

PURPOSE

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Cover: Sharon was able to find a home for her family thanks to CATCH Neighborhood Housing

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.

Printed on 100-percent recycled paper made by Monadnock Paper Mills in Bennington, NH.



Confirmed in compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations.

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PURPOSE is published twice a year.
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TOGETHER WE THRIVE

By Richard Ober, president and CEO



For all of us to thrive, together, we need to face the challenges of this era with adaptation and determination to change.

We want New Hampshire to be a community where everyone can thrive.

When a community can draw on the potential, strength, ingenuity and grace of every person in it, that community will be healthier, happier, more prosperous and a better place to live for all.

This aspiration is not new. But to make real, lasting progress, we need to think and act differently. It starts with being clear about who faces barriers to thriving, why those barriers exist and what it takes to remove them.

That is the work of our community foundation, now more than ever.

The crises of recent years — a pandemic, economic and social upheaval, polarization, threats to democracy, accelerating climate change — have further illuminated and widened inequities in New Hampshire. Too many of us face obstacles based on

race, gender identity, socioeconomic background, age, geography, sexual orientation, immigration status, ability and other factors. People of color, in particular, face disproportionate barriers — to housing, health care, environmental protection and more.

For all of us to thrive, together, we need to face the challenges of this era with adaptation and determination to change. And — equally essential — with the hope, love and courage that nonprofits and the people who support them have shown in the last few years.

We have been asking what that means for the Foundation: Are we tackling big enough problems at their root causes? Whose voices are missing, and why? Where has philanthropy itself contributed to inequity? How can we collaborate more effectively with nonprofits, donors and other community members?

In December, the Foundation Board of Directors adopted a new strategic plan to answer those questions. It is called “Together We Thrive.”

Our purpose is to make New Hampshire a more just, sustainable and vibrant community by advancing

equity and racial justice across the Foundation — leading with community, mobilizing philanthropic resources and aligning internal operations. We will elevate community voices in our decision-making, sharing power and creating solutions together. We will live our values: Accountability. Belonging. Collaboration. Courage. Equity. Justice. I invite you to learn more at nhcf.org/TogetherWeThrive.

The spirit of “Together We Thrive” animates this issue of Purpose with stories about diversity and inclusion in Manchester schools (page 9), nonprofits tackling the housing crisis (page 6), a new racial justice fund (page 4), donor generosity (page 14) and more.

We believe that New Hampshire can be a community where we can all thrive, together. Our future and shared well-being depend on it.

This work will take deep collaboration, unflagging tenacity and time. It is both urgent and generational, which is exactly what community foundations are built for. ■



Elizabeth Cannon, 2022 recipient of the Christa McAuliffe Sabbatical, goes over a lesson with a student

NEW APPROACHES TO EARLY LITERACY

Elizabeth Cannon, a reading specialist at Harold Martin Elementary School in Hopkinton, has been awarded the 2022 Christa McAuliffe Sabbatical. Cannon's project aims to help improve early literacy for students throughout New Hampshire using approaches based on new scientific research.

The sabbatical, created in 1986 in honor of the Concord High School teacher and astronaut, is administered by the Foundation. It gives an exemplary New Hampshire teacher a year off with pay and a materials budget to bring a great educational idea to fruition.

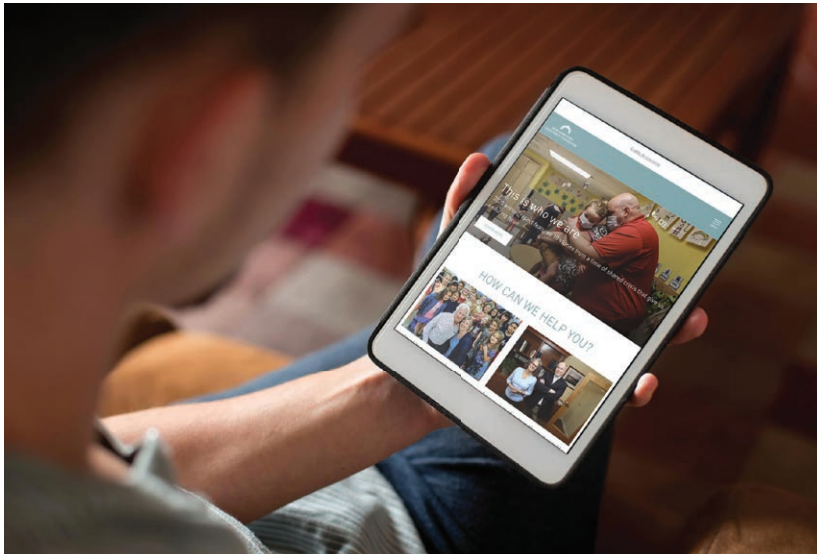
Cannon will devote the next school year to building her own knowledge, sharing new research and resources, exploring how to incorporate them in lessons and working with teachers to build a statewide network to support each other in their crucial task of teaching young children how to read.

