Mike and Sheila Satzow are doing something big for Claremont

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"This may be the most important work of my career."

When my colleague Anne Phillips said that recently about a new childhood poverty initiative in Manchester, it got my attention fast.

Like all our program officers, Anne works on many issues and cares about them all. But the topic we were discussing that day stands apart. It is this:

Children across New Hampshire are falling into poverty at a faster rate than any state in the nation.

What? How can this be?

In 2011, we had the lowest childhood poverty rate in the United States.* The number has since jumped an appalling 30 percent, putting us higher than 15 other states. Nearly one in five young people is trying to survive under the poverty line, which means we are failing 11,000 more kids than we were two years ago. And we’ve allowed this to happen during a period when the U.S. average has been nearly stable. The situation is especially bad for children under 5. It will only get worse if we don’t break the cycle.

Few issues are more complex than this one. Factors driving poverty include unemployment, low wages, lack of health care, inadequate education, addiction, globalization, scarce job training. Where do you start? It turns out there is a very good place — with smart investments in education, family supports, and health care for the littlest kids. Here’s why.

Without access to quality early learning and care, a child can get so far behind by kindergarten that it is very hard to catch up. By third grade, it may be impossible. Her lifetime earnings and chance for self-sufficiency go down, and her chance of poor health and raising the next generation in poverty go up. Way up.

Some argue this is only the parents’ problem, that we have no common obligation to help a three-year-old from drowning in economic conditions he did not create. Putting aside the dubious moral side of this, it is also fiscally irresponsible.

In a state with a rapidly aging population and near zero net migration, every child must succeed. It is an economic as well as social imperative.
A dollar invested in early childhood development produces an annual return to the economy of 7 to 10 percent, or a total of $4 to $17. And the earlier the investment (birth to age three), the greater the return. That’s because young kids who participate in good programs need less special education and social services, are a third more likely to graduate high school and twice as likely to attend college. That means they will have viable incomes, pay taxes and vote.

A growing body of evidence shows that success requires a comprehensive and integrated strategy across disciplines, blending early learning with other effective health and related services.

So that’s what we are doing.

In a state with a rapidly aging population and near zero net migration, every child must succeed. It is an economic as well as social imperative.

It starts with the North Country, where our Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund — led by Kirsten Scobie and guided by the advisory committee — has been the principal funder of the Coös Coalition for Young Children and Families. Since 2009, this alliance of nonprofits, health care agencies and educational institutions has united under a common vision: better health and education outcomes for every child in Coös County.

With Tillotson funding of $5 million in the past five years, the coalition and partners are getting real results. Twice as many licensed teachers are working in local child care centers, six times more programs are using evidence-based interventions and 253 young children have been screened to assess individual developmental needs. That’s up from just 15 in 2009 and represents 14 percent of all kids in the county. The goal is 100 percent.

Inspired by the North Country’s success, the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation is convening private funders, learning from experts and piloting new ideas in other regions. Among them:

- Funding shared back-office services for early learning providers in the Seacoast, shifting resources from administration to services.
- Giving voice to low-income residents by funding nonprofits and coalitions that work to improve public policy and systems for housing, food, health care and other basic needs.
- Doing more in this space is part of our larger investment in New Hampshire’s young people from cradle to career. We are funding more after-school programs, leading a 10-year strategy to reduce teen drinking and drug use, and focusing scholarship dollars in education and job training to help New Hampshire students thrive in today’s economy.

Endowment for Health president Steve Rowe likens early childhood work to the parable about the riverside villagers who rescue baby after baby floating by in baskets. It doesn’t stop until someone goes upstream to see how they are getting into the river in the first place.

That’s where philanthropy belongs — upstream and nimble, helping the most vulnerable, investing flexible capital at the source, figuring out what works and bringing it to scale. It is about collaboration and leverage and taking the long view.

Someone once wrote that it takes a village to care for a child. Ten and 20 years from now, that child will be taking care of the village we call New Hampshire. Let’s help give her the start she needs.

I think that’s what Anne was saying.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

GIVE to organizations that support young children.

ENGAGE with the Foundation in our efforts; contact Anne Phillips at ap@nhcf.org.


