

# Minute NEIGHBORHOOD

THE NEWSLETTER FOR NEIGHBORWORKS® SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE

## Richard Clegg: Recipient of NeighborWorks® America's 2017 Dorothy Richardson Resident Leadership Award



Richard Clegg accepting award  
from Jeffrey Bryson, Interim CEO,  
NeighborWorks® America

**I**n October, Richard Clegg traveled to Los Angeles to accept the 2017 Dorothy Richardson Resident Leadership Award from NeighborWorks® America. This is a venerable award named in honor of Dorothy Richardson, who was a pioneer in the community-based development movement and worked tirelessly to save a declining Pittsburgh neighborhood and ultimately changed the nation's approach to urban development.

We are so proud of Richard, past Board Chair and current member of the Board of Directors of NeighborWorks® Southern New Hampshire, for his selection of this award, and grateful for his tireless commitment to improving Manchester.

**We proudly share NeighborWorks® America's story about Richard Clegg, which is currently featured on their website ([www.nwa.org](http://www.nwa.org)) and newsletter.**

*In 2008, the West Granite neighborhood of Manchester, New Hampshire, was not what would normally be considered a desirable location. It had become the most troubled and deteriorated area of Manchester—with a high rate of neglected and foreclosed properties, absentee landlords, low homeownership and increased crime.*

*And yet, that was where Pastor Richard Clegg decided not only to work, but to raise a family—an unusually large and changing one: a biological daughter, four adopted children (including two 8-year-old, wheelchair-bound twin boys with multiple developmental challenges) and one foster baby nearly 3 months old. Veteran foster parents, Richard and his wife, Abbey, have sheltered 25 children over a period of eight years.*

*So...why choose such a distressed neighborhood for a church, when he already has so many "small" challenges at home?*

*"My dad and I were walking around in the neighborhood before we moved in," recalls Richard, who started and is senior pastor for the community's Grace Haven Church. "A kid 4 or 5 years old came out and said, 'I'm going to kill you.' Then he changed his mind and said, 'But you're old and I don't like old people.' But it didn't put me off. The neighborhood needed a church."*

*Richard was familiar with neglected communities; he grew up in Wheaton, West Virginia—another rough, gritty steel town. He came to New Hampshire for seminary and stayed. Starting churches in distressed neighborhoods is a sort of family "mission," and West Granite fit the bill. When NeighborWorks® Southern New Hampshire adopted a revitalization plan for the neighborhood, he stepped right up to become a moving force in its implementation. It was a natural fit in several ways, since Richard and Abbey bought their first home with the help of NeighborWorks® Southern New Hampshire.*

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It has been an exciting and special year for us. Special, because we have enjoyed the opportunity to take note of our 25th anniversary as an organization, and take account of all that has been accomplished in our work to create housing opportunities and revitalize neighborhoods in New Hampshire. We are grateful to all of our sponsors whose support and interest helped us recognize this milestone throughout the year.

Exciting, because we completed the rehabilitation and preservation of our first five projects in RENEW, 98 units located in the heart of Manchester's center city. We also began construction on Phase II in Londonderry where 33 new affordable rental units are being created. The excitement continued as so many friends, supporters, and volunteers were able to join us in recognizing New Hampshire Housing as this year's David P. Goodwin Outstanding Neighbor Award recipient. Nothing could make us prouder than to share the news that past board chair, and long-time community volunteer, Rich Clegg was named a 2017 Dorothy Richardson Award recipient from NeighborWorks America.

We know that 2018 will be every bit as busy and exciting as we complete construction in Londonderry, seek to acquire new property in Nashua's Tree Streets neighborhood for redevelopment, work with residents and leaders in Manchester and Nashua to help overcome neighborhood challenges, grow our lending program offerings to first time home buyers, and provide quality education and counseling services through HOMEteam. None of which would be possible without your dedication and support. Thank you for helping to put NeighborWorks® Southern New Hampshire in a position to make a difference in the lives of so many families.



