



# Letter from the **PRESIDENT**



"The conservation of the Headwaters Forest is a lovely example of how protecting a local resource provides far-reaching benefits."

Dear Friends,

It has been a tremendous year for the Hanover Conservancy, bookended by two unprecedented successes: the largest land purchase and the most ambitious capital campaign in our organization's history.

We started the *Promise to Protect* campaign with a goal of \$2 million, and the community response was incredible, allowing us to raise over \$2.8 million to protect Hanover's natural resources for generations to come. Not only did we surpass our goal, but the campaign enjoyed widespread support, with donations from over 700 households and businesses in Hanover alone and gifts arriving from 12 states across the country. Your support, large and small, is a direct investment in protecting our environment and an investment that will benefit Hanover, the Upper Valley, and all of New England.

The conservation of the Headwaters Forest is a lovely example of how protecting a local resource provides far-reaching benefits. The property's 140+ acres joins a network of 3,000 acres of connected conserved land, providing rich habitat for a variety of wildlife, including moose, black bear, bobcat, snowshoe hare, bobolink, woodcock, ruffed grouse, and wild brook trout. The property's higher elevation on the western slope of Moose Mountain is a cooler refuge in the climate crisis. Safeguarding the headwaters of both Mink Brook and Hewes Brook provides critical downstream benefits, protecting clean water that flows from these mountain streams to the Connecticut River and providing crucial flood resilience to downstream communities.

In this report you will learn how the Conservancy is using campaign funds to conserve and steward land, to provide programming to connect people to the environment, and to invest in our shared future. We are honored and humbled to steward these resources and thank you for your continued support.

New H. The

Heidi Trimarco, President



The Hanover Conservancy, the oldest local land trust in New Hampshire, protects the land and waters of our community through land conservation and stewardship, education, and advocacy for conservation-oriented public policy.

Proudly celebrating its **63rd year**, the Conservancy is an independent private, not-for-profit, membership organization. While not affiliated with the Town of Hanover, the Conservancy partners frequently with the Town and other local and regional organizations.

Join us today at hanoverconservancy.org

# LAND PROTECTION



# "You changed the map of Hanover in a very rich way."

- Tom Duffus, The Conservation Fund

When Peter Spiegel heard the former Kendall Farm on Three Mile Road was coming up for sale, he knew he needed to act fast. For years, the former owner had allowed friends and neighbors to walk on his land [otherwise closed except for the Harris Trail]. Rough woods roads allowed for an off-the-beaten-path ramble through the trees, and a large section of the popular Harris Trail cuts across the property's midsection.

"I've walked and skied this property for many years, first with my wife Peregrine, and now with my dog Cassie," says Peter. "You don't need to be a biologist to see that it is a special place. When I heard that Mr. Kendall's heirs planned to sell the property, my first call was to the Conservancy."

As it turned out, the 140+ acre property on Moose Mountain's western slope had long been a priority for the Conservancy.

"While the recreational value of the property is exceptional, what we're most excited about are its ecological qualities," says Adair Mulligan, Hanover Conservancy's executive director. "The Kendall farm sits on a watershed divide. Mink Brook and Hewes Brook both start here. Protecting this land will provide wildlife habitat, improve flood resilience and water quality, and will add to an expanding block of conserved land."

Land protection opportunities of this magnitude are increasingly rare in Hanover, and time was of the essence in securing one of the largest remaining parcels on the west slope.

Working closely with the Kendall family, local supporters, and organizational partners from Concord to Washington, D.C., the Conservancy quickly developed a plan to protect this beloved piece of Hanover's rural landscape.



Black bear visits spring where Mink Brook rises on the Headwaters Forest

"Being able to act fast is essential as we collaborate to conserve the places we know and love," notes Sally Manikian of The

Conservation Fund, who worked with the Conservancy to provide a vital short-term loan. "Local organizations like the Hanover Conservancy are indispensable partners in that work. My colleagues and I are thrilled at the outcome in this case because we know that land sustains us. And thanks to our collective efforts, the Headwaters Forest will sustain us for generations to come."

Thanks to an innovative land protection plan unlike any other in our 63-year history, we were able to purchase the property in late 2023. After a field season of trail and habitat improvements, the Headwaters Forest at Moose Mountain is now officially open to the public for year-round recreation.