*Defined as annual income of less than $23,283 for a family of four. Up to $46,500 is considered low income; nearly a third of New Hampshire children meet that definition.
The Foundation was presented with this year’s New Hampshire Advantage Award by the Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire at its 100th annual dinner in October. Established in 2006, the New Hampshire Advantage Award honors businesses, organizations or projects that enhance New Hampshire’s special character and quality of life.

Upon accepting the award, Foundation President Dick Ober defined the New Hampshire advantage as “the recognition that we can do good things on our own; but we can only do great things together.”

Also recognized that evening with Lifetime Achievement Awards were Donna Sytek, former speaker of the New Hampshire House, and Wendell Jesseman, chairman of New England Wire Technologies — both former Foundation board members.

Better together

The Foundation was presented with this year’s New Hampshire Advantage Award by the Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire at its 100th annual dinner in October. Established in 2006, the New Hampshire Advantage Award honors businesses, organizations or projects that enhance New Hampshire’s special character and quality of life.

Executive Councilor Ray Burton, one of New Hampshire’s longest serving political leaders representing the North Country for 35 years, passed away on November 12.

The Foundation worked with Councilor Burton earlier this fall, funding a bipartisan event he hosted along with Sen. Jeff Woodburn. The event brought together government leaders from across Coos, Grafton and Carroll counties to discuss legislative priorities for the North Country.

“It was an honor and privilege to work with Councilor Burton,” said Foundation Senior Program Officer Peter Benson. “Always the consummate gentleman, Ray taught me the value of treating all people with responsiveness, dignity and respect, regardless of party affiliation, social standing or economic status. This was his greatest gift to New Hampshire and its people.”

A New Hampshire icon
The University of New Hampshire has named Tom Haas, a Foundation donor, the 2013 recipient of the Hubbard Family Award for Service to Philanthropy. The Hubbard award recognizes individuals whose philanthropic leadership and gifts have strengthened the university and New Hampshire.

ELLIE COCHRAN RECOGNIZED FOR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester presented Foundation Director of Philanthropy Ellie Cochran with its 2013 Community Leadership Award. The annual award is presented to honor a business or community leader who exemplifies the leadership and commitment required to build and support a caring and healthy community.

Investing in innovation

The Foundation’s Transformation and Innovation Fund sponsored the Community Prize at the University of New Hampshire’s Social Business Innovation Challenge this fall. The prize helps fund the establishment or growth of a social business. The winner, Agua Inc. of Durham, is a sustainable water treatment company working to help the 1 billion people globally who struggle each day without access to clean water.

Pay it forward

This summer, a group of Pembroke Academy students had the rug pulled out from beneath them. After months of planning and saving for a trip to Spain, they learned that their travel company was facing bankruptcy. Some of these kids had worked part-time for over a year to save for this trip. Thousands of dollars had been lost. It appeared the life-changing experience they had worked so hard for would be lost too.

After learning about their story in the paper, Senior Program Officer Deborah Schachter set into motion a process that would get these kids on that plane to Spain. Thanks to a grant from the Foundation’s Couchsurfing Cultural Exchange Fund to the school district, the students along with their Spanish teacher spent 10 days experiencing Spain’s history and culture up close.

The students have since contributed most of the total grant amount back to the Foundation after recouping the cost of their trip through travel insurance. It was important to them that others have the same opportunity to experience another culture first-hand.

Kudos

TOM HAAS HONORED FOR PHILANTHROPIC LEADERSHIP

PEMBROKE ACADEMY STUDENTS say “thank you” before boarding their miracle flight to Spain.

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TEAM AGUA INC. of Durham receives the 2013 Community Prize.

Kudos

TOM HAAS HONORED FOR PHILANTHROPIC LEADERSHIP

The University of New Hampshire has named Tom Haas, a Foundation donor, the 2013 recipient of the Hubbard Family Award for Service to Philanthropy. The Hubbard award recognizes individuals whose philanthropic leadership and gifts have strengthened the university and New Hampshire.
Mike Satzow’s grandfather, Abraham Satzow, came to Claremont from Russia in 1912. He set up a butcher shop on North Street and bought from local farms. Customers came to him for choice cuts of pork, lamb and beef. Abraham’s sons eventually took over the shop. Abraham’s grandson Mike went off to Middlebury College — and then came back to the family business. Each generation built on the success of the last, and in 1984 Mike Satzow turned the family meat business into the North Country Smokehouse.

