



May/June 2022

# outlooknews

A bi-monthly publication of the Greater Keene & Peterborough Chamber

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GREATER KEENE &  
PETERBOROUGH  
CHAMBER

## REGIONAL ISSUE SERIES

### The Childcare Conundrum: How Business Can Retain Employees Today and Build Tomorrow's Workforce

**Wednesday May 11, 2022**  
**8:00 AM - 9:30 AM**

Keene State College Alumni Center/Norma Walker Hall  
229 Main Street, Keene

Or on ZOOM!



Access to quality, affordable childcare is essential for working families. It provides peace of mind that their children are in a safe, learning, caring environment – and the ability to focus on their jobs and careers. In today's strained labor market, accessible childcare is even more important in helping parents and caregivers re-enter the workforce post-Covid. Childcare options can also attract new families to the region to fill open positions. But our region lacks open childcare spaces for a variety of reasons large and small.

Join a panel of child care professionals, employers and funders to discuss the issues surrounding The Childcare Conundrum and how the business community can help overcome this issue.

#### SPEAKERS:

- **Keene Day Care Center**, Suelaine Poling, Executive Director
- **Community Development Finance Authority**, Panelist TBD
- **Impact Monadnock**, Annie Dintino, Program Manager
- **WS Badger**, Emily Hall Warren, Director of Administration
- **Moderator**: Liz LaRose, President, Monadnock United Way

[Click here for IN-PERSON REGISTRATION](#) or [VIRTUAL REGISTRATION](#)

## Employing people with disabilities is good for everyone. Ask Smiths/ICU Medical, the Keene YMCA, and other local businesses.



Did you know there is a pool of potential employees right here in the Monadnock region who are willing and eager to work? Employers can successfully hire someone with a developmental disability by working with **Monadnock Developmental Services (MDS)** or one of its partner agencies. Agency staff meet with the potential employer, learn about job openings available, and determine if there is someone with the skills and abilities the employer is looking for. When someone is interested, the employer interviews the individual and, if hired, collaborates with the agency to support the individual's transition into the job and to ensure effectiveness.

*Continued on page 9*

Visit our website! [keenechamber.com](https://www.keenechamber.com)

# Member Spotlight



*The mission of Keene Housing Kids Collaborative (KHKC) is building the foundation for successful adulthood. We are an independent non-profit organization working to help children living in households that are struggling to make ends meet reach their full potential. The future of our community – and any community – depends on the ability of our children to grow into productive, healthy, confident, and engaged members of our community.*

At KHKC we believe the experiences of childhood shape adulthood, that investing in children is investing in the future of our community, that all children deserve the chance to reach their maximum potential, partnering with parents is critical to our success and there is power in collaboration.

Just over 500 children between the ages of birth and 17 years live in Keene Housing households, select Southwestern Community Services (SCS) households and Housing Choice voucher holders – with an average annual income of \$23,516. If statistics hold true for these kids, most of them will struggle to get ahead as adults, as well.

Research shows that by the time children in low-income housing get to middle school there is a 6,000-hour learning gap between them and their middle-class household peers. School data for these children is sobering, they score about two grade levels behind their more affluent peers on standardized tests in math and reading, are absent from school at a much higher rate, and two out of every five kids who live in Keene Housing households are enrolled in special education.

We are missing out on the contributions these young people could make if they reach their potential as fully successful, engaged adult members of our community: contributions in art, science, business, and civic life. The Kids Collaborative is working to change things for children and youth living in Keene Housing and SCS by connecting them to existing opportunities and experiences in the community that will give them the tools they need to succeed.

Goals we have for our kids include:

- Enter kindergarten with behavior that is generally school appropriate and with strong pre-reading and numeracy skills
- Develop strong socio-emotional skills throughout childhood and adolescence, and reach grade level proficiency in reading and math by fourth grade
- Graduate high school with a GPA of C+ or higher, without having become a parent, and without having come in to contact with the juvenile justice system.

We are moving kids toward these goals by connecting kids to quality community activities in the arts, academics, and athletics. We pay tuition and other participation fees, liaise with families to make them aware of what's happening in the community, manage applications and other paperwork, and act as a central point of contact and clearinghouse of information.