"Exploring this land has given us so much joy over the years," says Peter. "I'm grateful to the Conservancy for protecting it not just for us, but for everyone who will visit this place, decades into the future."



# **STEWARDSHIP**



# Creating a legacy of care and connection.

once we conserve a piece of land, our work is just beginning. For both the properties we own as well as the ones we protect with a conservation easement, we take on a permanent obligation of care on behalf of this generation and all those that follow. From clearing trails to monitoring boundaries, managing invasive species, and more, there is always something we can do to improve the health of the special places of our community.

Volunteers play a key role in helping us get this work done. "I had absolutely no idea what we'd be doing when I signed up," laughs Sidney Drill, a student at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College, "but I love the outdoors, and it was an

opportunity to see a side of Hanover I hadn't experienced before."

When a big job needs doing, our Stewardship team calls

FOOR

on an active volunteer corps of community members, school groups, and local businesses. From long-time trail stewards to one-off volunteers, hundreds of community members have lent their time and talents to the Conservancy over the years.

As part of our acquisition of the Headwaters Forest (see page 3), we knew there was a fair amount of clean-up needed to help get the centuries-old farm property ready for its new life as protected habitat and public recreation land. Thankfully, another Tuck Serves event was just around the corner.

"Tuck students participate in two annual days of service, giving us the chance to volunteer with local nonprofit organizations," says Betsy Winslow, Executive Director for Co-Curricular Learning at Tuck. "It's an opportunity for them to connect more deeply with the community. And although for many students their time in Hanover is relatively short, Tuck Serves can create lasting connections to this place and shape how the students see the communities they call home in the future."

This year, Tuck students have helped in two critical projects at Headwaters Forest: restoring upland habitat above Mink Brook, and clearing a new connector trail through the heart of the property.

"It was amazing getting outside of downtown and campus, and seeing this side of Hanover," says Sidney. "Hearing about the work of the Conservancy, and knowing I'll be able to come back and visit this same trail years from now, was a very cool feeling."

Are you interested in making a lasting difference in the places you love? Reach out for more information on how you can get involved by yourself, or with your work, friends, or family. Visit hanoverconservancy.org/volunteer or email Program Coordinator Barry Matthews at bmatthews@hanoverconservancy.org.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



# Niños en la naturaleza / Children in nature

or many parents, it can be a challenge to introduce their children to community organizations. But for Silvia Holman, it was her son who first made a connection to the Hanover Conservancy. "He's always been very interested in the environment, and was always looking for different community events. He was the one who brought me a Conservancy trip card and said 'Mom, look at this!" says Silvia.

Annual events like *Kite Day at Balch Hill* and the *Summer Trails Challenge* have long been family favorites, but Silvia saw an opportunity to make stronger connections between the organization and local schools and families.

A Spanish teacher at the Richmond Middle School, Silvia first joined the Conservancy's Community Engagement Committee in 2022. The committee members, made up of board and community volunteers, help plan special events and programs, and serve as ambassadors for the Conservancy's work. Jumping in with both feet, Silvia began leading seasonal bilingual outings to conserved lands.

"It's important to me to be able to offer opportunities for all kinds of families to get out together and take advantage of these incredible places the Conservancy has protected," says Silvia.

Since then, her Spanish-English hikes and story walks have become fast favorites, attracting families from Hanover and the surrounding communities. "We co-hosted a bilingual story walk and craft event with Silvia that was a terrific time," says Jeff Metzler, Library Director at the Etna Library. "Silvia led a troop of kids up into the beautiful hills behind the library, turning what could have been a simple stroll into an engaging, entertaining adventure. We love working with local groups like the Hanover Conservancy, pooling our resources and talents and offering new experiences to members of the Etna community and beyond."

After serving on the Community Engagement Committee for several years, Silvia recently joined the Conservancy's board and is now chairing the committee, working to expand our connections to the next generation of conservationists.

"The Conservancy protects land and water for the future, and these kids will live with our decisions longer than we will. It's so important that we get them involved early, so when it's their turn to lead, they'll already have deep connections to these special places," says Silvia.

In addition to a growing schedule of youth and family events, the Conservancy is working to partner more closely with local schools to help students get involved.

"Many young people are not very aware of what's happening with the climate right now, both around the world and where we live," says Silvia's son Peter. "We need to get them involved in groups like the Hanover Conservancy."