“Claremont has been exceptionally good to my family for 100 years,” Mike Satzow said.

Satzow has long supported his community in turn — donating, volunteering, sponsoring events. But he wanted to do something more, something big. So he and his wife, Sheila, established the Fund for Greater Claremont at the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, which, as the fund grows, will provide a substantial and sustainable source of support for community projects.

The Satzows have also started a donor advised fund through the Foundation, and will involve their grandchildren in the decision-making for its grants — when they are old enough.

“I’ve always appreciated the hard-working ethic the community has,” Satzow said. He said he wanted to be part of creating something that gives funders a vehicle to give where the money would stay in the community.

“I’m too young to have appreciated Claremont’s heyday,” Satzow said. “So I work hard to bring it back so I can appreciate it again.”
Claremont and neighboring Newport are communities of spectacular brick architecture, rich immigrant cultures and deep community ties. The communities have weathered hard times — their fortunes largely tied to that of local manufacturing. The need in Sullivan County is acute: The county has the second-lowest median household income among New Hampshire counties. Nearly half the children in Claremont, the county’s largest population center, are eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch.

New charitable funds specifically designated for the communities — and long-standing ones that are thriving — are poised to give important community organizations in Newport and Claremont a boost.

“The Foundation has done a really nice job managing the funds that they were given … an extraordinary job.” – Margot Estabrook

The Fund for Greater Claremont has precedence in Sullivan County — in Newport, the Newport Charitable Fund was established at the Foundation in 1976 with an initial $500,000 from an existing charitable organization. Under the Foundation’s management, the assets of the Newport Charitable Fund have grown to $2.36 million. That fund has made about $2.8 million in grants in Sullivan County since its inception, including more than 50 grants in the past five years totaling more than a half-million dollars. It is poised to continue in perpetuity.

“The Foundation has done a really nice job managing the funds that they were given … an extraordinary job,” said Margot Estabrook, who chairs the Newport Charitable Fund’s local advisory committee, which guides the fund’s grant making. The fund supports a host of organizations — from the food pantry to a domestic violence crisis center to family support programs. The fund, Estabrook said, represents “a lot of money to be able to put into a community to help those in need.”

Roy Malool of Newport recently added another source of support for community endeavors. Malool, who served in World War II and then founded his own company, established a donor advised fund — the Roy M. Malool Family Foundation — at the Charitable Foundation to direct grants to the Newport area.

“In Claremont, Newport, these old factory towns, there are people who want to do something,” to help their neighbors, said Malool. His fund was created by converting the assets of his previously held private foundation, and combining those with additional assets.

Continued on page 14
STRONGER COMMUNITIES

A NEW VENTURE

Girls Inc. recently renovated the kitchens in its Manchester and Nashua centers to provide nutritious, hot meals to the girls it serves. They put their brand new kitchens to good use by launching a catering business to generate additional income for the organization. A $20,000 grant from the Entrepreneurs Foundation of New Hampshire will help Girls Inc. further expand its catering business. www.girlsincnewhampshire.org

EXPANDING CARE

Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services helps clients live life to the fullest during illness by offering physical, emotional and spiritual comfort. A grant of $44,000 from the Kathy Hoffman Follo Memorial Fund will expand hospice and palliative care programs in partnership with Monandock region hospitals. www.hcsservices.org

AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE

The Merrimack Valley Day Care Service helps low- to moderate-income families afford child care by providing a sliding fee scale based on family income and size. A $20,000 grant from the Rolfe and Rumford Donor Advised Fund will ensure that more Merrimack County families have access to quality, affordable child care.

