

STRAWBERRY BANKE MUSEUM

Banke Notes

FEBRUARY 2017

Letter from the Chairman



For many, February is still part of the 'new year,' just the second month into a brand new calendar and a time to put new plans and new intentions into action.

But for Strawberry Banke, February is like November—two months from the end of the Fiscal Year on March 31 and even a time for Thanksgiving as we review the budget and measure how far we've come in accomplishing the goals we set out last April.

Even for Labrie Family Skate, February means just one more month of skating (and hopefully some bonus days before the sun wins the freezing vs. melting battle with the ice).

In particular, February is one of our prime donation months, as we push to achieve the ambitious \$450,000 Annual Fund goal we set for ourselves and as we encourage friends of skating to become members of Strawberry Banke. For those who love the rink, now's the time to enjoy not only half-price skating but many other benefits (free daily admission May to October, discounts on tickets to signature events and a variety of services from our partners around town and 10% off in Figtree Kitchen Café and Pickwick's at the Banke).

Since the start of the museum's fiscal year last April 1st we've welcomed 80,000 visitors including 8,000 schoolchildren, completed the Heritage House Program Thales Yeaton House and opened the Montrone Family Gallery with its impressive "Port of Portsmouth" collection of the Sawtelles' ship models, continued work on the HHP Walsh House, debuted "Baby Animals: Heritage Breeds at the Banke" that returns April 22–30, and held rewarding conversations about the Long Range Interpretive Plan with the many stakeholders in Strawberry Banke, internal and community-wide.

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Season of the Heart(h)



The entire month of February is good for romance, not just Valentine's Day. What could be cozier (or more romantic) than a February midday meal (11 am to 1 pm) hand-crafted in front of a fire? Join a Strawberry Banke Hearth Cooking Workshop on Saturday, Feb 25, or later in the season. Members receive a \$10 discount and the workshops are limited to just 8 participants, for the most engaging experience.

Maybe match the fire to ice — with a hand-in-hand turn around the ice rink before or after the workshop? Members skate for half-price at all times — and Saturday morning ice time, 9 to 10:45 am is a free public skate (sponsored by Portsmouth Rotary).

Visit StrawberryBanke.org/events for more information about the individual menus for the Hearth-cooking Workshops in Wheelwright House Feb. 25, March 11 & 25, April 8 & 22, 11 am to 1 pm. \$65 (\$55 for members). And note the new, easier to reference Calendar format on the website Events menu!

Members skate
for half-price!



LABRIE FAMILY SKATE
AT PUDDLE DOCK POND
STRAWBERRY BANKE MUSEUM



Letter from the Chairman

Continued from page 1...

That's a great deal of work for a small staff and a closely watched budget and one, I hope you, as members, are as proud of as my fellow Trustees and I are.

So since we're on a holiday theme, let me close with an ask "from the heart." If you love Strawberry Banke, if you think the organization's creativity and imagination should be rewarded, if you think the museum succeeds in its goal to be "a place to learn, a place to gather and a sustainable resource for the community," then please consider a gift to the Annual Fund and encourage your friends and neighbors to support this rare, historic community resource by becoming members.

The constant fund-raising refrain from non-profits may seem like "Groundhog Day" but actually, when we measure the shadow that so many Strawberry Banke initiatives, preservation projects and partnerships casts, it feels like Spring. Even in February.

Zachary Slater, Chairman
Strawbery Banke Board of Trustees

Archaeology Field School returns to Penhallow for 2017



Caption: Ashley Kippley, Samantha Tickey, and William English work with 2016 intern Ana Opishinki along the north wall of Penhallow House. [Credit: Mike Fillyaw]

Strawbery Banke Museum welcomed 16 students to its 40th archaeological excavation in June and July of 2016. The focus was the Penhallow House, built circa 1750 on the corner of Court and Pleasant Streets (which is now part of Historic New England's Gov. Langdon House property) and moved to its current Washington Street location in July 1862. The house is named for Deacon Samuel Penhallow, a grandson of the first president of the Province of New Hampshire. Penhallow lived there with his wife Prudence until his death in 1813. Leonard Cotton, who owned many Portsmouth houses, purchased the property in 1868. The house was soon divided from a single family home to a duplex and eventually a triplex, and in the 20th century, was occupied by Richardson and Cousins families.