Robert Tourigny  
Executive Director

*continued from page 1*

*As a member of the organization's Community Services Committee, Richard provided a grassroots connection to the neighborhood; he knew which properties were on the brink of foreclosure long before the bank made it public. His early involvement also helped build trust with residents, since many felt disenfranchised by the city. Richard knocked on doors, encouraged residents to attend monthly meetings and helped form a neighborhood watch group. He also helped collect neighborhood data through a survey conducted door-to-door, initiated an after-school program for local youth, and organized clean-ups and block parties.*

*To date, the NeighborWorks New Hampshire-coordinated investment totaling \$5 million has resulted in nine rehabilitated properties that have been sold to owner-occupants; demolition of two dilapidated buildings; preservation of 21 homes; and creation of additional, much-needed parking for the senior center. In the process, Richard has become an integral part of NeighborWorks New Hampshire. He joined the board of directors in March 2012, later becoming treasurer and chair of the Finance Committee, followed by board chair.*

*Most recently, Richard and his assistant pastor joined with several other local churches to support more than 200 refugees from Nepal who had moved into the neighborhood—connecting them with services to help find them jobs and offer transportation, as well as purchasing necessary items lacked by the families.*

*His fledgling church has merged with another to become larger and more robust and today, the congregation draws people from all walks of life. In fact, they have sent a representative out to start a new church in another neglected neighborhood!*

# HOMEdteam Community Partners

**H**OMEdteam is the branded collaborative program among NeighborWorks® Southern New Hampshire, CATCH Neighborhood Housing, and Laconia Area Community Land Trust (LACLT) that provides quality homeownership and financial literacy education and counseling programs.

NeighborWorks® Southern New Hampshire manages all aspects of HOMEdteam, including program coordination and planning, staffing, finance and fund raising, and reporting. CATCH Neighborhood Housing and LACLT provide space at their respective facilities for seminars and counseling.

Thank you to our current funding partners. For more information about HOMEdteam, please contact Paul McLaughlin at [pmclaughlin@nwsnh.org](mailto:pmclaughlin@nwsnh.org) or 603.626.4663 ext. 1100



**New Hampshire Housing**  
Bringing You Home



St Mary's Bank  
Merrimack Mortgage Company, LLC  
(a division of Harbor One Bank)  
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Keller Williams® Realty Metropolitan  
Granite United Way  
NeighborWorks® America  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

## Volunteers Attend NeighborWorks® America Training

**N**eighborWorks® Southern New Hampshire staff and volunteers recently attended the Community Leadership Institute (CLI) in Los Angeles. The CLI is an invitation-only, three-day training event hosted by NeighborWorks® America that seeks to strengthen the voices and skills of community, resident, and volunteer leaders, helping to share best practices and solutions to challenges in low and moderate income communities.

While in Los Angeles, our team attended a range of courses, each of which was led by industry professionals. Session topics included "Impacting Decisions in Your Community," "Developing Your Neighborhood Brand," and "Neighborhood Safety." The team from NeighborWorks® Southern New Hampshire came away with an action plan that will involve partnering with MPAL to introduce monthly activities that encourage and facilitate Manchester youth and their parents/guardians to spend quality time together engaging in positive, constructive activities.



Front row left to right: Jennifer Sabin, Granite United Way; John Rivera, Pastor of Hope Tabernacle; Back row left to right: Richard Clegg, Board member of NWSNH and Senior Pastor of Faith Bridge Church; Sandra Almonte, owner of Don Quijote Restaurant; Kristen Treacy, Manchester Health Department; Anita Wolcott, Merrimack Mortgage Company; Abbey Clegg; Erica Brooks and Jennifer Vadney from NeighborWorks® Southern New Hampshire.



# 2017 David P. Goodwin Outstanding Neighbor Award Reception

## Recap from an Evening of Support and Celebration



*Mayor Gatsas presenting proclamation to Dean Christon*

More than 150 people gathered at the Straw Mansion Apartments in Manchester on September 13th in support of NeighborWorks® Southern New Hampshire and our work to create quality housing opportunities for New Hampshire residents, and help us recognize New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA) as this year's recipient of the David P. Goodwin Outstanding Neighbor Award.

This year's event also marked the final gathering in our series of four events in 2017 recognizing NeighborWorks® Southern New Hampshire's 25 year anniversary.

In his comments before presenting the David P. Goodwin Award Outstanding Neighbor Award to Dean Christon on behalf of New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority, Robert Tourigny acknowledged that NHHFA is more than an "agency" or "department" connected to state government as a public benefit corporation.

*"New Hampshire Housing is a group of extremely dedicated people who are committed to helping Granite Staters meet their housing challenges through a variety of means. Be it through homeownership lending initiatives, multi-family financing, homeless programs or special needs housing, NHHFA is comprised of individuals who have dedicated their lives to making sure that people have a decent place to call home. From its Board of Directors, through its leadership and management team, to the front line and often behind the scenes staff, they are uniquely positioned to help us carry out our work. Nearly all of the accomplishments of NeighborWorks® Southern New Hampshire, from our inception as Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services to today, in some fashion is due either in large part or in a tangential manner to New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority."*

We are happy to share a few photos from the evening's gathering and appreciate the support that has been shown to our organization in so many ways—at this event and throughout the years.