WELCOME HOME

A $4,000 grant will support Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health’s Bhutanese immigrant integration initiative in Laconia. By engaging stakeholders from both the newcomer and receiving communities, this initiative aims to promote health and full participation of new Americans in community life. www.lrpph.org
**PHOTOS OF FATHERHOOD**

Justin Kirchoff, a photographer from Eliot, Maine, has been named the 2013 recipient of the Piscataqua Region Artist Advancement Grant. Kirchoff’s work “explores the contradictions and connections of fatherhood, masculinity and the home, while prodding the clichés of midlife.” [www.justinkirchoff.com](http://www.justinkirchoff.com)

**LEADERS FOR THE NORTH COUNTRY**

North Country Education Services will use a $70,000 grant from The Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund to help build stronger leaders in North Country schools by providing nationally recognized training opportunities to regional school administrators. [www.ncedservices.org](http://www.ncedservices.org)

**GOT LUNCH?**

A $3,000 grant helped to feed the 120 children enrolled this year in the Got Lunch program — a collaboration of the Colebrook Area Food Pantry, NH Food Bank, Colebrook School District, Monadnock Congregational Church and Helping Hands North — which provides students with five lunches and one family meal a week for 10 weeks to ensure that they receive the nutrition they need during the summer.

**GIVING ANONYMOUSLY**

The only playgrounds in Gonic and Epping are at the elementary schools and are used by the entire community. Funds have been raised to improve the playgrounds but additional support was needed. The Foundation connected these two communities with an anonymous donor who made a $20,000 grant to each town to update their playgrounds.

**NONPROFIT EXCELLENCE**

Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley and Lakes Region Community Services Council were each presented with The Corporate Fund Nonprofit Management Award, which recognizes excellence in management, at the New Hampshire Center for Nonprofits’ Leadership Summit. [www.thecorporatefund.org](http://www.thecorporatefund.org)

**IT’S THE ECONOMY...**

Building a Local Economy is a community resource center working to raise awareness and provide educational opportunities on all aspects of community and economy in the Upper Valley. BALE will use a $2,500 grant to create an educational series to engage the community in economic and climate issues. [www.balevt.org](http://www.balevt.org)

A small sample from thousands of recent grants and happenings.
INNOVATING TO SURVIVE

New Hampshire Public Television has had a rough couple of years. But NHPTV took some risks and is now a national model for innovation and sustainability.

By Lois Shea

In 2011, New Hampshire Public Television took a huge hit. The station, which had been on the air for more than 50 years, lost all of its state funding — 31 percent of its total budget — during a round of deep state budget cuts.

The question that faced NHPTV President and CEO Peter Frid was: “How do you absorb the loss of $2.7 million overnight?”

There would be no simple solutions, and certainly no easy ones. “Then, the next question was: how do you build a sustainable model?” Frid said.

Over the next two years, NHPTV transformed itself in ways that are now being looked at as a model of innovation and sustainability.

Its governing structure, business model and operations have changed. It has entered into an innovative collaboration with WGBH in Boston, and secured new funding. Its broadcast license is no longer held by the University System of New Hampshire, making the station entirely supported by the community.

Some of the change, said Frid, was already in the works before the budget cuts. But, he said, “the loss of state funding really accelerated the pace of change.”

Some of that change was extremely difficult. Twenty staff positions — 40 percent of the station’s total — were cut. Salaries were reduced. Production of the popular “Granite State Challenge” and of “NH Outlook” were put on pause.

The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation granted $25,000 to NHPTV to help the station secure a Corporation for Public Broadcasting grant of $200,000 to help in the restructuring process.
Now, after five decades of “friendly competition,” NHPTV and WGBH are collaborators.

“WGBH is one of the largest and oldest stations in the country,” Frid said. “Joining their scale” meant significant cost savings.

One major saving came in infrastructure. The master control for both stations is now being handled in Boston, with consultation from NHPTV. Master control is a “very capital intensive” part of any station’s operations, Frid said — requiring a $1.5 million investment every five years. The new arrangement saves NHPTV $300,000 annually.

Recent advances in technology made such collaboration possible.

“If this had happened 10 or 15 years ago, I don’t think we would have survived,” Frid said.