Parental involvement is a key component of the Kids Collaborative model and empowers Keene Housing and SCS parents/guardians to provide their children with the experiences and activities that children from more well-off households take for granted.

Since 2015, KHKC has served more than 1,500 children participating in over 3,500 activities resulting in almost 100,000 hours of learning, developing, and building skills with more than 40 community partners.

For more information, please visit us at [khkc.org](http://khkc.org) or contact us at [info@khkc.org](mailto:info@khkc.org) or 603.283.5464.



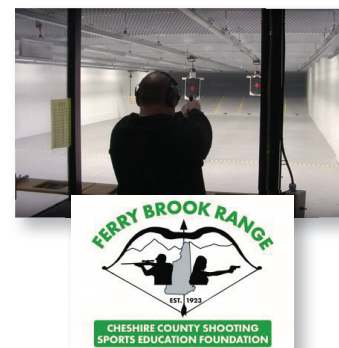
## Chamber **Events**

### May Chamber Night Out – Ferry Brook Range

**May 16, 2022**

**19 Ferry Brook Rd, Keene, NH 03431, Keene • 5:30 - 7:30 pm**

Chamber Night Out invites you to CCSSEF (Cheshire County Shooting Sports Education Foundation) @ Ferry Brook Range. There will be interactive activities, as well as observing live fire demonstrations. Attendees will also get to see the brand new indoor range. CCSSEF will provide ear and eye protection, as well as firearms and ammunition. You'll be required to sign a Liability Waiver upon arriving, as well as listen to a safety briefing before live fire operations. A food truck will be available on site (no alcohol allowed). Whether you are an avid shooter or have never shot before, we encourage you to come out. There will be something for everyone!



### June Chamber Night Out Red Sox at Fenway via Thomas Transportation

**June 16, 2022**

**93 Monadnock Hwy, Keene • Departure time TBD**

Join the Chamber and Thomas Transportation for a trip to Fenway park! We'll get chauffeured to see the Red Sox face off against the Oakland A's. En route beverages provided by Outlaw Brewing.

Tickets are \$90 for members and \$100 for non members.

*Thomas Charters*



To register for Chamber Night Out visit <https://business.keenechamber.com/events/calendar>, call 603-352-1303 or email [info@keenechamber.com](mailto:info@keenechamber.com)

### May Business After Hours – TD Bank

**May 18, 2022**

**194 West St, Keene • 5:30 - 7:30 pm**

**A “Beach” themed Business After Hours at TD Bank!**

Join the Chamber for a night of networking, food, beverages, and prizes at our May Business After Hours event hosted by TD Bank. TD will be using their large West Street Lobby to invite guests to soak up some Vitamin Sea. There will be delicious food options from The Pub. Don't forget a business card to be entered in the prize drawing!

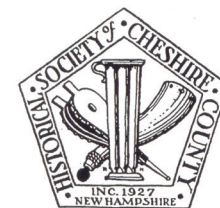


### June Business After Hours – Historical Society

**June 15, 2022**

**246 Main St, Keene • 5:30 - 7:30 pm**

Save the date – Details coming soon!



To register for Business After Hours visit <https://business.keenechamber.com/events/calendar>, call 603-352-1303, or email [info@keenechamber.com](mailto:info@keenechamber.com).



Reserve Your Spot Now!



*Space is limited and Sponsorships are going fast!*

[Click here](#) to register a player and view open sponsorship opportunities

Play is Best Ball Scramble format.

The field will be limited to the first 124 people -- (32) four-person teams to register, so gather your friends and colleagues!

Golf will be followed by a cookout, where presentation of awards will include:

- Over \$2,000 in team and individual prizes
  - 50/50 putting contest
  - Monte Carlo Hole
  - Air Cannon

## Regional Housing Needs Assessment 2022 –Employer Survey

Has the housing market impacted your business? Has it affected your ability to attract or retain workers? **Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC)** is conducting a

Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), which will describe current housing supply, demand, and affordability within our region and begin to identify solutions for the future.

The project involves extensive outreach to a wide range of stakeholders, including employers, in order to understand how housing impacts our communities. Larger employers may want to assign this survey to their human resources department or an employee who has a good understanding of employee housing issues.

To take SWRPC's Employer Survey go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SWRPCEmployerSurvey>.

