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## **PEOPLE'S UNITED COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PROVIDES NEW HAMPSHIRE SCHOOLS WITH GIFT OF CLASSROOM SUPPLIES**

**MANCHESTER, NH** – In the spirit of holiday giving, People's United Community Foundation, the philanthropic arm of People's United Bank, teamed up with DonorsChoose.org to surprise students and teachers in New Hampshire with a gift of classroom materials.

A unique charity created to support public school teachers, DonorsChoose.org provides educators with an online venue to submit classroom project requests describing much-needed school supplies for their students. The public can then browse the projects and choose those they would like to support.

People's United Community Foundation provided \$100,000 to DonorsChoose.org to fund 100 percent of the cost of classroom projects that met its criteria, with a focus on STEM education. In New Hampshire, People's United Community Foundation funded all STEM projects valued at \$2,000 or less. More than \$8,000 funded a total of 13 projects, reaching more than 1,300 students across the state.

Recipients included classrooms in Gilbert H Hood Elementary School and Grinnel Elementary School in Derry, Hampton Centre School, Henry J. McLaughlin Middle School, Henry Wilson Elementary School, Highland-Goffes Falls Elementary School, Jewett Elementary School, and Weston Elementary School in Manchester, Bicentennial Elementary School in Nashua, and Merrimack Valley High School in Penacook.

"People's United Community Foundation is delighted to help make the holidays brighter for students and teachers with a gift of much-needed STEM materials for classrooms throughout New Hampshire," said Dianne Mercier, Officer of People's United Community Foundation and President of People's United Bank in New Hampshire. "STEM education plays a key role in helping students obtain 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, which are sought after by employers and critical for competing in a global economy. We hope our gift will spark students' interest in STEM throughout the New Year and beyond."

People's United Community Foundation has partnered with DonorsChoose.org since 2010, providing \$450,000 in support of initiatives in school districts across the People's United Bank footprint. More than 1,200 classroom projects have been funded through this partnership.

Established in 2007, People's United Community Foundation was formed to help support programs and activities that enhance the quality of life for citizens in the communities that People's United Bank serves. People's United Bank, founded in 1842 and serving customers from New York to Maine through a network of more than 400 branches, is the largest independent bank headquartered in New England. The funding priorities of the Foundation include affordable housing, community development, and youth development.

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