Heritage House Program rehabilitation of this house is in the planning stages. Part of this house will be used to interpret the neighborhood's African-American history. The field school explored the integrity of the foundation for planning purposes, and recovered information about how the property was used before the house was moved here, and investigated the additions to the house and the lives of 19th and 20th century residents.

The Field School explored the foundation along the north and west sides of the house. A shallow builders' trench (which yielded an 1862 penny) pre-dates a dense cobblestone feature that may have been related to a tanning industry in this block of the neighborhood. The excavation also uncovered stratified layers of marine sediment and 18th century artifacts, indicating a greater extent of the Puddle Dock tidal inlet than what was depicted on an 1813 map. Other interesting finds included an 1861 Civil War token, a 19th century oyster shell midden, and various trade ceramics, faunal remains, personal items, and architectural debris.

The Archaeology Field School returns to the Penhallow excavations in June 2017. Visit StrawberyBanke.org to find out how to participate in the field or lab! Thanks to support from Thomas Lynch, T. M. Lynch Pellet Stove Services, for scholarship funds to support the program.



Strawbery Banke Museum is open year-round (including skating) for active duty military and their families.

A TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER CHARLES F. HUMMEL

Charles F. Hummel, *Curator Emeritus*, Winterthur Museum has just announced his retirement from the Strawberry Banke National Council, a role he accepted in 1995 that has provided the museum with invaluable wisdom, advice and introductions stemming from his decades of experience in the worlds of collections conservation and curation. During the planning of and move to the new Carter Collections Center, Charlie advised museum staff. Just one example of the role he played for the collections staff, Charlie remained a close advisor and seemed to always keep the Curatorial Department of Strawberry Banke in mind.” While not attending meetings, his counsel will continue to serve Strawberry Banke.



Of this portrait, Charlie Hummel commented, “I’ve not had a ‘rocking chair retirement; but am sitting in one made by Nathaniel Doming Y (17701852) near a fiddle-back chair made by the same craftsman.”

After starting his impressive Winterthur career as assistant curator in 1958 he rose to become senior deputy director in 1989. At Winterthur, Charlie championed the creation of the Scientific Advisory Committee that helped pioneer the use of scientific techniques on material culture research, established the Scientific Research and Analysis Laboratory in 1969, and founded the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation in the 1970s. On the national level, he convened a 1973 meeting at Winterthur that led to the creation of the National Conservation Advisory Council and the National Institute for Conservation, now known as Heritage Preservation.

In 1994 President Bill Clinton appointed him to serve on the National Museum Services Board of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. In 2012 he received the Allied Professional Award from the American Institute for Conservation and the Award for Distinguished Service to Museums from the American Alliance of Museums.

This spring, the University of Wisconsin is publishing a revised and expanded edition of his landmark book: *With Hammer in Hand: The Dominy Craftsmen of East Hampton; A Winterthur Guide to American Chippendale Furniture*. Charlie continues his leading research on the Dominy craftsmen.

The following is condensed from a recent telephone conversation:

AS A PIONEER IN THE USE OF SCIENTIFIC TECHNIQUES IN ART AND MATERIAL CULTURE CONSERVATION, WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHANGE YOU’VE SEEN IN THIS ARENA DURING YOUR CAREER?

There’s been a major, major increase in the field of the marriage of science and art. When we started the Winterthur University of Delaware program in 1974, it was probably the only graduate training program that insisted conservators bring a strong background in chemistry and physics to their studies. Now there is a strong, strong correlation and so much progress has been made. Every issue of the journal of the American Institute for Conservation includes an article on the scientific analysis of materials. In the 1970s and 80s most of the content dealt with treatment of materials. Curators are so much more aware and responsive to the science of conservation. All the awareness is for the good.”

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR VISION FOR STRAWBERRY BANKE’S FUTURE? WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE FUTURE ROLE OF HISTORY MUSEUMS?