"Early literacy is the most pressing issue in education today," Cannon said. "Without adequate literacy skills, your likelihood of poverty, your likelihood of ending up in prison increase. You can't start building all of the other blocks of learning until literacy is there." ■

FOUNDATION LAUNCHES RACIAL JUSTICE FUND

The Foundation will seek community participants to design and lead the work of the newly established Racial Justice Fund. The Foundation's commitment to equity and racial justice is incorporated across our work, and this fund represents one aspect of that commitment. The work of the fund will be led by a group of community members with lived

experience and a passion for advancing racial justice. The group will decide how the fund should be used to advance racial justice in New Hampshire and define goals and priorities for the fund, which will have dedicated funding from the Foundation. To learn more about participating in the work of the Racial Justice Fund, visit nhcf.org/RacialJusticeFund. ■



MAKING NHCF.ORG ACCESSIBLE

The Foundation’s website, nhcf.org, has been updated to be more accessible to people with a range of disabilities — including blindness, low vision, deafness and hearing loss. Software and design updates have been implemented to make the site more user-friendly for people who use screen-readers to navigate website content, to ensure proper contrast ratios for people with moderately low vision and to make the site entirely operable through a keyboard interface without requiring specific timings for keystrokes. Clicking the “Enable accessibility” hyperlink at the very top of the website enables accessibility mode throughout the site. Updates will be ongoing. ■

WELCOME, CHRISTINA AND WILLIAM



Christina D’Allesandro and William Abbott have joined the Foundation’s team.

Christina is our director of early childhood and family supports. Her work is a key component of the Foundation’s “New Hampshire Tomorrow” initiative to improve outcomes for children and families who face barriers to opportunity. Christina comes to the Foundation from MomsRising, a national policy and advocacy group.



William, who led the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust in North Conway for a decade, joins the Foundation as senior philanthropy advisor for our Lakes and North Country regions. He is working with donors who want to make an impact with their philanthropy on a wide range of issues. ■

KUDOS



The University of New Hampshire will present Foundation Director **JerriAnne Boggis** with its Granite State Award and Foundation donor **JoAnne Lamprey** with an honorary degree during its commencement ceremony in Durham in May.



Courtesy photo

The **NH Center for Nonprofits** announced the recipients of its 2022 Nonprofit Impact Awards: the **Aviation Museum of NH** and **NH Legal Assistance** received Nonprofit Impact Awards; Margaret Nelson, executive director of **The River Center**, received the NH Impact Award; and Allan Waterfield and Kurt Webber received Board Impact Awards.



The Palace Theatres were named Nonprofit of the Year by Business NH Magazine. The Foundation sponsors this award and presents the recipient with a \$5,000 grant in honor of Walter J. Dunfey, NH entrepreneur and philanthropist.



A GROWING CRISIS

Nonprofits are working on multiple fronts to address New Hampshire’s affordable housing crisis

Sharon and her family now have stable housing thanks to CATCH Neighborhood Housing

Sharon counts her family among the fortunate ones.

For five months, she shepherded her family from place to place. Sharon, her 22-year-old daughter with disabilities and her three grandchildren under 10, spent Christmas in a motel. They had a little blue tree that came from a client whose office Sharon cleans.

They slept on floors and couches. Sharon thought about a shelter, but was unsure the family would be safe from Covid in a congregate setting.

They all got Covid anyway.

