birch Center.



Celebrating women in business

New Hampshire Tomorrow Leadership Council member Amanda Grappone Osmer and Foundation Director Mary Jo Brown received with New Hampshire Business Review's Outstanding Women in Business Award. Girls at Work received the Advocate for Women's Empowerment Award.



SOLAR-POWERED MISSION

A generous Foundation donor has helped a dozen nonprofits across the state devote more resources to core missions by installing solar arrays

Guests at the Bridge House in Plymouth enjoy a nightly communal meal — the cost of which is offset by energy savings from a solar array.

At 5:30 on a recent weekday evening, guests at the Bridge House in Plymouth gathered for a meal of baked stuffed peppers and salad. Guests at this 20-bed homeless shelter, many of them veterans, helped cook and serve the meal, and sat down to eat together.

This meal was made possible by 84 solar panels on the roof. And not just because the panels generated the electricity to run the oven and the kitchen lights.

The panels, installed with support from a New Hampshire Charitable Foundation donor-advised fund, helped

cut the shelter's energy costs by about \$4,500 in one year — savings that have gone directly toward buying the groceries to provide a nutritious meal each night for guests at the shelter.

Next door, at the Whole Village Family Resource Center, a crew from the Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative had spent the afternoon installing conduit runs for 110 solar panels. The center houses 15 nonprofit organizations that provide everything from early childhood education to parenting classes to HiSET (GED) tutoring and services for veterans and people with disabilities. With help from

a Community Development Finance Authority business tax credit grant, Whole Village had already put a variety of energy efficiencies in place — from LED lighting to air-sealing and an updated HVAC system. When the solar project is complete, nonprofits at the center are expected to save more than \$25,000 combined in energy costs each year.

Working with a generous donor with a passion for sustainability and energy efficiency, the Foundation has helped more than a dozen nonprofits — from shelters and soup kitchens to mentoring and arts organizations

— install solar panels and a number of other energy-efficiency measures. Funding has also helped to advance public policy on solar and renewable energy. And more solar installation projects are in the works.

New Hampshire has among the highest energy costs in the nation. Helping nonprofits minimize energy costs helps them maximize services. And, of course, equipping nonprofits with sustainable energy systems has long-term environmental benefits.

"It is increasingly difficult for nonprofits to cover the cost of simply keeping the heat and lights on," said

"Solar installations help nonprofits become more sustainable, so that they can keep doing what they do best — improving the quality of life for everyone in New Hampshire."

— Peter Benson, senior program officer, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation

Foundation Senior Program Officer Peter Benson, who works closely with nonprofits installing solar systems and compiles information and evaluation of the projects for the donor. "Solar installations help nonprofits become more sustainable, so that they can keep doing what they do best — improving the quality of life for everyone in New Hampshire. This donor's commitment is an inspiration, and we're thrilled to help make it happen."

Protecting natural resources

Thanks to many generous donors, the Foundation makes about \$5 million in environmental grants each year, and has a long-standing commitment to protecting New Hampshire's natural resources,

promoting energy efficiency and supporting sustainability. Funding was critical in producing the New Hampshire Climate Action Plan, a key blueprint for reducing impacts that lead to climate change; in strengthening and expanding the capacity of the New Hampshire Sustainable Energy Association, which advocated successfully, with others, for a comprehensive "net metering" policy for New Hampshire (allowing owners of solar arrays to sell excess electricity back to their utility — without capping the total amount that can be sold across the state); and

in supporting advocacy that helped spur New Hampshire's participation in (and continued commitment to) the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

The Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative, another nonprofit, has coordinated implementation of the recent solar projects and energy efficiency measures with help from Foundation funding. PAREI focuses its efforts largely on the nonprofit sector.

"There is no better place to help than nonprofits, who need the help more than ever," said PAREI director and co-founder Sandra Jones. "We are proud to help nonprofits develop plans to reduce or produce energy with renewables."

Solar arrays are up or in-progress on housing units at Affordable Housing, Education and Development in Littleton, the Tin Mountain Conservation Center in Albany, Cross Roads House in Portsmouth, the Mayhew Program in Bristol, Communities for Alcohol and Drug Free Youth in Plymouth, the Circle Program in Groton, the Lakes Region Conservation Trust in Center Harbor, Peterborough Players, Laconia Area Community Land Trust and the Nashua Soup Kitchen.

The installations supported by grants in 2016 and 2017 alone are estimated to reduce annual carbon

(Continued, p. 8)

dioxide emissions by 419,000 pounds (equivalent to burning 21,000 gallons of gasoline) and save New Hampshire nonprofits an estimated \$61,000 annually.