For more information about SWRPC's Regional Housing Needs Assessment visit their project page at <https://www.swrpc.org/housing/>.



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## Regional Branding Project Update

In March, Ed Barlow from North Star (the place-branding firm hired to develop our regional brand) presented the research findings to the PTR committee and the GKPC Board. This presentation included the results from the Community Survey and data collected from various meetings with stakeholders and key members throughout the region. While there were no major surprises in the results, the research -- particularly the direct quotes from participants, clearly articulated what makes this region distinct and how we can leverage our greatest assets. From here, the creative work begins, with the experiences of our own communities informing how we market and promote the region to our ideal target audience. Here are a few quotes from the community that we feel resonate with you, our GKPC members:

*"People here are extremely innovative. They can do a lot with a little and think of really creative solutions for community problems."*

*"There is still very much a 'neighbor helping neighbor' mentality where folks will step in to help."*

*"Our independent spirit is only matched by our generous spirit."*

*"There is a clarity that comes with Monadnock. I feel more creative. Like my ideas can breathe."*

Stay tuned, as in the coming summer months we'll have completed the brand development and will begin officially rolling out the marketing plan.



## Discover Your New Culinary Journey



The Food and Beverage culture has long been a large part of what attracts people to the Monadnock Region. During the pandemic, especially the summer of 2020, we experienced a large increase in the number of

visitors who came specifically to enjoy our culinary scene. This was mostly due to what makes our region distinct – high quality experiences in an uncrowded area. In 2021 the numbers increased once more as word spread and previous visitors returned.

As travel trends shift in this latest phase of the pandemic, we want to leverage the recent popularity of our restaurants to ensure they continue to welcome diners from both near and far. This

summer, we're launching "Culinary Journeys", a 30-episode video series highlighting our outstanding restaurants and food purveyors. We're partnering with New Hampshire Travel and Tourism (through the BEA and JPP grants) and expect these videos to have a large reach on social media through boosting and strategic ads as well as with the state sharing this content with their partners. Opportunities to sponsor these videos are available. Please reach out to [info@keenechamber.com](mailto:info@keenechamber.com) for more information.

## Chamber Fundraising Campaign to Support Community Events

Coming together to celebrate, whether with food, music, holiday festivals or the arts, has a long tradition of uniting our communities throughout the Monadnock Region. More than just a night out, local events become a part of our family traditions (think holiday lightings and annual parades), introduce new people to the region, and demonstrate all there is to enjoy here throughout the year. To ensure the Greater Keene and Peterborough Chamber can support the region's offering of high quality, safe, and tourist attracting events, we've launched a Local Crowd Monadnock fundraiser.

The first event we're featuring in this campaign is *The Thing in the Spring*, a four-day music festival with over 30 acts that is an annual celebration of music and art, taking place this year (it's 14th) at Nova Arts in Keene, the non-profit arts and music element that hosts concerts and events at Brewbakers' Emerald St. location.



This year, promotion of the event and of Keene extends well beyond ticket buyers. Each act will promote their participation on their social media, introducing tens of thousands of young people to the region in a meaningful and authentic way. Contributions to this campaign ensures that GKPC can support *The Thing in the Spring* and develop future events throughout the region, either directly with cash for necessary infrastructure or assistance with marketing and media outreach. This fund will also support our efforts to coordinate with local businesses to promote these events, participate in event themes, and preparations to welcome an increase in customers. We hope you'll contribute today!

# Member News

Right down the road, right now, someone needs a ride to somewhere essential. And volunteer drivers for **Community Volunteer Transportation Company (CVTC)** drive people where they need to go.

When riders can keep their essential appointments, they stay independent and can live at home in peace. Riders can request to be taken to their non-emergency doctor or social service appointments, pharmacy or grocery shopping. Five business days advance notice is requested to enter a rider's trip reservation in CVTC's TripList system. Drivers are courteous and trustworthy, willing to converse and engage.

Vetted volunteer drivers choose the trips that best fit their schedule, call the rider to verify pick-up times and, when they return home themselves, they track their total mileage for reimbursement from CVTC. Drivers select when, and to where, and for how long they are available. By making this difference in a rider's life, drivers contribute to the health of the Monadnock Region. Get a Ride, or Give a Ride: Everyone Benefits! Call CVTC for more information at 1-877-428-2882 x 5.