Sharon, who runs her own cleaning business, tried desperately to find housing. Apartment showings were crowded. Rents were approaching \$3,000 a month for three-bedroom units.

The family had been going from hotels to friends’ houses. Sharon got a call from a client on a day when she could not take the job because she had to find new place to stay before the end of the school day.

“I didn’t want to ask for help,” Sharon said. “It’s embarrassing to say ‘I am homeless and I can’t provide a place for my kids to stay.’”

When she did explain why she could not work that day, her client clicked into high gear. She helped find a motel room, created a “GoFundMe” page to help the family — and connected Sharon with CATCH, a nonprofit developer of affordable housing. On the same day Sharon was interviewed for one of CATCH’s three-bedroom units, someone else took their own name off the waiting list and Sharon found herself, miraculously, at the top. She still had to wait (construction was not complete) but now her family is in a townhouse with affordable rent and a backyard. Sharon keeps reaching for the word “heaven” to describe it.



New Hampshire’s housing crisis is not new. But it is severe.

More than 4,600 people — including more than 1,254 families — experienced homelessness in New Hampshire in 2021. People — including some working full-time — are living in cars, shelters, tents, on other people’s living room floors.

The state’s rental vacancy as of July 2021 was less than 1 percent for market-rate units. In some areas the rate is as low as 0.6 percent.

Rents have been climbing steadily. A wage earner in New Hampshire must make almost \$25 an hour to afford an average two-bedroom apartment.

The pandemic exacerbated the crisis — creating more demand that drove prices up and resulted in bidding wars for houses and fierce competition for apartments.

“You just have such restrictive supply and such high demand,” said Elissa Margolin, executive director of Housing Action NH. “If you are a person of moderate, low or extremely low income

it is almost impossible to find housing.”

The crisis has ripple effects. Housing instability and homelessness have lasting adverse effects on the mental health, physical health and economic mobility of families and children.

Housing segregation by class — endemic, particularly in New Hampshire’s most populous cities — presents a chilling barrier to success for children who grow up surrounded by poverty. The barriers are even higher for many Black and Latino children.

The housing crisis has economic fallout, with New Hampshire businesses unable to hire people for lack of housing options, or unable to find housing for new hires.

The housing crisis is enormously complex and defies any single solution. New Hampshire nonprofits have been working on multiple fronts to address the crisis, and the Foundation has been proud to support their efforts. Here are some of the ways in which nonprofits are working to address this crisis.

Building, refurbishing and financing affordable housing

CATCH Neighborhood Housing, the organization that built Sharon’s home, was founded in response to the state’s housing crisis. In 1989.

In that time, it has created almost 400 affordable housing units and, through the HOMEteam program created in partnership with Neighborworks Southern NH, provides workshops, counseling and other resources for first-time home buyers, for renters to save for home ownership, and for home owners to protect their investments in their homes.

Similar organizations around the state — from Nashua to the North Country — have been working diligently for decades.

Nonprofits also finance affordable

“First and foremost, restrictive zoning and excessive regulation at the local level is what has prevented the market from meeting demand in recent decades. The number one way most of us can make a difference is by getting involved at the local level.”

—Rob Dapice, executive director of NH Housing

housing. The NH Community Loan Fund provides access to credit, along with education, to help people with low incomes purchase manufactured homes, and flexible financing to developers of affordable housing. The Community Loan Fund’s ROC-NH (resident-owned communities) program, which helps homeowners in manufactured housing parks purchase and manage their parks as cooperatives, has become a national model for creating sustainable communities of affordable housing. There are now 142 ROCs around the state, containing more than 8,500 affordable homes.

Innovations continue to spring up: Nonprofits are working in local coalitions, and directly with landlords, businesses and developers, to increase availability of affordable housing.

But it’s an uphill battle: To meet current demand and stabilize the housing market, New Hampshire needs an estimated 20,000 additional housing units.

Advocating for policies and public investments

Advocacy at the state level has led to some important progress in recent years.

Advocacy spurred the creation of the New Hampshire Council on Housing Stability, which adopted the

state’s first comprehensive plan to promote housing stability and address homelessness.