More money for the mission

Cathy Bentwood, a nurse who runs the Bridge House (and is also a member of the Foundation's Lakes Region advisory board), said that installing solar and taking other steps to reduce energy usage was about environmental benefits — but also about “a fiduciary responsibility to our donors. We are a green facility and we are very conscientious about saving money,” she said, “because many of our donors are poor themselves.”

The Whole Village Family Resource Center provides wraparound services to vulnerable families.

“There is a lot that we want to do in this community. The more money we save on energy costs, the more we can devote to the services we provide.”

– Susan Amburg, executive director, The Whole Village Family Resource Center

Executive Director Susan Amburg remembers a young mom who came in, homeless and determined to work hard to change her family's prospects. Crystal and her daughter were able to stay at the next-door shelter while Crystal came to Whole Village for tutoring to get her high school equivalency diploma. She enrolled her daughter in the on-site Head Start preschool, and took parenting classes

and nutrition classes at Whole Village. Now, Crystal has a stable home, a vehicle and a full-time job, and her daughter is in elementary school.

“There is a lot that we want to do in this community,” Amburg said. “The more money we save on energy costs, the more we can devote to the services we provide.” ■



Children at the Head Start program at The Whole Village Resource Center.



MUSEUMS ARE FOR EVERYONE

By Alan Chong, director and CEO, Currier Museum of Art

Art museums suffer a sense of split personality. On one hand, they are immensely popular: institutions like the British Museum in London and the Metropolitan Museum in New York are among the top tourist attractions in the world. However, museums still suffer from a reputation of being forbidding and stuffy. The buildings don't help, as museums have traditionally been constructed in a grand manner — all stone and no windows. Surveys consistently rate museums as “intimidating.” We want to make the Currier Museum “open” and even “fun.”

The Currier Museum houses a wonderful collection of precious and sometimes fragile works of art held in trust for the public. The museum belongs to everyone. Founded nearly a century ago by Gov. Moody Currier and his wife, Hannah, it has grown through the generosity of donors and collectors. While the collection must be carefully protected, the imagination of artists

needs to be revealed to as many people as possible.

Art can play an important and unexpected role in people's lives. We have seen that, firsthand: The museum has worked closely with war veterans to share their experiences through combat photographs and literature devoted to war. Our Alzheimer's Café has provided a comforting setting in the museum for people suffering from memory loss. And we are piloting a new program involving viewing and making art for families who have been affected by the opioid epidemic.

We are welcoming more people to the museum with a series of events — from dance parties to indie concerts and summer block parties. We are starting an artist-in-residence program to further explore the artistic process, and to commission new work. Later this year, we will launch a project that will invite the community to participate in the creation of new art.

We are committed to breaking down

barriers to participation. For New Hampshire residents, we provide one free Saturday morning per month for tours and family art activities. In the last year, we've also added at least one free community-focused Thursday evening per month for the general public. Additionally, with the support of Lincoln Financial, we continue to provide all 3rd and 5th graders of Manchester, and all 4th graders of Concord and Nashua, access to free school programs at the Currier that include tours and art activities tied to school learning objectives.

We would love to reduce or eliminate admission fees, to extend our hours into the evenings, to hold more special events and to create more exhibitions of wide impact — all of which will take resources, and time.

We want the Currier Museum to be a shared source of beauty and inspiration — we want the power of art to be accessible to all. ■

THE POWER OF MANY

Giving and working together to make a difference for New Hampshire.



AMPING UP PHILANTHROPY

The Entrepreneurs' Fund of New Hampshire awarded a \$50,000 AMP Grant to the **SEE Science Center** in Manchester for the acquisition of a Genome exhibition that encourages middle schoolers to explore careers in the sciences. **The TLC Family Resource Center** was awarded \$25,000 toward the purchase of a van to bring medically accurate, comprehensive and inclusive sexual health information to young people throughout Sullivan County. **Careers Clic**, **Media Power Youth** and **Granite Pathways** each received \$5,000 from EFNH.