*Arthur Sullivan, Carolyn Benthien, Nadine Salley*



*Dallas Lagerquist, Evelyn Rivera, Rev. John Rivera, Erica Brooks*



*Robert Tourigny and Clairra Monier present award to Dean Christon*



*Back Row: Dee Pouliot, Gloria Paradise, Patricia Donahue, Pauline Ikawa, Lynn Lippitt  
Front Row: Kerrie Diers, Dean Christon, Robert Tourigny*



*David Cochran, Sarah Cochran, Ellie Cochran, Dean Christon, Robert Tourigny, Charles Goodwin, Jaye Goodwin, Carolyn Leary, Michael Leary*



*Thom Lavoie, Charlie Wienberg, Ellen Wienberg, Carol Bednarowski, Jack Campbell*





We say a final thank you to all of the following sponsors of this year's events:

**Eastern Bank, Sheehan Phinney, TD Bank, Anagnost Companies, Brady Sullivan Properties, People's United Bank, Lavallee Brensinger Professional Association, Otis Atwell, New Hampshire Housing, Stewart Property Management, Gary Chicoine Construction Corporation, Pidela Corporation, John S. Jordan Design, College Bound Movers, TFMoran, Bank of New Hampshire, Eversource, Merrimack Mortgage Company, Enterprise Bank, Craig, Deachman & Amann, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Citizens Bank, Boyd & Boufford Insurance Agency, St. Mary's Bank, Keller Williams Realty Metropolitan, Secured Network Services, Berry Dunn, Bellwether Community Credit Union, Mortgage Bankers and Brokers Association of New Hampshire, Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, Mutual of America.**

We also thank **RAM Companies, Weber Stave Design, and Cross Photography** for their contributions this year!



*Marc van Zanten and John Deachman*



*Steve Valbona and Cindy Weber Stave*



*Bill Zafirson, Evelyn Whelton, Karen Mayrand*



*Robert Tourigny, Thomas Breslawski, Michael Dell Orfano*



*Dan Heying and Erin Schaick*



*Ellie, Sarah, and David Cochran*



*Debbie Wheeler, Denise Hubbard, David Fisher, Jeni Williams*



*Adele Baker and Robert Dastin*



*Deborah Blondin, Will Craig, Mike Reed, Joseph Reilly, Kathy Kittle, John Clayton*



*David P. Goodwin Reception 2017.*



*Paul McLaughlin and Jennifer Vadney*



*Chris Miller and John Madden*



*Meredith Stidham and Jennifer Sabin*



*Kerrie Diers and Jane Law*

# Nashua's Tree Streets Revitalization Initiative

## Investing in Nashua's Built Environment

**F**or the past four years, NeighborWorks® Southern New Hampshire has organized outreach and community organizing activities in Nashua's Tree Streets neighborhood, working with residents and community leaders as part of our efforts to move the neighborhood forward on multiple levels.

The City of Nashua's Tree Streets Neighborhood Analysis and Overview, completed in September 2012, reported among other things that 29% of buildings in the neighborhood are "poorly maintained" and only 15% of the housing units in the neighborhood are owner-occupied.

The next step in our commitment is investment in the physical built environment in the Tree Streets, which will involve a combination of acquisition rehab, rental, sales, and homeownership lending in the neighborhood.



*Robert Tourigny and Joseph B. Reilly, New Hampshire Regional President, Eastern Bank*

We seek to secure a minimum of \$1 million for this purpose, realized through the already completed sale of other Nashua properties we own located in other areas of the city, HOME funds, as well as gifts and grants which, to date, have been received from: New Hampshire

**Housing Finance Authority (\$50,000),  
Cogswell Benevolent Trust (\$25,000),  
Samuel P. Hunt Foundation (\$20,000),  
The McNinch Foundation (\$10,000) and  
NeighborWorks® America (\$50,000).**

Support from the business community is essential to our plan, and we are grateful to Merrimack County Savings Bank, Brady Sullivan Properties, and Eastern Bank for each committing \$50,000 for this effort. Thanks as well to Central Paper Products for their generous \$25,000 commitment.