Margolin points to increased and dedicated funding for the state’s affordable housing fund and for homeless center services; the creation of a Medicaid benefit for supportive housing services; the establishment of a housing appeals board, protection of the state’s workforce housing law and passage of an accessory dwelling unit law; and the securing of critical federal funding for rental assistance and homeless services.

Governor Chris Sununu recently announced that \$100 million in federal funding will be allocated to ease the state’s housing crisis by providing incentives to municipalities and developers to build more housing.

Housing Action New Hampshire NH and others are advocating for a raft of pending state legislation to expand affordable housing.

Regional nonprofit coalitions are leading efforts to make local ordinances and regulations more welcoming to affordable housing.

“First and foremost, restrictive zoning and excessive regulation at the local level is what has prevented the market from meeting demand in recent decades,” said Rob Dapice,

(Continued, p. 8)

executive director of NH Housing. “The number one way most of us can make a difference is by getting involved at the local level. We need to recognize that people need diverse housing choices in the communities where they live and want to live.”

In the Mount Washington Valley — which depends on the outdoor recreation and tourism industries — the people who make those industries run have too frequently found themselves living in cars and tents for lack of affordable housing options.

The Mount Washington Valley Housing Coalition led an effort in Conway for a warrant article that passed by a wide margin and unlocked the possibility for a new housing development. It’s also working on additional measures.

“We’re not saying to throw regulations out the window,” said Coalition Executive Director Harrison Kanzler. “What is important is to know what you don’t want and know what you need, and be able to be proactive with your zoning to differentiate those things.”

Protecting people facing eviction

Housing represents the largest practice area of NH Legal Assistance, a nonprofit law firm that provides people with low incomes with legal advice, representation and advocacy in non-criminal cases.

“We are focused on keeping people in their housing, because our client community is at risk of chronic homelessness if they get evicted in this housing market,” said Legal Assistance Executive Director Sarah Mattson Dustin.

Legal Assistance recently partnered with New Hampshire courts and Southern NH Services to help connect

people facing eviction with federal emergency rental assistance made available through Covid relief legislation.

Still, the crisis is deepening for some of the state’s most vulnerable residents. People who qualify for subsidized housing through the federal Housing Choice Voucher Program (or “Section 8”) are far less likely to be able to find housing here than they were less than a decade ago.

To alleviate the current housing crisis for people with limited incomes, Mattson Dustin said, the state needs more subsidized housing, more landlords who will accept housing vouchers — and zoning changes to promote more housing options.

Dapice said that he expects the federal emergency rental assistance money, which has helped many people stay housed, to be expended by the end of 2022.

Providing direct services to the unhoused

When the pandemic hit, New Hampshire’s homeless shelters adapted in ways large and small. Hundred Nights in Keene houses people in its shelter building — plus a converted bus and hotel rooms.

“There has been a huge increase this year” in people needing the shelter, said Hundred Nights Executive Director Mindy Cambiar. “People have been getting evicted left and right because landlords are selling buildings because real estate prices are so high.”

The organization is now creating a standalone, 48-bed shelter. It is expected to be full the day it opens. Hundred Nights is one of more than two dozen organizations statewide that provide shelter and other services for people experiencing homelessness.

Providing transitional supportive housing

Nonprofit organizations around New Hampshire provide people with a bevy of supports to help them move to permanent housing.

At Family Promise of Southern NH in Nashua, those services include congregate housing, classes, counseling, connection to community resources, and a savings program so people can build credit and afford a home or apartment.

“These are hard-working families,” said Executive Director Pamela Wellman. “They make average salaries, but it’s not enough to support a family.”

The effects can be devastating.

“We have seen an increase in mental health issues,” she said. “If somebody is sleeping in their car and they have lost their job and their home — of course they are going to have mental health issues. Families are under a ton of stress.”

♦ ♦ ♦

The housing crisis affects everyone: young families, people trying to downsize, people running businesses, hospitals and other critical service providers — and everyone who needs goods and services.

Sharon said that while she was searching desperately for a home, she met many other families “struggling just as much as I was.” Sometimes, they would show up at the same apartment tours, in competition for the space. She wishes she could find homes for them all.