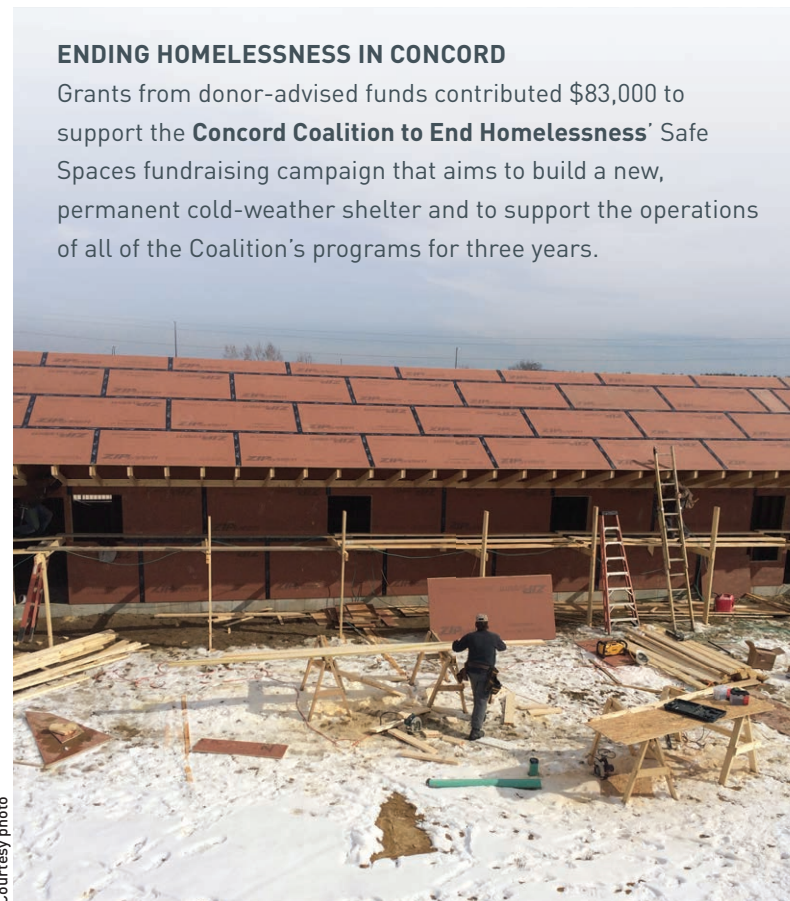
WORKFORCE READY

A \$20,000 grant to the **Boys and Girls Club of Greater Nashua** will help launch BE READY, a workforce-development program that will help young people build the necessary knowledge and skills to thrive in high-demand careers.



THE "SOCRADEMY" METHOD

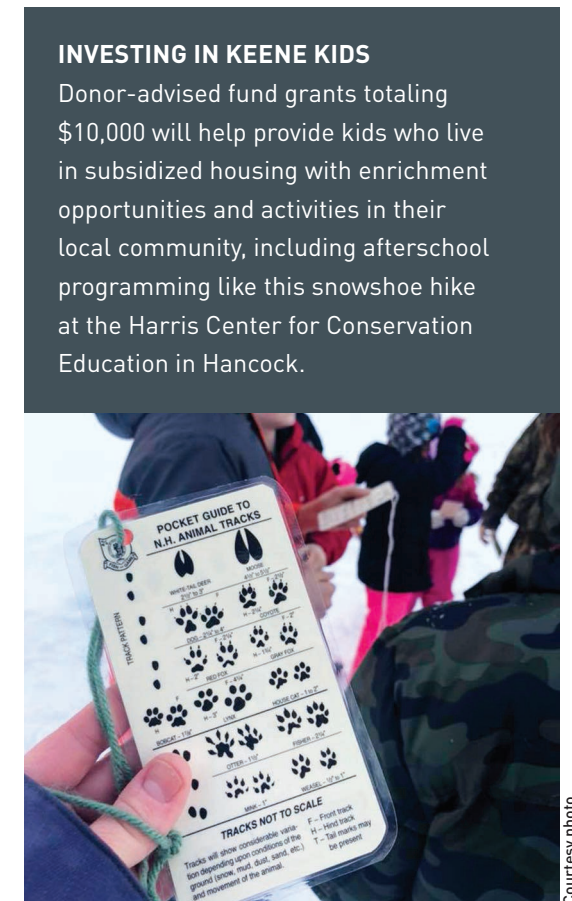
Campbell High School teacher Justin Ballou, the Foundation's 2018 Christa McAuliffe Sabbatical recipient, will spend the 2018-2019 school year building and testing out a new project-based learning platform he developed called "Socrademy" to better stimulate and evaluate learning by turning a traditional class into a series of modern and tangible student-driven projects.