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The **Monadnock Conservancy**, a land trust for southwestern New Hampshire, is pleased to announce the addition of two members to its Board of Trustees this winter: **Dennis Calcutt** of Frankestown and **Doug Sutherland** of Hancock.

Dennis Calcutt is the director of Connected Families NH and the Monadnock Expansion grant, which are under the governance of Cheshire County. He has 30-plus years of experience focused on children and families, with a particular interest in building community around youth mental health. He has a patient, collaborative approach grounded with humor and focused on human connection.

Calcutt has served as the chair of the Frankestown Land Trust. He holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Arts from St. Vincent College in Latrobe, PA. He also has a core certificate from the Institute for Nonprofit Leadership and Management at Boston University's School of Management. Additionally, Calcutt is a New Hampshire Listens Fellow in the Carsey School of Public Policy at the University of New Hampshire.

Doug Sutherland is a summer camp professional in the Monadnock region. He has been the camp director of Adventure Camp at Sargent Center in Hancock, camp director at Camp Starfish in Rindge, camp director at the Barbara C. Harris Camp in Greenfield, and the executive director of Brantwood Camp in Greenfield. He enjoys fall weather, woodworking, the outdoors, and working with children and adults in the outdoors. He is a diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging facilitator and is a part of the Hancock Community Conversation on Race group. Sutherland is a graduate of Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, Illinois. Originally from St. Louis, Missouri, he moved to the area in 1999.

For more information or to sign up for the monthly e-newsletter, visit [www.MonadnockConservancy.org](http://www.MonadnockConservancy.org) or call 603-357-0600.

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The regional accounting firm of **Nathan Wechsler & Company, PA** is pleased to share that the firm was recently named as one of the "Top 100 Firms and Regional Leaders" of 2022 by *Accounting Today*. This is the fifth time in a row that the firm has been recognized as one of the top firms in the New England region.

"I am incredibly honored that *Accounting Today* chose to include Nathan Wechsler on their list of New England Regional Leaders once again," said **Oreste "Rusty"**

**Mosca**, Managing Director of Nathan Wechsler & Company, P.A. "The hard work that my teammates put in every day is astounding. It is fantastic to have our dedication and perseverance recognized within the industry."

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Nathan Wechsler & Company, PA is pleased to announce that **Julie Greenwood, CPA** recently participated in a panel discussion put on by Home Healthcare, Hospice & Community Services (HCS) in Keene.

Greenwood has been a member of the HCS Board of Directors since 2017 and currently serves as the Board's past Board Chair. The panel discussion—titled



"We Should Probably Talk About This"—focused on end-of-life planning and the issues involved with the area. Greenwood's fellow panelists were **Susan Abert**, an elder law attorney, and **Sue Simonds**, a funeral director. **Allen Mendelson**, a retired financial advisor, acted as moderator.

"People are hesitant to talk about death—one of the biggest issues is simply broaching the topic. This panel discussion was great because it encouraged participants not to shy away from the subject and offered tips for beginning this difficult sort of discussion," said Greenwood. "I have greatly enjoyed my years with HCS. The services that the organization offers to the local community—such as the recent panel discussion—are invaluable."

For more information, visit [www.hcsservices.org](http://www.hcsservices.org).

Greenwood joined Nathan Wechsler & Company in 1999. She specializes in a variety of areas including QuickBooks consulting, medical practices, construction, family businesses, high net worth individuals, and business taxation. She is a principal and serves as Director

# Member News

of the firm's Keene office. Greenwood holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Keene State College. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the New Hampshire Society of Certified Public Accountants (NHSCPA). She previously served on the board of the Pope Memorial SPCA of Concord-Merrimack County and on the board of Dress for Success New Hampshire.  
[nathanwechsler.com](mailto:nathanwechsler.com)

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With an historic expansion and renovation project in its final stages, the **Colonial Performing Arts Center** has announced a series of live performances in the main theatre beginning April 1 – in addition to an ongoing schedule of shows at the Center's new intimate venue, SHOWROOM.