From a collections standpoint, the major turning point in the strategy for Strawberry Banke collections came when there was a strong decision to focus only on items related to the mission: to Portsmouth connections . But thinking about Strawberry Banke and history museums in general, Strawberry Banke is on the right track reaching out to the

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A TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER CHARLES F. HUMMEL (CONTINUED)

community. The ice rink shows how much interest there is [out there] if the institution demonstrates that [we] want their participation.

The future for Strawberry Banke is tied to the idea that it is a model for preserving something lacking in the US. Cities are growing because there is a desire by younger people to be involved in a neighborhood. American society is always looking at the future—what will happen versus what did happen; but Strawberry Banke preserves a neighborhood and provides lessons in what might happen.

Strawberry Banke is a destination, though, so we need to make sure we're part of the community conversation about transportation. How do people get to Strawberry Banke—or any other history museum? And how do families incorporate museums like Strawberry Banke into family vacations where two adults are juggling work schedules. It's important to work within the region to help people get here.

I am also happy that Strawberry Banke is getting so much more grant recognition, especially to help subsidize school visits. Again, the transportation issue—not just providing free admission but providing the bus to get schoolchildren to Strawberry Banke—will be more and more important as budgets for these things are cut.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE OBJECT IN THE STRAWBERRY BANKE COLLECTION?

Objects are so important. I react to and enjoy objects; but one of the things that is so great about Strawberry Banke is the choice of material objects on display is based on documentation [of their specific relationship to the site]: on archaeological evidence, on manuscripts and historical records. There's a back story that tells you so much about the way people lived, hoped, desired; about their illnesses. So much is revealed by these objects and the context of their interpretation.

Strawberry Banke celebrates the milestones of this year with thanks to everyone who keeps this institution “a place to learn, a place to gather and a sustainable resource for the community.”

You, the members and friends of Strawberry Banke make all this possible:

Visits by **7,419 SCHOOLCHILDREN**, and the support of scholarships for admission and transportation for field trips, Outreach Programs, the Virtual Classroom and Summer Camps.

A NEW COLLABORATION with the NH Association for the Blind, a fellow Thompson Fund beneficiary.

THE OPENING of the “Port of Portsmouth: War, Trade and Travel” exhibition, **AND THE COMPLETION** of Heritage House Program property, the Thales Yeaton House, and its Montrone Family Gallery

BABY ANIMALS: Heritage Breeds at the Banke, a new annual event for families

EXPANDED PROGRAMMING and additional costumed role-players for An American Celebration July 4th and Candlelight Stroll.

THE DEPENDABLE ALLIANCES we treasure with the restaurants, auction donors and service providers who together helped the Vintage & Vine and Passport fund-raisers succeed.

Season Two (Jan-Mar) and the start of Season Three (Dec) for **LABRIE FAMILY SKATE AT PUDDLE DOCK POND**

PONTINE THEATRE as the theatre-company-in-residence at Strawberry Banke.

THE BOATSHOP AT STRAWBERRY BANKE and the return of active interpretation of the Seacoast's boat-building heritage to the museum.

ONGOING PARTNERSHIPS with Pickwick's at the Banke, Figtree Kitchen Café and Mombo Restaurant, that make the visitor experience more memorable.

A TOTALLY REIMAGINED, MOBILE-OPTIMIZED AND MORE USER-FRIENDLY WEBSITE and the new short video — created with invaluable assistance from local photographers, designers and producers — to entice more visitors to the place TripAdvisor calls the #1 “thing to do” in Portsmouth.

2016
thank you!

Double your Annual Fund gift with the Strawberry Banke Founders Match:

March 31, 2017 marks the end of a successful year for Strawberry Banke. As encouragement to those who would like to make an Annual Fund gift for the museum's FY17—and get a hard start on tax deductions for 2017, Strawberry Banke announces the Founders' Match. Each gift between now and March 31 is matched, dollar for dollar, through the generosity of the families of some of the original Strawberry Banke founders:

CYNTHIA RAYMOND was one of the original benefactors and was a founder of the Guild of Strawberry Banke, a separate non-profit women's group created to fund the early years of the museum. It operated a number of gifts stores on the site and in the City culminating in the building of the Dunaway Store. Over its life the Guild contributed \$1 million to the restoration and operation of SBM. Mrs. Raymond had a keen interest in the historic gardens at Strawberry Banke and launched a fund, now known as the Cynthia Raymond Endowment for the Historic Landscape, to sustain Strawberry Banke's horticulture program. Mrs. Raymond's daughter, Cynthia Hosmer made a gift to the March Match Challenge in memory of her mother.