Courtesy photo

ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN CONCORD

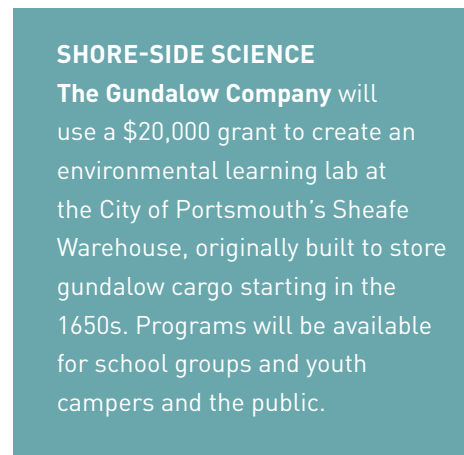
Grants from donor-advised funds contributed \$83,000 to support the **Concord Coalition to End Homelessness'** Safe Spaces fundraising campaign that aims to build a new, permanent cold-weather shelter and to support the operations of all of the Coalition's programs for three years.



Courtesy photo

INVESTING IN KEENE KIDS

Donor-advised fund grants totaling \$10,000 will help provide kids who live in subsidized housing with enrichment opportunities and activities in their local community, including afterschool programming like this snowshoe hike at the Harris Center for Conservation Education in Hancock.



SHORE-SIDE SCIENCE

The Gundalow Company will use a \$20,000 grant to create an environmental learning lab at the City of Portsmouth's Sheafe Warehouse, originally built to store gundalow cargo starting in the 1650s. Programs will be available for school groups and youth campers and the public.



Photo: Ralph Morang



Photo: Nancy Nuttle-McMenemy for Lebanon Opera House

A STARRING ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY

A \$20,000 unrestricted grant to the **Lebanon Opera House**, the only community-based theater of its size in west-central New Hampshire, is helping to support its operations. The Opera House presents live performances and hosts more than 55,000 visitors, 7,000 students and 25 community groups each year.

Attorney Ruth Heintz (right) and paralegal Dona Larsen cover the territory from Plymouth to the Canadian border.

TAKING THE HARD CASES

New Hampshire Legal Assistance's North Country staff provides civil legal services to those most in need

Case load (partial): A single mom, working full-time at a fast-food job, about to be evicted with her preschooler. An elderly veteran who needs in-home care to be able to stay in his Section 8 housing. A young woman who needs a restraining order against an abusive ex-boyfriend. An elderly man whose electricity is about to be shut off. A woman with serious medical issues caused by a brain tumor who lost her disability benefits and is now in danger of losing her mobile home.

Every day, attorney Ruth Heintz and paralegal Dona Larsen show up for

work at the sparsely-furnished office of New Hampshire Legal Assistance in Berlin and help people with an intricate array of civil legal problems. This two-woman legal team covers a vast territory, from Plymouth to the Canadian border.

They help people from becoming homeless, help protect them from domestic violence, help them work out custody arrangements or keep the benefits that allow them to care for disabled kids. The details shift, the names and faces change, but there is never a day when someone does not need their help.

The Berlin office, next door to the Legion Hall and across the road from the rushing Androscoggin River, is the only New Hampshire Legal Assistance office in the far northern reaches of the state. The next closest is Concord. If you live in, say, Pittsburg, and your transportation is unreliable, Concord might as well be in Paris, France.

From five locations across the state, New Hampshire Legal Assistance provides civil legal services to low-income residents — addressing problems related to people's most basic daily needs, providing education and advocating for systemic change on

issues faced by the population it serves.

Like all nonprofits, it struggles to maintain enough funding to provide these critical services.

Seven years ago, Legal Assistance saw its state funding cut by \$1 million (from \$1.7 million). The organization, which had also faced diminished funding from other sources, was forced to close offices in Nashua and Littleton and cut 15 staff positions.

The Berlin office was also on the brink of being shuttered.

Grants from the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation have kept the Berlin office open — and kept Heintz and Larsen available to people who need their help. While some state funding has since been reinstated, the Tillotson Fund continues to support operations in Berlin.

"Without the funding, we wouldn't be here. Period," says Larsen.

When Larsen came to work here, she was one of eight staff members, including two attorneys and three paralegals. The Berlin outpost of Legal Assistance had the largest law library in the North Country — which was available to anyone who needed it.

The North Country has fewer practicing attorneys than other parts of the state, which makes the presence of Legal Assistance here even more critical — because the pool of lawyers willing to work pro bono is shallow indeed.

Heintz and Larsen drive dirt roads and byways to meet clients where they are. Often, their clients have no transportation. It's not unheard-of to find them filling out paperwork in a Dunkin' Donuts, or in a borrowed office, or clearing off space on the

"If we don't take the hard cases, who is going to?"