The Wailin' Jennys, a Juno Award-winning folk and bluegrass trio from Canada, will kick off The Colonial Theatre's schedule with a performance on Friday, April 1. Acclaimed Prince tribute band Purple Xperience will follow with a show on Saturday, April 16. Grammy Award-winning rocker Melissa Etheridge will be on stage Tuesday, April 19. And, noted New England comedian Bob Marley has two shows on Saturday, May 14. Rounding out the main theatre's spring schedule will be Evil Woman, widely recognized as the world's premier ELO tribute band, with a concert on Saturday, May 21.

"We had a tremendous initial response to our long-term plans from generous individual and local corporate donors," said

**Tom Minkler**, Capital Campaign Chair. "But we still have a lot of work to do in order to bridge a financial gap brought about by escalating material costs and expensive scheduling delays during the pandemic. Now is the time for our entire community to help raise the curtain on the future of the arts in our region by calling or visiting The Colonial's website to donate or pledge." For more information visit <https://thecolonial.org/the-next-act-capital-campaign/> or contact Eric Weisenberger at: [eric.weisenberger@thecolonial.org](mailto:eric.weisenberger@thecolonial.org)

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**Service Credit Union** has partnered with Mobius Mobility to make its iBOT® Personal Mobility Device (PMD), a revolutionary mobility product, more accessible to thousands of prospective users.

Developed by inventor Dean Kamen and manufactured by Mobius Mobility in Manchester, NH, the iBOT® is a breakthrough product for people with disabilities. The robotic, multi-modal iBOT® is customized to each user, and includes features such as four-wheel drive to traverse sand, snow, mud and other terrain. The iBOT® gives the user the ability to climb curbs and stairs, and rise up to interact with the world at eye level.

For many years, Service Credit Union has worked with veteran-focused nonprofits that provide grants for iBOT®s, but the organization wanted to make iBOT®s available to a wider swath of the population. That's why Service CU teamed with Mobius to support potential users in making the purchase of the device more attainable.

"The iBOT® is a life-changing device and we are thrilled to partner with Mobius Mobility to make this technology accessible to a wide group of people. There is no reason that someone whose life

would be improved by the iBOT should be limited from receiving one due to financial reasons, and we look forward to making the dream of having an iBOT® a reality for many," said **Mark O'Dell**, VP-Lending at Service Credit Union.

The iBOT® loan is available to anyone who is prescription eligible as determined by their doctor. Service Credit Union and Mobius Mobility will continue to partner with nonprofits to obtain grants for anyone who needs additional financial assistance outside of the iBOT® loan. Applicants should consult with Mobius prior to applying for a loan in order to obtain a custom quote based on their personal and financial needs.

Anyone interested in a loan may apply for one on Service Credit Union's website, by phone or by chat. For more information, visit [servicecu.org/borrow/ibot-loan/](https://servicecu.org/borrow/ibot-loan/).

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**Keene Housing Kids Collaborative (KHKC)** is pleased to announce the hiring of **Sally Malay** as Executive Director. Malay is stepping into the organization at the next stage of its life cycle to continue the great work of Liz Chipman who was hired as the organization's first Executive Director seven years ago.



In her position Malay will be responsible for the organization's general operations and help strategically guide its future while providing sound fiscal

management and sustaining positive relationships with the Board, staff, community partners and the families and children we serve. "The board is excited for this next phase for KHKC and even though Liz will be greatly missed, Sally will bring a fresh perspective and help continue to move our mission forward. She comes to us with a diverse



## Member News

background in the non-profit sector and is well-known and respected in the community”, says Board Chair, **Riki Greenwald**.

“Our community is fortunate to have advocates who believe that it ‘takes a village to raise a village’ and that supporting our youth will not only benefit these children as individuals but will also aid our community to thrive in the long run. I am very excited to work with our community partners to further our collaborative efforts to support the mission of KHKC,” says Sally. “I am passionate about youth development, equity and integration and this role will give me the opportunity to invest my energy and skills into the community I live in.”