“Producing programs specifically focused on meeting New Hampshire’s needs — that’s why we’re here.” –Peter Frid

NHPTV has shifted membership systems, data processing and payroll to WBGH. Both stations remain independent nonprofits.

“We’ve built a sustainable business model,” Frid said.

“Granite State Challenge” has been resuscitated with private funding. NHPTV has doubled its number of sustaining members. The stations have coordinated fund drives.

The Foundation made an additional $25,000 operating grant to NHPTV last year, critical support as the station continues to stabilize operations.

NHPTV is looking to bring back “NH Outlook” and produce more New Hampshire-specific programming, and expand community outreach.

“Producing programs specifically focused on meeting New Hampshire’s needs — that’s why we’re here,” Frid said.

Deborah Schachter, a senior program officer at the Foundation, points to a recent program about bullying as the kind of programming at which NHPTV excels.

“NHPTV is focused on learning in a time when so many media outlets are focused on sensationalism and ratings and on other things that don’t feed the public understanding in the same rich way,” Schachter said.

“The Foundation, as one of the central components of our vision, is committed to civic engagement,” Schachter said. “And one of the critical components of people being engaged in civic life is to be informed. Public television is a resource that helps connect people and inform them.”

Frid hopes that NHPTV’s experience will help other public television stations — and other nonprofits — look at different business models and implement changes from a position of strength.

“How might you be able to take the skills you have and aggregate resources?” Frid asks. “Do you really need all the infrastructure that is behind you?”

LEARN MORE @ WWW.NHPTV.ORG

BRYN BURNS makes her case at “Pitch Camp.”

Bryn Burns took the plunge.
She brought her pitch about New Hampshire Public Television to the Entrepreneurs Foundation of New Hampshire’s “Pitch Camp.”

Burns, NHPTV’s manager of corporate support and community relationships, had three minutes to make her pitch.

She talked about how the station had lost 31 percent of its funding and had to make severe adjustments, about how NHPTV had kept from going under.

One evaluator, said Burns, was particularly blunt: “I hated everything about it.”

Another pointed out that Burns was pitching public television and had not mentioned “Downton Abbey” or Ken Burns.

“Everything they brought up was spot-on,” she said. She went back and revised.

Now, she has a pitch that works. (She has proof in the form of support from corporate funders who have heard it.) The new pitch is about moving forward with the combined forces of WGBH and NHPTV, about local programming coming back, about the educational power of public television.

And it always includes four magic words: Ken Burns.

“Downton Abbey.”
Sue and Brad Wyman break down their tandem bike, pack it into suitcases and check it as airline baggage. When they reach their destination, they reassemble the bike and go. The Wymans have cycled the byways of Europe and the Americas.

But their philanthropy happens in their home state and North Country neighborhood.

The Wymans live far enough north that their south-facing porch overlooks the northern portion of the White Mountain National Forest. A pot of soup bubbles on the old cookstove; the winter’s wood is stacked inside the attached shed.

The two funds they established with the Foundation — the Susan H. Wyman Scholarship Fund and the donor advised Wyman Family Fund — are designed, respectively, to help college-bound math and science students from Berlin High School and to support broad charitable purposes, specifically in the areas of public policy, education and community development.

“We like the Foundation because it’s close to home, it’s New Hampshire, it’s North Country,” Sue begins, and Brad finishes: “We feel like we can have some effect.”

The Wymans met at Bates College. They were married after graduate school (Susan earned an M.A. in teaching from Harvard and Brad got a master’s in forestry from Yale) and joined the Peace Corps. They spent two years in Chile, working on reforestation and teaching.

Brad started as a forester at the Brown Company, a papermaking company in Berlin, and worked his way into management; Sue taught mathematics in Gorham and then Berlin for nearly three decades.

The Wymans have had a long association with the Foundation. Sue served on the selection committee for the Louise Tillotson Teaching Professional Development Scholarship, and Brad on the Foundation’s North Country Region advisory board.

The Wymans value the Foundation’s knowledge of the nonprofit landscape and its ability to manage funds productively and help guide and educate donors.

“They handle the money, and they have their rules and regulations to make sure it’s done fairly, and it just seemed a whole lot easier than trying to do it ourselves,” Sue says.