— Ruth Heintz, attorney, New Hampshire Legal Assistance

countertops of a mobile home to explain a case.

Judith was referred to Legal Assistance from a domestic violence crisis center. She had quit college when she got together with her husband. Now, she needed help with a restraining order and needed a lawyer to represent her in a divorce and custody case. Heintz was that lawyer.

"Just to have somebody who could represent me and talk for me was so important," Judith said. "I was there and I was facing him, but if I had to do it by myself, I don't know that I could have. I can't promise that I wouldn't have gone back ... I had Ruth right by my side."

Often, Heintz and Larsen's jobs are about helping people to clear the chaos that swirls around poverty. After Judith's restraining order and divorce were settled, the chaos gathered again: her student loan company sued her for collection of debt. Heintz is representing her in that case, working to get the loans put on hold while Judith gets back on her feet. Judith is working as a cashier now, building her credit and planning to go back to college. Heintz will represent her at her next hearing.

This is not the kind of legal work that will make you rich, or even close. But there was no other kind of legal work Heintz ever wanted to do. She went to Dartmouth College and then to law school specifically to become a legal aid lawyer. She sees herself

as the small-town lawyer she is, and comes to work in a pantsuit with a woodsman's flannel coat over it.

Larsen grew up in Berlin's "Norwegian Village" and came to work for Legal Assistance in 1978. She drove her last car until it had 250,000 miles on the odometer — and only replaced it after a collision with a deer.

"I wanted to do something to help people in the most basic ways," Heintz says. "Doing this work, you have that capacity to help people, to challenge the law and to create systemic change."

Systemic change that Legal Assistance has pushed for includes successful advocacy for Medicaid expansion, protections to prevent lead poisoning in children and expansion of energy-efficiency programs for low-income residents. In 2016, Legal Assistance successfully argued before the state Supreme Court to strike down a state rule that had required children's disability benefits to be calculated as part of household income when people applied for help from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Heintz argued that case.

The cases that Legal Assistance takes are often complicated, and can be heartbreaking, and frustrating.

"If we don't take the hard cases," Heintz asks, "who is going to?" ■
LEARN MORE @ WWW.NHLA.ORG

Children at the Laconia Boys and Girls Club enjoy a hot meal prepared in "Mémère's Kitchen."

A LEGACY OF CARING AND JOY

Lois Roy Dickerman created a fund that will support New Hampshire communities forever

Lois Roy Dickerman was always ready to greet whatever adventure was around the next corner. She was the baby of a large, Irish-American family, one of the smartest students at her New York business school who always sang along with the radio and once danced with the Rockettes. She travelled the world and, well into her 90s, climbed aboard a hot-air balloon in a fur-trimmed red coat for the sheer delight of it. She adored jelly donuts (she always asked for an extra cup of jelly on the side) and would be as thrilled with that pastry as she would with a trip to Paris. She knew poverty, and she knew sorrow — and she responded with acceptance, and openness and joy.

That in-the-moment quality, that consistent choosing of joy, were her gifts.

When a friend or family member came to see her, she would light up, and clap her hands and exclaim, "Ooooooh, come in!" "Joyful is the one word I would use to describe her," said her great-niece Joan Amanna. "I think that defines her better than 'happy.' A lot of people can be happy, but she was joyful. It came from within and poured right out of her."

A charitable legacy

When Lois Roy Dickerman died at 103 in 2009, she left a considerable portion of her estate to establish the Lois Roy Dickerman Fund, a donor-advised fund at the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.

From that fund, about \$800,000 in grants goes out into New Hampshire communities every year.

When Meals on Wheels was forced to

cut delivery down to four days a week, grants were made from Lois' fund to reinstate five-day delivery. Her fund helps feed the hungry through the New Hampshire Food Bank. Lois' legacy helped City Year New Hampshire expand its youth mentoring and education programs; helps vulnerable families become self-sufficient through the critical services of Families in Transition; helps boost girls' confidence and leadership skills as they learn carpentry at Girls at Work. And much, much more.

The fund, along with a scholarship for nursing and vocational students that helps at least a dozen students each year, is positioned to support New Hampshire communities in perpetuity.

A bright mind, an undaunted spirit

Lois Roy Dickerman grew up knowing hardship, and life dealt her a fair amount of sorrow.