"Financial resources acquired for this project will have a direct bearing on the extent of our abilities to have impact in this area of Nashua at this time," says Robert Tourigny. "We hope other businesses—large or small—will join in support."

For more information, please contact Michelle Caraccio at (603) 626-4663 ext. 1300 or [mcaraccio@nwsnh.org](mailto:mcaraccio@nwsnh.org).



*Robert Tourigny with Arthur Sullivan, Principal, and Holley Ackerson, Marketing Manager, of Brady Sullivan Properties*



*Left to Right: James Gallagher, SVP, Commercial Loan Officer; Debbie Stoodley, Branch and Business Development Manager; Philip Emma, President, Merrimack County Savings Bank; Robert Tourigny, Michelle Caraccio, NeighborWorks® Southern New Hampshire; and Kyle Schneck, VP, Commercial Loan Officer, Merrimack County Savings Bank*

### Funding News

We gratefully acknowledge other recent grants to NeighborWorks® Southern New Hampshire from the following sources in either new or renewed support for specific programs or operating support:

**Associated Grocers Community Connection  
Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
Blackbaud Community Matters  
Bob's Discount Charitable Foundation  
Citizens Bank  
Granite United Way  
Kiwanis Club of Manchester**

**NBT Bank  
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation  
NeighborWorks® America  
Queen City Rotary Club  
Santander Bank  
St. Mary's Bank  
TD Bank/TD Charitable Foundation  
Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank**



## **Your Financial Support Makes a Difference!**

### **Please Consider Making a Donation By December 31st**

**N**eighborWorks® Southern New Hampshire relies on charitable support to create housing opportunities for New Hampshire residents. Over half of our operating budget comes from financial gifts and grants. This support affects our ability to deliver homeownership and financial literacy education programs, create affordable rental units, and work with residents and others in neighborhoods of need.

November and December are wonderful months to reflect on what your home means to you, and make a tax-deductible contribution to a non-profit organization helping to ensure that others have a safe, affordable place to call home.

Please consider renewing your support during this season, or contributing for the first time, by sending your gift in the enclosed envelope or giving on-line by going to [donate.nwsnh.org](http://donate.nwsnh.org) and contributing through our secure website.

Thank You!

## **Nashua Youth participate in Youth Leadership Academy**

**W**hat is a leader? “A leader is someone who does good stuff when no one else is looking,” says 9 year old Marilyn.

Marilyn was one of twelve Nashua Police Athletic League participants who attended a six-week Youth Leadership Academy facilitated by NeighborWorks® Southern New Hampshire. Modeled after NeighborWorks® Southern New Hampshire’s Resident Leadership Training program for adults in Manchester at Beech Street School, the five week Youth Leadership Academy in Nashua is our first training focused on youth leadership.

Participants of the Youth Leadership Academy followed the acronym L-E-A-D-E-R and learned a skill for each letter, focusing on one leadership skill per week: L for listening, E for empathy, A for awareness, D for dreaming and doing, E for encouragement and empowerment and R for responsibility. Each week participants began the session with a teambuilding game related to their skill, had open discussion time, and concluded with an activity requiring kids to be active in their neighborhood, such as picking up trash in the Los Amigos Park, handing out “encouragement coupons” to neighbors and passersby on the Heritage Rail Trail, or listing community assets in their neighborhood that they may not have been aware of before. Nashua Mayor Jim Donchess visited the group on session four, sharing his thoughts and experiences in leadership positions. Participants asked questions and received feedback about actions they can take to improve their neighborhood.

“The Youth Leadership Academy strives to empower kids who may not yet have confidence in their abilities to be bold in a positive way for their personal benefit and the community,” says Erica Brooks. The workshops and activities provided through the Academy offered an opportunity to cultivate positive feelings about leadership, such as those expressed by Marilyn. For more information about our Resident Leadership Training program, please contact Erica Brooks at (603) 626-4663 x1200 or [ebrooks@nwsnh.org](mailto:ebrooks@nwsnh.org).



*Nashua Mayor Jim Donchess with kids in the Youth Leadership Academy at Nashua PAL this summer. Erica Brooks, Community Building Specialist, and Erica Bressler, Tenant Services Coordinator, from NeighborWorks® Southern New Hampshire are with them.*

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*It was an afternoon of celebration in the Cedar Street Family Park in Manchester in late August as neighborhood residents and partners helped us dedicate the Little Library. And Officer Tom Whelan from the Manchester Police Department stopped by to read a story to youngsters. The Little Library has quickly become a popular place!*