“Something definitely has to change,” she said. Her grandchildren, she marvels, are “the strongest people I know. I am glad this didn’t break us, because it definitely almost did.” ■



DIVERSITY IS OUR STRENGTH

Christina Kim Philibotte is the chief equity officer for the Manchester School District. A Foundation grant to Manchester Proud helped support the creation of her position. She spoke to the Foundation's Lois Shea about her work.

What drove you to do this work?

We have a real opportunity right now to help folks feel seen, heard, valued and like they belong here. That was not my experience growing up in Manchester. Now, 48 percent of our students are students of color. The diversity of our students has changed, but unfortunately, systems have not.

What are the strengths you see in Manchester's schools and students?

Diversity is a real strength. If you want to work in a global environment and economy, this is the place to be. Kids are being exposed to multiple languages and cultures. There is just so much energy and so much joy. Some of our schools need more resources, for sure. That is something that Manchester has to grapple with. As a community, we have to balance the wonderful things with things that are not equitable. We need to be honest and look at systemic racism happening in our district. It's real and it bears out in the data year after year. Our reading scores are significantly below the state level. And when you step out by race/ethnicity you see some real disparities.

AP classes, Running Start classes, are less likely to have Black and brown kids in them. If we want to change that, we have to see it.

What are some of the things that you are working on now?

We are working on pathways for more teachers who are people of color to work in our schools. We have 97 teachers (or 6 percent) out of more than 1,600 who are people of color.

Study after study shows that representation helps academic and social success for students.

The other big project is the equity blueprint for the district. To create that, you have to understand the dynamics of what's going on in the schools.

And we are going to be doing training. The challenge right now is HB2 [the so-called "banned concepts" law that passed as an attachment to last year's state budget]. That has been tricky to navigate. Educators are afraid to lean into the work we need to do. People are hesitating to have conversations we would have had in the past. Part of my job is to help people understand the law and be courageous enough to continue the curriculum that already existed. The

reality of what is happening has placed a deep chill on how and what we teach — and that is not right.

What has been the response from students, to your position?

I am working with kids at the high schools who wanted to create BIPOC-led (Black, Indigenous and people of color) student advocacy groups. Simply sitting down with them and having a conversation where they feel safe and comfortable to talk about what they are experiencing in schools is so meaningful to them. They say to me every single time: "Nobody talks about this in our schools." It's an important conversation to have, and I didn't have that when I was a kid.

Some of what you are working on has brought out critics. What is the common ground that you see among parents?

They love their kids. They want what's best for their kids. I will always sit down and have a conversation with you. And I have found that every single time we sit face to face and have a coffee together and break bread together, *every single time*, we are able to come to a place of understanding and move forward together. ■

IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Nonprofits are improving the quality of life in every corner of New Hampshire



TEACHING IMPORTANT LESSONS

The Mount Kearsarge Indian Museum in Warner, led by Executive Director Andrew Bullock, presents 20,000 years of the diverse culture, rich history and current contributions of North America's Native people through exhibits, art displays, lectures, craft workshops, nature walks and by amplifying contemporary Native voices. With an operating grant from the Foundation, the Museum moved many programs online when Covid hit, which helped it continue its mission — and expand its reach.

SPORTS, ADAPTED FOR ALL
A multiyear operating grant is helping **Adaptive Sports Partners of the North Country** provide year-round opportunities for sport, recreation and wellness, enriching quality of life for people with disabilities. Located in the White Mountains, the organization offers hiking, biking, swimming, kayaking, skiing, snowshoeing, rock climbing, golf, fly fishing — even gardening.



Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

IN THEIR OWN VOICES

The Laconia Daily Sun has embarked on a project to hear directly from young people about their Covid experiences and other issues important to them. As part of the "Voices Project," the Sun will employ a Solutions Journalism approach to articles about the issues young people bring up, examining how similar issues have been addressed elsewhere and what solutions might be options for the Lakes Region. The project is supported by a donor-advised-fund grant from the Foundation.

GROWING FOOD AND CONNECTIONS

Grow Nashua helps feed, educate and connect thousands of residents through the creation of community gardens, education programs, “little free farm stands,” curbside composting and a “little free farmstand truck” that makes the rounds to deliver fresh produce to people who need it. It started as a way to connect New Americans with urban gardens where they could grow food and connect with their neighbors, and will serve an estimated 6,000 people this year through its programs.