The Healion family lived in a "railroad flat" in The Bronx — a string of connected, narrow rooms with a bathroom down the hall. Lois married young, and her first husband died very young. She married again, to a man who sold insurance, and they moved to Manchester. She never bellyached about leaving the bright lights of New York City, love them though she did. (And she never regaled anyone with details about the Rockettes — she would just giggle, shyly proud, when someone else brought that up.) She got her insurance brokers' license, made a life in New Hampshire, and found joy where she was.

She was in her 50s when her second husband died. When she was introduced to Edward J. Roy, a Manchester real estate developer, both were smitten. They married, and took a honeymoon trip around the world.

"She made my father a very happy man," Richard Roy recalled. When Ed Roy was developing new neighborhoods in the city, he named Lois Street and

"You don't have to have your attorney constantly involved to make sure things are going right. The Foundation does most of the legwork."

— Anu Mullikin, estate planning attorney, Devine Millimet

Healion Street both for his wife. Lois got her real estate license and worked with her husband. He was a native French speaker, so she learned to speak French.

"She was such a bright mind and she was always learning, and I think she probably was a really good partner to her husbands in their work," Amanna said.

She never had children of her own, but established close bonds with her nieces, nephews, step-children and grandchildren.

After Ed Roy died, Lois would marry again, to Dr. Frederick Dickerman. She never dropped "Roy" from her name.

Foundation helps fulfill legacy

During her lifetime, Lois had initially planned for a private foundation to fulfill her charitable legacy and those of Ed Roy and Fred Dickerman.

Her estate planning attorney, Anu Mullikin of Devine Millimet, suggested working through the Foundation instead.

"I pointed out to her that there was much more certainty that her wishes would be fulfilled," Mullikin said. "That's what the Charitable Foundation does. They have no personal horse in the race, they are regulated and there is oversight."

And, Mullikin said, "You don't have to have your attorney constantly involved to make sure things are going right. The Foundation does most of the legwork."

Lois, Mullikin said "was savvy and she had good instincts. She didn't just take my advice." Lois met with Foundation staff over a period of years.

Lois had a complicated set of assets — including buildings, securities and other

investments — that were liquidated to build her fund. She named Roy family members and longtime friend Art DeSaulnier as fund advisors.

Anne Phillips, the Foundation's director of grantmaking, works with those advisors closely — suggesting funding opportunities, arranging visits to nonprofits, answering questions and providing direction.

"Without them, we wouldn't know where to start or where to go," Richard Roy said.

"It's a wonderful feeling for us to know that we are making a big difference."

Ted Roy, Richard's son and another fund advisor, called Lois "Mémère." To him, she was his grandmother, a woman who always smiled and wanted to take care of people less fortunate.

"She hated to see anyone unhappy or unfed," Ted Roy said.

At the Boys and Girls Club in Laconia, children are fed supper five nights a week. That meal is possible because the Lois Roy Dickerman Fund covered a significant portion of the cost for a brand-new commercial kitchen, which allows the club, in partnership with the Food Bank, to feed nutritious dinners to kids in need.

There is a sign over the kitchen door: "Mémère's Kitchen." The act of feeding hungry kids would have brought Lois joy.

"She had a lot of sorrow, but I don't think she dwelled on the sorrow," said Amanna, her niece. "She dwelled on the joy. And through her fund, she is still bringing joy." ■

To learn more about how you can leave a legacy for your community, contact [Laura Rauscher, director of philanthropy](mailto:Laura.Rauscher@nhcf.org), at 800-464-6641 ext. 274 or ljr@nhcf.org.





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Championing New Hampshire's nonprofit sector.
It's what Dianne Mercier is up to.

UP TO THE PROMISE

Dianne Mercier understands exactly how important New Hampshire's nonprofits are to families.

Dianne is president of People's United Bank now. She got some critical help getting there.

When she was a young, single mom, she worked full-time at a bank and went to school at night.

"The Boys and Girls Club saved my family," she said. "Not just my kids. They made my future possible." How? By providing before- and after-school care, snow-day care and summer camp — with homework club, mentoring and enrichment activities. Dianne could get her degree and cultivate a career that would provide for her family — knowing that her kids were thriving.

Dianne is a champion for the nonprofit sector. She raises money for the Boys and Girls Club and serves on multiple nonprofit boards. She is a member of the New Hampshire Tomorrow Leadership Council, helping to guide the Charitable Foundation's initiative to increase opportunities for New Hampshire's kids. And she is vice president of the People's United Community Foundation, which has aligned its grantmaking with New Hampshire Tomorrow.

When Dianne was working her way up, a nonprofit had her back — and her kids' backs. Now she has theirs. ■