# ... and we're not done yet!

Our campaign lifted off on the 2023 summer solstice, alighting on the 2024 fall equinox. We set an ambitious goal of \$2 million — and with the help of grants and a wonderful response from the community, far surpassed our target, raising \$2,881,500.

The Byrne Foundation's generous gift of \$600,000 launched the campaign, leading to gifts from nearly 700 households and businesses in Hanover and some 30 other towns in 12 states. Many generous people shared our vision, with contributions ranging from \$25 to \$250,000.

These gifts have already made a difference:

**Land Conservation** – covering the costs of three new land protection projects, including the Headwaters Forest

**Land Stewardship** – helping with the expensive responsibility of caring for protected land, like at the Mink Brook Nature Preserve

**Community Engagement** – connecting people with places close to home and heart, by investing in public programming, school partnerships, and student scholarships

**Investing in our future** – building a solid foundation that will support our work for years to come

# Thanks to our many donors who helped support...

#### \$650,000

The Byrne Foundation

### \$250,000

David Roby

#### \$100,000+

Tillman Gerngross & Sylvia Richards Peter & Jane McLaughlin Bayne & Jean Stevenson

#### \$50,000+

Phil & Kate Harrison Emily Landecker Foundation

### \$30,000+

Mary & Scott Brown Steve Lubrano & family Gail & Mark McPeek Peter & Peregrine Spiegel

#### \$20,000+

Bruce & Patricia Atwood John Engelman Ken & Vickie French Kristine & Patrick McDevitt Rick & Linda Roesch

#### \$10,000+

Anonymous
A former board member
Elyse & Don Allan

James & Bethany Ames Errik & Emily Anderson Susan Cohen Couch Family Foundation Eric & Anne Evans Stephens & Linda Fowler Karen & Jim Geiling Robin Kaiser & Peter Gish Andrew & Terry Samwick Ann & David Malenka Elizabeth Parkhill Charitable Trust James Quinn & Florence Hoffman Stephen & Susan Shadford **Dudley & Julie Smith** Clyde Watson & Denis Devlin Jim Wooster

### \$5,000+

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Martha & Jim Beattie
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Michael Wagner & Laura Rice
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### \$2,500+

Anonymous (2) Barrette Family Fund Jim & Carol Baum Pete & Ruth Bleyler Jim & Jann Block Coop Food Stores Joseph & Carolyn Cravero Brian & Marianne Doyle Barbara Fildes & Keith Quinton Roger & Betty Gilmore Alison & Sean Gorman Tom & Barbara Hall Marc & Erica Hiller Charles & Roberta Hitchcock Jim & Kathryn Hourdequin Arthur & Lorraine Hutton Rebecca & Meir Kohn Mariah Davis Betsy McClain & Chris Kennedy Cynthia McCollum & John Spellman Corbin Moister, Jr. Amy B. Mucha Gillet Page Mary Sloat Thomas Topping Jay & Claudia Weed Debra Williamson

Thanks to the 611 others who contributed to help make this campaign a success! Every gift makes a difference.

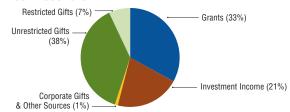
# Thanks also to the following organizations whose grants contributed to our land conservation successes:

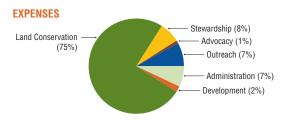
Land and Community Heritage Investment Program
Upper Connecticut River Mitigation and Enhancement Fund
The Nature Conservancy's Resilient and Connected Appalachians Program
New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
New Hampshire Moose Plate Program
Greater Upper Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited

# FINANCIAL REPORT (as of June 30, 2024)

CURRENT ASSETS	2024		2023
Cash & Cash Equivalents, unrestricted	\$ 237,591	\$	300,318
Investments	\$ 2,429,575	\$ 1	,917,241
Property & land improvements, net of depreciation	\$ 3,245	\$	3,245
Beneficial interest in assets held at			
NH Charitable Foundation	\$ 47,249	\$	43,335
Land held for conservation purposes	\$ 1,339,296	\$	883,296
Total assets	\$ 4,047,956	\$ 3	3,147,435
NET ASSETS			
Without donor restrictions	\$ 562,562	\$ 2	2,120,439
With donor restrictions	\$ 98,629	\$ 1	,026,996
Total net assets	\$ 4,047,956	\$ 3	3,147,435
Total liabilities & net assets	\$ 4,047,956	\$3	3,147,435
INCOME & SUPPORT			
Membership & other contributions	\$ 662,191	\$	407,089
Grants	\$ 478,500	\$	3,438
Investment gains and losses	\$ 404,369	\$	158,166
Total income & support	\$ 1,545,060	\$	163,479
EXPENSES			
Program services	\$ 195,658	\$	152,345
Management and general	\$ 189,022	\$	37,801
Fund-raising	\$ 8,580	\$	17, 998
Total expenses	\$ 393,260	\$	208,144
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	\$ 3,147,435	\$2	2,781,573
NET ASSETS, end of year	\$ 4,047,956		3,147,435
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 900,521	\$	365,862







In FY2024, our **Promise to Protect** capital campaign made great strides toward our \$2 million goal, concluding in September, 2024 by surpassing it. We are grateful for such strong support.

This page represents numbers prepared by management; the independently reviewed numbers were not yet available by press time. A copy of the FY2024 financial statement, prepared by our accountants at Rust & Company CPAs, will be available for review at our office as of February 1, 2025.

# Report from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

# "It's big years like this when we especially appreciate our hard-working board and volunteers."



his was a year that put our organization into overdrive. We purchased and protected the largestever parcel in our history. We won major support from not just one, but over a half dozen new grant sources. We expanded our educational offerings to broader audiences through wider use of technology. We confronted more complex land stewardship challenges than ever before, from moving a 5-ton, 80-foot log through downtown Hanover to removing a (forested) '63 VW bus from an old farm. And we burst through our \$2 million goal for the largest capital campaign in our 63-year history, *Promise to Protect*.

In the process, we worked toward the ultimate prize — an even wider coalition of partners and supporters who believe in our mission and jumped in to help conserve land and water in our community.

The Headwaters Forest brings to 311 acres the land we own on Hanover's Moose Mountain. With 332 more we've protected there with conservation easements, we're expanding an already impressive block of permanently protected habitat in the Appalachian Trail corridor.

Downstream in Etna, we worked with the Town of Hanover to permanently protect the King Bird Sanctuary and Trescott Ridge Wetlands. On Trescott Road, we made strong progress in a multi-year effort to protect prime agricultural soils and inspiring views at the Adams Farm.

These lands all have one thing in common — wetlands. Wetlands have timeless value as a geophysical "sponge," nature's less appreciated but truly beneficial gift, especially as climate change brings stronger, more frequent storms.

I'm deeply grateful to our Program Coordinator, Barry Matthews, who joined our staff 10 days before we acquired the Headwaters Forest and dove into the daunting to-do list that came with it, while also helping refresh and improve our work in other areas. Vermont Law School student intern Meredith LaLumia reviewed our internal policies for best practice updates, to support improved governance.

It's big years like this when we especially appreciate our active, hard-working board and volunteers. They were in the trenches with us, building bridges and kiosks, reaching out to friends, hauling debris, helping frame land project approaches, re-imagining and leading trips, and moving us forward in so many ways. Conservation is truly a team sport, and we're glad to be wearing the same jersey.

Hope to see you outdoors!

sarred owl. Photo by Hannah Ca

asaid. Muly

# Leaving a **LEGACY**



# "He was a wake up and 'where-are-we-going-hiking-today' kind of dad."

- Emilie Christie Burack

nspiring our community to appreciate the natural legacy we enjoy here in Hanover has increasingly motivated Conservancy members to consider the legacy they themselves will leave.

We remember and are grateful to those who have passed on in the last four years and directed memorial gifts to the Hanover Conservancy: Nina Banwell, Clyde Barbour, Gayle Bunge, Susan Cohen, Dr. Robert Christie, Robert Christy, Pat Durant, Susan Harper, Bob Norman, and Peter Runstadler. Some joined the Conservancy recently, others stepped up to support the organization early in our history.

Susan Cohen taught at the Richmond School and Hanover High School, retiring as Chair of the English Department. She joined the Conservancy in 1997 and, out of her affection for the Mink Brook Nature Preserve and interest in education, arranged for a bequest to the Conservancy.