Courtesy photo



Photo by Geoff Forester

STUDYING AT PSU AND WELCOMING REFUGEES

As a youngster in Afghanistan and Pakistan, **Hussain Amiri** sold firewood and made carpets to help support his family, then studied at night. After enduring war and trauma, his family arrived in Concord with only what they carried and very little idea of what to expect. Now, Hussain is studying computer science at Plymouth State University with help from a Foundation scholarship. He also works as a case manager at Building Community in NH, a nonprofit that helps refugees build new lives in the state.

COMMUNITY ARTS IN NEWPORT

The Library Arts Center supports local artists, provides performance, exhibition and studio space; it also offers classes and workshops for everyone from children to elders. The center is a vibrant part of the local creative economy and draws people to Newport’s historic downtown. A Foundation grant helps to support the center’s operations.



Courtesy photo

SCIENCE ON THE SEACOAST

The Seacoast Science Center in Rye helps people explore, discover and connect with nature through marine and environmental education and conservation programs. Foundation grants have supported programming as well as the center’s Marine Mammal Rescue operation, which rescues seals, whales, porpoises and dolphins. This year, the team released a few young gray seals after nursing them back to health.



Courtesy photo

Julie and grandson Darius during a recent "Parenting the Second Time Around" program at the Upper Room family resource center

A LIFELINE FOR FAMILIES

A network of 16 nonprofit family resource centers from Gorham to Peterborough provides critical and ongoing support to thousands of New Hampshire families

Cindy was doing her best. She was working a remote job for an insurance provider. Her two teenage daughters were home all day, and adapting to remote schooling. Her newborn granddaughter needed constant care — and diapers and formula. Then Cindy had to have surgery that landed her on short-term disability, diminishing her income. There was not enough money, and just going to the store was a perilous undertaking.

"I thought I was going to have a breakdown," said the matriarch of this small family. "The stress level was

extremely high, with Covid and working from home, and taking care of two teenagers and a grandbaby all by myself."

But this family — like thousands around the state — had a lifeline in the form of the local family resource center. Cindy's eldest had already been attending parenting classes at the Upper Room Family Resource Center in Derry, and Cindy was part of the Kinship Navigation Program for grandparents and other caregivers raising children.

"They showed up with food and diapers," Cindy said, her voice wavering. "I could do Zoom classes

with other grandparents. They were able to reach out and get me information on rental assistance."

A network of 16 nonprofit family resource centers from Gorham to Peterborough provides critical support to thousands of families working to build better lives. The family resource center model brings a range of services for families together in one place — from prenatal, parenting and positive discipline classes to high school-equivalency training, playtimes, family events and help for grandparents and other caregivers who are raising children. Some provide space for Head

Start and other preschool programs; others provide free help preparing tax returns. No two centers are exactly the same, but all are hubs for family support, and the people who work in them are dogged champions of the families they serve.

“We are these little, unique entities that over the last five to ten years have grown into a very tight, intimately connected force,” said Brenda Guggisberg, director of the Upper Room.

As part of its “New Hampshire Tomorrow” initiative to help families and children thrive, the Charitable Foundation has worked in close collaboration with family resource centers to determine need and strategy to support the strengthening of those organizations.

Ten of the state’s family resource centers participated in a financial resiliency project sponsored by the Foundation to help strengthen core operations. Projects tailored to each center helped them adapt to the financial and business implications of the pandemic.

“Those projects really allowed us to look at the bigger picture and structure ourselves to be able to absorb all the things were coming at us,” said Erin Pettengill of the Lakes Region Family Resource Center in Laconia and chair of Family Support NH, the state’s coalition of family resource centers.

Family resource centers adapted in ingenious and heroic ways to continue to provide services — and meet increased and more complex needs — despite the challenges of Covid. The Foundation has made grants of flexible operating support to family

“Every single one of us needs support at some time or other in our life. There is a commonality we all share — whether we are a little kid or elderly person or family with a baby or a teen or empty nesters. The role of the family resource center is to be able to get people connected to what they need.”