WILLIAM W. AND MURIEL S. HOWELLS William White Howells, the son of architect John Mead Howells who with Stephen Decatur IV drafted a plan for a "maritime village" to preserve the colonial homes on the Portsmouth waterfront in 1935, married Muriel Howes, a champion of historic preservation. Described as "The woman who orchestrated the founding of Strawberry Banke" and was "instrumental in creating, administering and funding" the museum, Mrs. Howells was also the person who invited National Trust president Richard Howland to tour the site in 1957. She was one of the original five Strawberry Banke Guild members and created the concept of the Overseers (now the National Council) in 1965. Both of the Howells were key benefactors and the lecture hall in the TYCO Visitors Center is named in honor of Mrs. Howells. Their daughter Gurdon Howells Metz and son W. Dean Howells made gifts to the March Match Challenge in honor of their parents.

BARBARA AND BENJAMIN ALLEN ROWLAND moved to the Seacoast from Methuen MA in 1963 when Strawberry Banke, in its early years, was looking for volunteers and community members to move its plans forward. Both answered the call. Mr. Rowland served as trustee and became President of the Board in 1968. He was responsible for hiring the first executive director and curator. Mrs. Rowland was secretary for the board and organized innumerable fundraising events, including the first Candlelight Stroll, 37 years ago. Both served on the Board of Overseers for over twenty years and helped the museum survive the troubled financial years of the 1960s and 1970s. In their honor, the museum dedicated the Barbara B. and B. Allen Rowland Gallery in the new Carter Center in 2007. A gift to the March Match Challenge from the Rowland Family (Rodney and Wickie, Ned and Susie, Barry and Wendy, Robin and Cassidy, Danny and Wendy, MA and Alan) honors their memory.

EDWARD V AND CATHERINE FRENCH were early supporters (he paid for the first fence around the Museum circa 1962 and donated the Patch Tool collection in the late 1970s. Funding the restorations of Lowd, Jones and Shapley-Drisco, the Frenches were Overseers from the early 1970s into the 1980s. Their legacy, the French Foundation has continued to support Strawberry Banke since the 1980s. Their son Robert French served on the Board and their grandson Jameson French joined the Board in 1985 and subsequently became Chair. His gift to the March Match Challenge honors them.

MARION FULLER BROWN was among the original benefactors of Strawberry Banke. She was a member of the Maine House of Representatives from 1966 to 1972. She also served on the National Highways Beautification Commission from 1971–1973 Her daughter, Senator Martha Fuller Clark, who first volunteered at the museum in the 1960s, is another second generation family member and Board chair who has seen the museum's full 60 year story play out. Committed to offering continued support and leadership, she and her husband Dr. Geoff Clark provided major funding for the expansion of the TYCO Visitors Center and many other capital projects. Their March Match Challenge is made in honor of Marion Fuller Brown.



**A TIME FOR
FAMILY ADVENTURE**

Meet a dozen heritage breeds of baby animals (and their moms), under a tent on museum grounds. A family-friendly opportunity to learn more about typical domestic livestock on New Hampshire farms from the 1600s to today.