Malay is an experienced non-profit professional and most recently served as the Executive Director of the New

Hampshire Dance Institute (NHDI). She holds a Bachelor of Economics from Monash University along with a Graduate Diploma in Marketing from RMIT University, both located in Melbourne, Australia. Malay worked for many years in advertising, sales and marketing in Guam and moved to Keene, New Hampshire with her family in 2015. Prior to working with NHDI, Malay was the Events Director for Girls on the Run Vermont. She brings a depth of understanding, commitment and advocacy along with a keen business acumen to her new role. [www.khkc.org](http://www.khkc.org)

to have her as part of the commercial team” says **Scott Olmstead**, Sr. VP and Director of Operations. Prior to coming to The Insurance Center, Kelly worked for Optisure/Masiello Agency and prior to that as a Commercial Claims manager with Hanover Insurance Companies. Kelly will continue to work with new and existing commercial clients, as well as managing the commercial claims service of the agency. The Insurance Center offers a boutique style approach that creates a personalized, proactive program of insurance and risk management services. Kelly can be reached at 603-352-0281, or [kfratoni@insurancecenterinc.com](mailto:kfratoni@insurancecenterinc.com)

**The Insurance Center** is happy to announce the addition of **Kelly Fratoni** to their Keene office. “Kelly brings a wealth of insurance knowledge and experience in the area of commercial property and casualty insurance, and we very happy



### INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING CONTENT FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER?

Send events, news, and press releases to Laura Tobin at [ltobin@keenechamber.com](mailto:ltobin@keenechamber.com) by June 21, 2022 to be included in the July/August issue.



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If you or someone in your household has experienced a financial loss or increased expenses due to COVID-19, you may be eligible for tuition and fees assistance for the fall semester at River Valley Community College. Apply NOW at [rivervalley.edu](http://rivervalley.edu)

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FREE online application at [www.rivervalley.edu](http://www.rivervalley.edu)





Mary-Anne Wisell, MDS Executive Director, presents award to Prasad Venkataraman, Site Director at ICU Medical

Area businesses have been successfully hiring people with disabilities for many years. Several local companies have recently been recognized for their inclusive hiring practices, and for providing competitive, meaningful employment opportunities for people of all abilities.

**Smiths Medical**, now part of **ICU Medical**, a Keene-based manufacturer of high quality innovative specialty medical devices, has been honored twice in the past six months because of its purposeful inclusive workplace. In March the company received the NH Economic Affairs

Commissioner Disability Champion Award. They also were recognized with a 2021 NH Employment Leadership Award from the NH Council on Developmental Disabilities. People with disabilities who are hired at Smiths/ICU Medical are given an opportunity to learn on the job and grow. Solutions and accommodations ensure their success, and they are valued members of the team, contributing positively to the atmosphere as well as to overall productivity levels.

**Prasad Venkataraman**, Site Director at ICU Medical, believes their workforce should reflect the community they live in and should provide opportunities for everyone. “Smiths/ICU Medical has been employing individuals with disabilities for several years now, and over the years they have proven to be capable employees helping our business needs. We have developed a strong training program, with clear, more specific job tasks. This effort has strengthened our overall organization as a result.”

The **Keene Family YMCA** was also honored last fall with a NH Employment Leadership Award. It was chosen because of its workplace culture of inclusion and integration. For several years, they have employed several people with disabilities with good success. At the Y, all employees are held to same standards, given the same training, and are valued and appreciated.

“We have a much richer working environment that feels more inclusive and welcoming,” says **Dan Smith**, YMCA President. He talks about the beginning steps in hiring: “Make sure you know how to and are willing to accommodate. A diverse workforce brings different perspectives to work environment, and everyone learns from the experience. Having people with disabilities on our staff makes the Y work environment richer, happier, and it teaches all of us how to interact with all kinds of people.”

Three additional Monadnock Region businesses were recognized locally for providing inclusive employment opportunities for people of all abilities: **Bagel Mill & Café (Peterborough)**; **Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth Hitchcock**; and **Menadena Marketing (Keene)**.

When businesses work with employment specialists to match skills of people with intellectual disabilities and modify the job to best meet their needs, these employers are frequently rewarded with a productive and long-term employee. “It’s a win/win situation,” says Sheila Mahon, MDS Director of Operations. “These employers gain dependable, motivated employees, and there are benefits for the individual, too—by having a job, a person develops greater self-esteem as they contribute to society while earning money that allows them to live a more independent life. Ultimately, this results in happier, healthier workers who can help drive the country’s economic recovery.”