—Margaret Nelson of the River Center in Peterborough

resource centers around the state. “Operating funds are priceless for us,” said Pettengill. “If we didn’t have flexible funding during Covid, the state of New Hampshire would have a lot more families that are struggling with basic needs.”

Foundation staff collaborated with the New Hampshire Children’s Trust and Family Support NH to design a program to get more direct support to families in need. Funds, administered by the Children’s Trust, have been distributed to centers to help meet families’ basic needs — anything from diapers to car repairs to dental bills to firewood.

The availability of direct support, said Margaret Nelson of the River Center in Peterborough, will help resource centers reach more families. “If we order a cord of wood for a family and then they quickly need more,” Nelson said, “we can ask, systemically, ‘What is going on, and how can we help you with that?’”

And funding to the Children’s Trust, coupled with advocacy that helped secure state funding for the network of resource centers, helped bring

in additional federal funding for programs that support families.

“Family resource centers provide the kinds of supports that can make a huge difference in the ultimate outcomes for children,” said Christina D’Allesandro, Foundation director of family and youth supports. “Staff in these centers are doing incredible work, with very tight resources, to help families address complex sets of challenges.”

Family resource centers are there to support all families — regardless of income or circumstance.

“Every single one of us needs support at some time or other,” said Nelson, of the River Center. “There is a commonality we all share — whether we are a little kid or elderly person or family with a baby or a teen or empty nesters. The role of the family resource center is to get people connected to what they need.”

The other day, Cindy saw a Facebook post from a father who had unexpectedly found himself solo-parenting a three-year-old. She knew just who to tell him to call. ■

LEARN MORE @ WWW.FSNH.ORG

Innocent Ndagijimana of Nashua is studying business administration with help from a scholarship from the David C. Prescott Fund

BELIEVING IN THE POWER OF EDUCATION

David C. Prescott saved for years to create a scholarship that will help New Hampshire students for generations

David C. Prescott started high school in the late 1940s at Manchester Central, in the heart of Manchester. The story goes that his principal pulled him aside one day at the end of his sophomore year and suggested he go visit St. Paul's School, the prestigious private boarding school in Concord.

On a Saturday morning, he started hitchhiking north. He found the St. Paul's campus and met the headmaster who — after a lengthy conversation — offered him a full scholarship.

"He didn't have any money, but he was a genius, an extremely brilliant man with a photographic memory," said Carroll Winch, Prescott's friend of more than two decades, to whom Prescott told the story of his own education.

Prescott graduated from St. Paul's in 1952 and went on to earn a scholarship

from Yale and another, for graduate school, from Harvard. He studied history and architecture and launched a career as an architect.

Prescott never stopped devouring education. He never married nor had children, but traveled the world — Greece, France, Egypt, Turkey, Kathmandu. He studied the architecture of each place he visited, and read voraciously: tomes of European history, books on finance and at least three newspapers each day. Corn muffins and vanilla ice cream were his preferred breakfast, and a parlor trick he enjoyed was naming the monarchs of European nations, in order, over a span of 500 years. He worked in New York and Boston and, when his parents were aged and needed help, moved back into his family home on Hubbard Street in

Manchester, where he lived until near the end of his life.

Other than on books and travel, Prescott disliked spending money. He always wore a clean and pressed shirt-tie-suspenders combo — but the sweater he wore over it had holes in the elbows. He counted out grocery money to the penny from an ancient leather change purse. But he had books everywhere.

"Education was all-important to him," said his friend Maddy Wisausky. "He always stressed how you could never have enough education in this life."

Prescott could be brusque in conversation — but, Wisausky said, "He always saw the potential in people."

When Prescott died, he left a bequest to create the David C. Prescott scholarship at the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.

“I believe that education is the key to becoming successful in life.”

—Innocent Ndagijimana

He had planned it for years, his friend Carroll Winch said — and that was part of why he didn’t want to spend money. He was saving to help other people get an education. Attorney Bob Wells helped Prescott with his estate plans.

“He grew up poor, so every nickel counted,” Winch said. “He was worth several million, but he really was saving it to fund that scholarship. He really believed in education, and that’s why it’s there.”

The Prescott Scholarship is for any New Hampshire student, in any field of study. It is set up to provide scholarships in perpetuity.