Dr. Robert Christie was a North Country pathologist, Connecticut River Commissioner, and active outdoorsman who joined the Conservancy in 2011 after moving to Kendal from Lancaster, NH. Executive Director Adair Mulligan, who knew Bob for over 30 years, recalled that he was most happy when floating in his yellow kayak on the Connecticut River. "While he appreciated our work protecting land and trails, creating connections for the next generation was clearly on his mind. 'We need to do something for the kids,' Bob told me." Bob soon made a major gift supporting school programming and helped launch a pilot Connecticut River study program for the Richmond School's sixth grade science class (*Photo, Dr. Christie at right*).



He recently left his entire estate to five organizations he felt would "bring the most positive change to the world." Among the select five was the Hanover Conservancy, along with statewide organizations like NH Humanities.

Bob's daughter, Emilie Christie Burack, shared that "he was a wake up and 'where-are-we-going-hiking-today' kind of Dad." She wrote, "Dad loved the Hanover Conservancy! Thank you so much for all you continue to do to carry out its critical mission." We are honored to help continue Bob's lifelong legacy of service and stewardship. If you are interested in including the Hanover Conservancy in your estate planning, please contact Executive Director Adair Mulligan.

Thanks to those who have named the Hanover Conservancy in their estate plans, to ensure that the work of protecting land and water in our community benefits future generations: Nancy Collier, Adair Mulligan, Everett Poisson, Andrew Samwick, and Katherine Staples.

# Thank You **TO OUR PARTNERS**



# **VOLUNTEERS:** We value the spirit and commitment of our many volunteers, who continue a long tradition of caring for our lands, leading our trips, and helping in so many other ways.

Steve Alden, Britta Arvold, Apeksha Atal, Bruce Atwood, Jim Beattie, Katie Berdy, Jim Block, Robert Brentrup, Len Cadwallader, Rob Chapman, Eric Chen, Joanna Chen, Theresa Ciambra, Stan Colla, Nancy Collier, Dan Collison, Jim Coogan, Hal Coughlin, Joe Danna, John Donovan, Sidney Drill, Carol Edwards, Elizabeth Esinhart, Anne Evans, Scott Farr, Cal Felicetti, Hayley Furmaniuk, Ned Gallagher, Rich Greger, Alex Harrison, Barry Harwick, Claire Hogan, Haochen Hou, Margaret Jacobs, John Jayne, Robin Kaiser, Sierra Keat, Rebecca Kohn, Don Kollisch, Meredith LaLumia, Lucia Lobon, Rohan Lohia, Jill Marquard, Erin Matheson, Kristine McDevitt, Janine McGuire, Barbara McIlroy, Linde McNamara, Gail McPeek, Hugh Mellert, David Merker, Trevor Partridge, Jason Pettus, Irina and Laurent Perreard, BJ Premore, Lois Roland, Craig Sanborn, Alice Schori, Rita Shi, Mary Sloat, Jessie Stein, Rob Taylor, Ashton Todd, John Trummel, Spencer Weatherholt, John Welborn, Joanna Whitcomb, Christiane Whittington, Jim Wooster, Bill Young

## Thank you to the many supporters and friends make the Hanover Conservancy's programs possible.

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### Conservation Hero (\$5000+)

LindeMac Real Estate Law Office of Margaret Jacobs White Mountains Capital

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## Conservation Partner (\$250-\$499)

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The Nichol Foundation
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The following funds of the NH Charitable Foundation: Barrette Family Fund

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Jean L. Hennessey Wild Schemes Fund Upper Connecticut River Mitigation & Enhancement Fund

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### **Community Friends/Partners**

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The Conservation Fund

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Etna Library

Greater Upper Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Hanover Conservation Commission

Hanover Garden Club

Hanover Historical Society

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Hanover High School Environmental Club

Hanover Sustainability Committee

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Land and Community Heritage

Investment Program

Moose Plate Program of the

NH Conservation Committee

The Nature Conservancy

NH Fish and Game Department

Pine Park Association

Ray and Richmond Schools

Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth

UNH Cooperative Extension

Upper Valley Land Trust

Upper Valley Trails Alliance

Upper Valley Young Professionals

**USDA Natural Resources** 

Conservation Service



# **Our PROTECTED LANDS**



71 Lyme Road Hanover, NH 03755 (603) 643-3433

hanoverconservancy.org



A young family enjoys the Harris Trail on the newly protected Headwaters Forest on Moose Mountain.