Employers who want to find out how their business can benefit from this untapped, loyal pool of potential employees should contact **Sheila Mahon**, 603-352-1304, or [sheila@mds-nh.org](mailto:sheila@mds-nh.org).

## Tap into a workforce that is eager and willing to work!

### People with disabilities are:

- Hardworking and looking for paid employment
- Possess a wide variety of skills and abilities
- Supported as needed by the agencies who can provide staff to work with the individual with a disability and the employer to assure success

### How do companies find individuals with disabilities who want to work?

- Businesses work with MDS or one of its partners to find qualified candidates with disabilities.
- Staff who are specifically trained to support individuals with disabilities meet with the business to discuss entry level positions available. If there is a candidate that matches the needs of the business, an interview is arranged. Individuals are employed by the business, and held to the same standards as all their employees.
- MDS or its partners provide support to both the employer and individual with a disability to ensure the job match is a good fit. Support may include having a Job Coach on site to assist with training.
- Contact Sheila Mahon, MDS Director of Operations, 603-352-1304, or [sheila@mds-nh.org](mailto:sheila@mds-nh.org).





## Why I Give

**Linda Guinane**  
Patient, community volunteer and  
Cheshire Medical Center donor



“ My support began in 1987 when my husband had a heart attack. Although Jim has since passed, he had wonderful care here, and for that I am very grateful. I still receive excellent care here, always with a warm, personal touch. We’re really fortunate to have Cheshire Medical Center so close by.”

Please join Linda in supporting your local community Medical Center by making a donation today.



Cheshire  
Health Foundation

To make a donation, visit  
**[cheshirehealthfoundation.org](https://cheshirehealthfoundation.org)**  
or call **603.354.6800**



# New Members



Gavin Key Films is a video production company servicing the Monadnock Region and surrounding areas. Owner Gavin Key has been making films and producing live events since 2016 when he was fifteen and is now attending Keene State College as a film production major. After starting college in 2020, he decided it was time to offer his skills professionally.

“At the root of all my projects is storytelling. Whether it’s a business commercial, documentary film, promotional video, wedding film, or anything else, story is always the most important aspect!”

Gavin previously worked part time at Vermont Academy as their videographer, and at Keene City Hall, where he broadcasted various City meetings to local access TV. Gavin Key Films recently produced the Chamber’s **Made In Monadnock** episode featuring **Outlaw Brewery**, which can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14KxfMWTga8>

Some of his other works include a teaser commercial, product launch video, and behind the scenes featurettes for **Ted McGreer’s** locally designed **Parrish Shoe** brand, and promotional clips for **Moco Arts’** 2020 and 2021 fundraiser event **Lights! Camera! Keene!** He is currently working on **Let it Shine: The Story of the Keene Pumpkin Festival**, a production that will premiere in October. A portfolio of some of Gavin’s work can be found on his website, [gavinkeyfilms.com](http://gavinkeyfilms.com).

Contact Gavin Key Films to discuss your next video production project!

Gavin Key Films

[gavinkey20@gmail.com](mailto:gavinkey20@gmail.com)

[www.gavinkeyfilms.com](http://www.gavinkeyfilms.com)

## More New Members – Welcome! March/April 2022

### **Allstate Insurance Agency**

Putney, VT

[agents.allstate.com/ethan-amidon-putney-vt.html](http://agents.allstate.com/ethan-amidon-putney-vt.html)

### **Allstate Insurance Ted Harris Agency**

Keene, NH

[agents.allstate.com/ted-harris-keene-nh.html](http://agents.allstate.com/ted-harris-keene-nh.html)

### **Ashuelot Valley Academy**

Keene, NH

[www.mountprospectacademy.org/services/academic-services/ashuelot-valley-academy-keene-nh/](http://www.mountprospectacademy.org/services/academic-services/ashuelot-valley-academy-keene-nh/)

### **Green Light Physical Therapy LLC**

Keene, NH

[www.greenlightphysicaltherapy.com/](http://www.greenlightphysicaltherapy.com/)

### **Keene Fusion Studios**

Keene, NH

[www.keenefusionstudios.com/](http://www.keenefusionstudios.com/)