Travel is the Wymans’ one luxury — even if it’s not luxury-style travel. The couple agreed they would rather share what they have than spend it on things.

“In New Hampshire, and in the North Country,” Sue says, “We would like to make some small difference.”
As an accountant, how are you involved in your clients’ charitable planning? How do you start the conversation?

In order to assist in a client's charitable giving endeavors, I find it necessary to get to know them on a personal level and find out what's important to them. This takes time and requires an element of trust to develop between us. Charitable giving is a very personal thing and should not, in my mind, be encumbered by thoughts of tax benefits, at least not initially. Once the decision to give has been made and quantified, then the tax benefits can be calculated.

More than a third of all charitable giving is done in the last three months of the year. How would you advise your clients as we approach year's end?

The majority of my clients don’t start thinking about their tax planning until the latter part of the year. First, I try to project their tax liability for the year. Then, we discuss the various options available to reduce those taxes before December 31. Charitable contributions are perhaps the most prominent of all potential year-end deductions, with the caveat that the contributions have to be made by December 31 in order for them to be deductible in that calendar year.

Most charitable contributions are made in cash, but you can also donate non-cash assets and receive a tax deduction generally equal to the fair market value of the asset being donated. The most common example of a non-cash donation is the gift of marketable securities. In this case, it’s most prudent to donate appreciated assets held for more than one year because you’ll receive a deduction for the fair market value of the assets while not having to pay tax on its appreciation.

How have you worked with the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation?

Recently, I had clients who had a significant amount of money they wanted to donate to one of their favorite charities. However, they didn’t want the charity to receive the entire contribution all at once because it could have caused problems for the organization. With the Foundation’s assistance and guidance, my clients set up a donor advised fund at the Foundation. This allowed them to get an immediate tax deduction for their entire gift while providing them with the opportunity to make grants to their chosen charities when the time is right. It was a win-win for everyone.
He wanted a simple way to create ongoing support for the community as his family legacy.

“I went to the Foundation and said ‘here’s a lot of stuff I want to get rid of and turn it over to you guys in cash,’” Malool said. “But you guys have got to do it.’ And they did it!”

New Hampshire Sen. Bob Odell has long represented Newport in the state legislature and represented Claremont until a recent redistricting.

“I’m very optimistic about both these communities,” Odell said. “These funds are very important … they’re just one more reason to be hopeful about the future.”

“The Newport Charitable Fund has been productive and a very important source of funds for targeted purposes, so there is a proven track record I hope [the Fund for Greater Claremont] will be able to emulate,” Odell said.

The Fund for Greater Claremont is working toward a goal of $250,000.

Bob and Marcie Landry of Claremont contributed to the Fund for Greater Claremont and have also established the Robert O. and Marcellene Landry Family Fund at the Foundation.

It was “our way of giving back to the area that supported us in our 35 years of business,” Bob Landry said.

“There has been a lot of positive activity in Claremont over the last five years,” Landry said, “and I think that’s going to continue.”

Claremont has a popular new community center, the construction of which was funded by the Claremont Savings Bank Foundation, city funds and other private and foundation support — including the first-ever grant from the Fund for Claremont. The Red River IT company and the Common Man Inn and Restaurant have moved into a refurbished section of the Millyard. Stevens High School is being renovated. People who work in Hanover, Lebanon and Keene are finding that the housing stock in Claremont and Newport area is more plentiful and affordable, Landry said.

For Satzow, the Foundation’s track record and community knowledge is important. He points to the “the trust that people have” in the Foundation.

“I think the sophisticated investors and the business people and the public servants in New Hampshire realize the Foundation has done a fabulous job in maximizing their investment and making targeted investments in community organizations,” Satzow said.

People who have lived in this corner of Sullivan County through the hard times are seeing some new momentum for their communities.

“There’s a lot more positive attitude in the area than there was 10 or 12 years ago,” said Harvey Hill, who has worn many hats in Claremont — from mill owner to publisher of the Claremont Eagle Times to interim president of the River Valley Community College.

“We’ve been downtrodden for a number of years,” Satzow said. But “there are people who are getting more committed.”

