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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Merrimack County Savings Bank Foundation Announces Grants to Local Non-Profit Organizations**

The Merrimack County Savings Bank Foundation has awarded \$49,000 to 19 non-profit organizations. The Foundation, which is managed by MillRiver Wealth Management, was funded by Merrimack County Savings Bank in 1997 for grant-based contributions to non-profit organizations that enrich and improve the quality of life for residents living in the Bank's service areas.

These grants are in addition to the Bank's many local contributions in the form of sponsorships, donations and scholarships, as well as the extraordinary volunteer efforts of its employees.

"Community support has always been a central part of our mission," said Philip Emma, President of Merrimack County Savings Bank. "Not only are we able to give back to organizations who are improving the communities we serve, but we have the benefit of helping to improve the lives of our customers, employees and local community members."

Grants were awarded to:

#### **CATCH Neighborhood Housing (Concord, NH)**

- Awarded \$2,000 to support the Riverbend Mill rental development project in Franklin, NH. CATCH Neighborhood Housing creates opportunities for affordable, quality housing for low to moderate income families and individuals in Merrimack County.

#### **Circle Program (Plymouth, NH)**

- Awarded \$2,000 to support two Concord-based teens and one Franklin-based teen in their Teen Adventure Program (TAP). TAP is a challenging wilderness experience, exposing high school aged girls to advanced-level camping and an opportunity to develop leadership skills. Circle fosters positive, personal growth for low to moderate income girls and teens statewide through their adult mentoring program.

#### **Concord Dental Sealant Coalition (Concord, NH)**

- Awarded \$3,500 in support of the Coalition's mission to address the unmet dental needs of Concord-area school children. The grant will assist with temporary therapeutic fillings in some clinical situations.

#### **Concord Family YMCA (Concord, NH)**

- Awarded \$3,500 to help support the Kystop Afterschool Scholarship Fund, which makes quality childcare affordable for low and moderate income families.

**Concord Hospital (Concord, NH)**

- Awarded \$2,800 to help support the Concord Hospital Family Health Center Dental Clinic, the medical, dental and safety net primary care provider for community members of all ages regardless of their ability to pay.

**Friends Program (Concord, NH)**

- Awarded \$2,500 to help in the recruitment efforts of the organization for the mentoring of at-risk children and refugee/New American youth in Merrimack County. The Friends Program is a social service organization that provides emergency housing for homeless families and medically challenged individuals, an intergenerational program that creates meaningful opportunities for seniors to work with children, a senior volunteer program that links a volunteer's skills to otherwise unmet needs within the community and a mentoring program for at-risk youth.

**Front Door Agency (Nashua, NH)**

- Awarded \$3,000 to support the organization's Transitional Housing Program that offers affordable housing, supportive services and extensive case management to homeless single women in the greater Nashua area. Front Door serves families transitioning from crisis to self-sufficiency, offering a range of essential services to Nashua's disadvantaged population including: shelter, food, heat, child care, transportation, supportive services and education.

**Girls Incorporated (Nashua, NH)**

- Awarded \$2,500 to support the Young Women's Leadership program that is targeted at teens from the Girls, Inc. center in Concord. Girls Incorporated of New Hampshire offers research-based informal education programs that encourage girls to take risks and master physical, intellectual and emotional challenges. Major programs address math and science education, drug abuse prevention, media literacy, economic literacy, adolescent health, violence prevention, careers and leadership and sports participation.

**Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains (Bedford, NH)**

- Awarded \$2,000 to support weekly afterschool girl scouting for girls in grades 1 through 5 at three low-income Concord School District locations. Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains is recognized throughout New Hampshire and Vermont as a leading expert on girls, serving more than 10,500 girls throughout New Hampshire and Vermont.

**Harbor Homes (Nashua, NH)**

- Awarded \$3,000 to support the organization's efforts to end chronic homelessness in Greater Nashua with their Permanent Housing Program. The Permanent Housing Program provides housing and supportive services including health care, mental health treatment and employment training. Harbor Homes serves low-income individuals and families who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or living with mental illness and other disabilities.