“Scholarship funds that are unrestricted, like this one, allow us such valuable flexibility to help any student who needs the help,” said Michael Turmelle, Foundation director of education and career initiatives. The Charitable Foundation is the largest provider of publicly available student aid in New Hampshire, awarding more than \$7 million in scholarships to some 1,700 students each year.

The Prescott Fund is helping Summer Boudreau of Danville get a certificate in welding technology from Great Bay Community College. She is already working in an entry-level welding job at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. She works from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and then on Tuesdays and Thursdays, she goes directly to class until 9 p.m.

“The scholarship allows me to do the program. Otherwise I wouldn’t be able to afford it,” Boudreau said. “It is giving me the chance of new

education and a new career path and a leg up in my career.” The certificate, in addition to her experience, will help Boudreau advance in her field.

Innocent Ndagijimana of Nashua is studying business administration with help from a Prescott Fund scholarship. He was born in a refugee camp in Rwanda, where his family had been displaced by war. Educational opportunities for young people in the camp were limited. Still, he studied, learned to speak multiple languages and was placed in the 10th grade when his family was resettled in New Hampshire. He worked to help support his family while he was in high school — first as a housekeeper at a chain hotel and then at UPS. He often got home from work at 11 p.m.

“I want to become an educated person, to know exactly what is going on and how things work,” he said.

Ndagijimana finished high school at age 20, and was determined to continue his education. Now he is studying at NHTI, Concord’s community college, where he is president of the Cultural Exchange Club. He works three, 12-hour shifts at an electronics manufacturer on weekends. He plans to finish his associate’s in May and then transfer to the University of New Hampshire to complete his bachelor’s degree.

Ndagijimana’s focus on the importance of education is not unlike that of a young man who hitchhiked to Concord in 1950 on the way to his first scholarship.

“I believe,” Ndagijimana said, “that education is the key to becoming successful in life.” ■



Help students get the education they need

Scholarships help New Hampshire students who have limited resources pay for the education they need.

The Foundation administers more than 400 individual scholarship funds, set up by generous families and individuals.

Scholarship funds can be set up to be open to any qualified applicant, or to support students from a particular community, graduates from a specific high school, or those entering certain fields of study. Scholarships can help cover the costs of a two- or four-year degree, or a trade certificate or credential. They can be set up to be renewable, to help students throughout their college careers.

The Foundation’s Student Aid team processes all applications, selects recipients with assistance from volunteer scholarship committees and awards scholarships to about 1,700 students every year.

Scholarship funds can be set up to continue in perpetuity — so that your gift continues to help students for generations to come. You may make additional tax-deductible gifts of any amount into your fund at any time, and you can also invite others to contribute to your fund.

Scholarship funds may be established with \$25,000 — or you may make contributions of any amount to an existing scholarship fund.

To learn more about setting up a scholarship fund at the Foundation, please contact Laura Rauscher, director of philanthropy, at 800-464-6641 ext. 274 or Laura.Rauscher@nhcf.org.



NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

37 Pleasant St.
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AN EXCEPTIONAL SHOP TEACHER

Eugene Reid got a phone call from a former student. The young man, whose family had struggled with poverty, had been part of Reid's Building Trades program, then went on to an apprenticeship program in sheet metal fabrication. Now he is working a union job — and likely out-earning his former teacher.

"I love my job," the young man said. "I am doing well — and I have you to thank."

Eugene Reid is a self-described "shop teacher" at Canaan Memorial High School in Vermont, which serves students from Vermont and New Hampshire. Reid received the 2021 Louise Tillotson Teaching Fellowship, a \$10,000 stipend to support excellent public school teachers and reward their commitment to schools in the North Country.

In Reid's "Home Repair and Maintenance" class, students learn to wire switches, install toilets, maintain hot water heaters — and much more. His Building Construction and Restoration Carpentry program has students restoring entire historic homes. Every student who walks into his room is met with the life lessons on Reid's chalkboard: "Be kind. Be responsible. Be respectful. Be safe. Never watch someone struggle. If you are on time, you are already 10 minutes late."

"I know I make a difference," Reid said, "I have students who are doing very well and living well-adjusted lives — and it's because they went into a trade." ■