### **Scott Wilson Inc**

Keene, NH

[spdr1959@aol.com](mailto:spdr1959@aol.com)

### **Steele’s Stationers**

Peterborough, NH

[steelsstationers.com/](http://steelsstationers.com/)

### **The Vacuum Store**

Keene, NH

[www.thevacuumstoreofkeene.com/](http://www.thevacuumstoreofkeene.com/)

## Thank You Renewing Members – March/April 2022

Carl Jacobs  
Brady Sullivan Keene Properties, LLC  
Howard Printing  
Rise for Baby and Family  
US Cellular Wireless Communications  
Cooper's Crossroad  
Winchester Economic Development Corp  
Reality Check  
Runnings  
GFA Federal Credit Union  
The Local Crowd Monadnock  
TD Bank  
Monadnock Region Child Advocacy Center  
Keene State College Office of Continuing

Monadnock Sustainability Network  
Clearwater Pool & Spa  
Merrimack Valley  
(formerly Monadnock) SCO  
Morningside Kitty Hawk Flight Park  
Monadnock International Film Festival  
Alzheimer's Association NH  
NHTrust  
The Insurance Center, Inc.  
Norton & Abert, P.C.  
Sunset Tool, Inc.  
Community Resources for Justice  
(Community Strategies of NH)  
RJ DiLuzio Ambulance LLC

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# Community & Industry **Events**

## **Celebrate Franklin Pierce University's 60th Year at the Monadnock Mixer**

May 25, 2022 • 5:30-7:30 pm

*Franklin Pierce University, 40 University Drive, Rindge, NH*

Join us for a multi-Chamber and professional associations mixer and networking event. Learn about Franklin Pierce University and the many ways we interact with the business community. Meet other business owners from around the Monadnock Region.

Appetizers • Desserts • Cocktail Reception • Door Prizes!

For more information, please contact Paul Allen-Webber at (603) 899-4307 or [allenwebberp@franklinpiercedu.edu](mailto:allenwebberp@franklinpiercedu.edu).

[Register now!](#)

## **11th Annual HCS Butterfly Release**

TWO LOCATIONS:

Thursday, June 16, 2022 • 2:00 - 6:00 pm

*Cathedral of the Pines, 10 Hale Road, Rindge*

Thursday, June 23, 2022

Reserved time slots will be offered between 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

*Butterfly Park, 320 Marlboro Street, Keene*

Release a butterfly in honor or memory of a loved one. Order butterflies online at [HCSservices.org/shop](https://HCSservices.org/shop). Butterflies are available on a first come first served basis, so order yours today!

For more information, call 603-352-2253 x4294 or send an email to [events@HCSservices.org](mailto:events@HCSservices.org).

## **"The Bald Eagle" Book Party with Author Jack E. Davis**

Tuesday, June 28, 2022 • 4-6 pm

*Bobolink Meadow Farm, 76 Prospect Street, Harrisville*

[www.monadnockconservancy.org/news/event/the-bald-eagle-book-launch-with-author-jack-e-davis](https://www.monadnockconservancy.org/news/event/the-bald-eagle-book-launch-with-author-jack-e-davis)

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jack E. Davis also happens to be a summertime resident of Harrisville and a Monadnock Conservancy volunteer land steward. His new book, *"The Bald Eagle: The Improbable Journey of America's Bird,"* presents a cultural and natural history of the bird — "a rousing tale of a species' survival," says Kirkus Reviews.

Join us for this exclusive event during which Jack will be reading from his new nonfiction book. The evening will also include light refreshments, time for mingling, and a chance to have your book signed by Jack.

The event is free. Hardcover books will be for sale for \$30, with the proceeds going to the Conservancy. There is limited parking at the farm (plus spaces reserved for people with mobility disabilities); hardy souls can park in Harrisville village and walk up the hill, about a 1/4 mile. Rain or shine, unless it's severe weather in which case the event will be canceled. Please register in advance to help us with planning.

Questions? Please email **Katrina Farmer**, [Katrina@MonadnockConservancy.org](mailto:Katrina@MonadnockConservancy.org) or call her at 603-357-0600, ext. 111.

**Check out all the other great community events on our calendar, and don't forget to add your own!**

<https://business.keenechamber.com/events/calendar>

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