**Institute on Disability at UNH (Concord, NH)**

- Awarded \$1,500 to support disability and advocacy training for individuals with disabilities and their families. Training allows clients to receive better access to services and supports to meet their complex needs, and improves their educational, employment and social outcomes. The Institute on Disability promotes full access, equal opportunities and participation for all people.

**Mayhew Program (Bristol, NH)**

- Awarded \$2,500 to support school-year mentoring for 38 at-risk boys throughout greater Concord. The Mayhew Program helps underprivileged, at-risk New Hampshire boys realize their potential with supportive school-year mentoring and summer programming.

**Merrimack Valley Day Care Service (Concord, NH)**

- Awarded \$3,000 to support subsidized tuition for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. Merrimack Valley Day Care Service offers high quality and affordable childcare services for children of low-income families and for children with special needs.

**New Hampshire Association for the Blind (Concord, NH)**

- Awarded \$2,000 to support essential vision rehabilitation therapy services within greater Concord and helps offset the expense of prescribed adaptive devices and equipment such as magnifiers and white canes. The New Hampshire Association helps people who are affected by vision loss maintain a safe and independent lifestyle at home, at work and in the community.

**New Hampshire Catholic Charities (Manchester, NH)**

- Awarded \$2,700 to the organizations' pilot year financial fitness program for low to moderate income families and individuals in Concord, NH. Project activities include basic financial education for approximately 40 clients, the development of workbooks and other learning and matching funds for clients who open new savings accounts. New Hampshire Catholic Charities is a human services organization committed to establishing programs that address the needs of hunger, child abuse, family dysfunction, immigrants, refugees, parenthood education and the elderly.

**New Hampshire Humanities Council (Concord, NH)**

- Awarded \$2,500 to support "Connections", the organization's literacy program for new readers within Concord and greater Nashua. The mission of NHHHC is to strengthen communities with education programs fostering reflection, discussion and connection to new ideas. Connections is offered statewide in partnership with adult learner service programs, ESOL classes for new immigrants and refugees, GED classes, and prison parenting support programs.

**Penacook Community Center (Penacook, NH)**

- Awarded \$3,000 toward the organization's "GEAR-Up for Success" literacy program that focuses on school-to-home literacy and support services for at-risk children between the ages of 6 weeks through 5 years. The Penacook Community Center provides citizens of Penacook and surrounding towns opportunities to promote, develop, and maintain social, educational and recreational activities.

**Riverbend Community Mental Health (Concord, NH)**

- Awarded \$3,000 to support the expansion of the organization's autism program to include comprehensive home-based services that have been proven effective. Riverbend Community Mental Health Center is a private, non-profit organization providing specialized behavioral health services adults, children and families in central New Hampshire.

**YMCA of Greater Nashua (Nashua, NH)**

- Awarded \$2,500 to support a 6-week summer learning loss prevention program for low-income youth living in Greater Nashua who are behind in literacy grade levels. The goal of the program is to teach participating children to read at their grade level by the third grade.

The Merrimack County Savings Bank Foundation was funded by Merrimack County Savings Bank in 1997 for grant-based contributions to not-for-profit organizations that enrich and improve the quality of life for residents living in the Bank's service areas. Five Trustees, selected among the Bank's Corporators and Board of Trustees administer the Foundation and its activities, distributing a portion of the Foundation's endowment each year. While not focused on a particular category, the Foundation remains mindful of the receiving organization and its contribution to the quality of life in the communities served. Applications are due annually on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Merrimack County Savings Bank (the Merrimack), founded in 1867, is an independent community bank headquartered in Concord, New Hampshire with eight offices in Bow, Concord, Contoocook, Hooksett and Nashua. The Merrimack and its employees are driven by Merrimack style – serving customers and the community with compassion, integrity, honesty and care. The Bank is known for its commitment to a mutual form of ownership; remaining dedicated to the people who matter most – customers, employees and the communities served. For more information, please visit [www.themerrimack.com](http://www.themerrimack.com).