“I wanted to create something that made it very easy to leave or give money to the community,” Satzow said. “You raise one ship, you raise everything in a community like this.”

““In Claremont, Newport, these old factory towns, there are people who want to do something to help their neighbors.” –Roy Malool

GREATER GIVING
If you are interested in supporting the Greater Claremont and Newport area, or creating a fund to support your charitable interests, contact Shari Landry, vice president of philanthropy at 800-464-6641 ext. 1265 or sl@nhcf.org.
The envelopes are among my earliest childhood memories. Every week, my parents would give me and my siblings each an envelope. It contained our allowance, money for piano and dance lessons, and for the collection at church. And then there would be discretionary money — for us to donate to community organizations of our choice.

My parents were wonderful role models, very involved with Easter Seals and many other organizations. My mother was a trustee at the Elliot Hospital, where she also volunteered in the gift shop. One day, she fell down the stairs and had to be helicoptered to Dartmouth-Hitchcock. When she came out of surgery, she said, “I’m supposed to be volunteering today, would you call them and let them know I won’t make it?” That was the kind of commitment my parents modeled.

As we got older, we kids would volunteer as well.

So it made sense to me to continue that kind of community engagement when I went to work, and had a family. From my first job at New England Telephone, I was one of the first loaned executives to the United Way campaign. Later, as a stay-at-home mom, I served on the boards of the YWCA and my high school alma mater, Derryfield School, and my college alma mater, Colby-Sawyer College. I was honored to serve as chair of the Special Olympics United States Leadership Committee and Special Olympics New Hampshire.

When I returned to work, at the Derryfield School, one of my roles was to introduce students to volunteerism.

My husband, David, and I have tried to pass that commitment on to our children. Our daughter, Sarah, has developmental disabilities, which is why organizations like Easter Seals, The Moore Center and Special Olympics are so important to us. Sarah does volunteer work at the Elliot Hospital. Our son, Andrew, and his wife are chairing Derryfield’s annual fund this year.

Coming to work at the Foundation was a natural extension of that community work. These nine years have been incredibly fulfilling.

David and I have started our own family fund here — as my parents did. And I am retiring with a to-do list — including board and development work for nonprofit organizations. I leave with a somewhat heavy heart because I love what I do, but I will always stay involved. My parents made sure of that — starting with those envelopes.
Kudos

There is never enough space to honor all who deserve recognition. READ MORE ON AND SEND NAMES TO INFO@NHCF.ORG

FOUNDATION AWARDS
In partnership with Stay Work Play and NHPR, the Foundation presented the Rising Stars Civic Leadership Award to Mary and Eric Goldthwaite-Gagne of Peterborough. Girls, Inc. and the Mount Washington Observatory each received grants of $20,000 from the Entrepreneurs Foundation of New Hampshire at their annual AMP NH awards competition. Justin Kirchoff, a photographer in Eliot, Maine, received the Piscataqua Region’s 2013 Artist Advancement Grant. The following North Country teachers were recognized as the 2013 Louise Tillotson Teaching Fellows: Robert Hamel, an English teacher at Gorham Middle/High School; Karen LaRoche, a family and consumer sciences teacher at White Mountains Regional High School; and Tricia Walsh, a first grade teacher at Edward Fenn Elementary School in Gorham. Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley and Lakes Region Community Services Council were each presented with The 2013 Corporate Fund Nonprofit Management Award, which recognizes excellence in management.

HONORS FROM OTHERS
Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester presented Ellie Cochran with its 2013 Community Leadership Award. Tom Haas, a Foundation donor, was named the University of New Hampshire's 2013 recipient of the Hubbard Family Award for Service to Philanthropy. The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation received the 2013 New Hampshire Advantage Award by the Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire.

Dyn, a tech company in Manchester and member of the Foundation’s Entrepreneurs Foundation, was named Business NH Magazine’s fastest-growing company in the state. Donna Sytek, former speaker of the New Hampshire House and Foundation director, and Wendell Jesseman, chairman of New England Wire Technologies and former North Country Region advisory board member, were presented with Lifetime Achievement Awards by the Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire.

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