BABY ANIMALS
Heritage Breeds at the Banke

April 22-30
10am-5pm



Strawrybanke.org
14 Hancock Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801
603.433.1100

Strawbery Banke Museum would not long endure without such generous support. If you'd like to make a tax-deductible year-end donation to Strawberry Banke, please use the enclosed envelope or visit the secure website at: StrawberyBanke.org/donate

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Shea Adelson	Stacia Clinton	Kathleen Herrmann	Todd Michel	Brenda Schwechheimer
Margaret Aldrich	Cheri Coberly	Stefan Hershfield	Kevin and Colleen Mills	Erin Seaton
Valerie Altman and Stephen Boyle	Philip Cohen	Robert and Mary Ellen Hill	Kimberly Monterio	Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Semprini
Kate Anaya	Erik Colberg	Elisa Holben	Mr. Miles Moody	Michelle Shanley
Roger Bailey	Mr. and Mrs. LJ Combe	Julia Holup	Katie Moody	Mr. Thomas Shea
Ryan Baker	Mr. and Mrs. Andrew B. Comendul	Megan Hopkins	Michael Moore and Jeanine Tamboli	Tom and Lisa Sherman
Irene Bartholomew	Terence Conklin	Victoria Horrock and David Mata	Thomas Moran	Diane Shiffer
Sarah Batterson	Katherine Conroy	Stephen Houlihan	Tim Moran	Deborah Shipman
John J. Berger	Karen Cook	Tiffany Hoyt	Peter and Bridget Morningstar	Stephen Smith
Meg Berling	Eileen Creedon	Rick Hugener	Brian Mullane	Albert Smith
Brian and Anne Bienvenue	Christina D'Alessandro	Tiffany Hurd	Tasha Murphy	George and Karie Smith
Ms. Carrie Boeing	Timothy and Kristen Daniels	Eilleen Jacobsen	Sean and Liz Murphy	George Spaeth
Giovanna Boggero	Undraph Davies	Jason Jenkins	Robert Nalewajk	Christian and Kirstin Stallkamp
Leslie Bolton	Ciro de la Vega	Margaret Johnson	Rebecca Navelski	Lisa Stewart
Margaret Bradford	Jamie Decato	John Jones	Nicholas Newdorf	Chris Stinson and Amy Green
Bonnie Brown	Alexandra Deneve	Claudia Kaerner	Carrie Noyes	Lawrence and Laina Stuesser
Erick and Elizabeth Brunelle	John Deziel	Christine Kelley	Nancy Outcalt	Arthur F. Sullivan
Susan Buchanan	Massimo DiDonna	Carolyn Kemp	Carolie Owens	Jacquelyn Sullivan
Karn K. Case	Anne Donnell	David Kempton and Art Nicholson	Michael Panebianco	Kurt and Elaine Swenson
Shay Cassily	Marie Elaine Doyle	Christine Kenneally	Bryan Pappas	Brian and Willow Tervo
Adam and Brenda Chapman	Kevin Drohan	Nancy Keough	Diane Louise Paul	Barry and Lorraine Thompson
	Anarita Droukas	Kate Klebes and Joel Reitz	Jonathan Payne	Peggy Tinglof
	Jennifer Dunnington	Steve and Elsa Koalick	Mark and Marguax Peabody	Katharine Townsend
	Susan Engel	Tony and Susan Korjagin	Christine Pelham	Rob and Ali Tozier
	Stefanie England	Christopher and Adrianna Korth	Ms. Emily M. Peters	Heather Trespas
	Marlene Farnon	George and Linda LaBarrre	David and Francelia Plank	The Triadon Family
	Chiara and Brian Fecteau	Derek LaRorie	Lesley Powers	Bernard Trinovitch
	Sarah and CJ Fleck	Colin Lawson	David Pratt	Gabriele Varoudalis
	James Flynn	Samuel Leblanc	Ian Raum	Diane Velez
	Joanne Foster	Linda Lemoine	David and Martha Raymond	David and Sallie Vroom
	Gabe Gabrielson	Don and Joanne Little	Mr. and Mrs. Ned Reynolds	Shirley Waldron
	Judy Gagnon	Amy Longsteig	Glynn Reed	Meredith Walters
	Phillip Gendelman	Jesse Lore	Joseph Richter	Deb Watson
	Jane Gillette and Sylvia Scharf	John Lovering	Susan Tuveson and Dennis Riendeau	Mark Weaver
	Christine Goss	Thomas Lyng	Ken Robertson	Laura Webb Waldo
	Deborah Graziani	Michael Maler	Kevin and Jen Roelofs	Helaine Wemple
	Ken Greenwood	Shanna McBurney	Leigh Rohde	Jane Werner
	Brian Grohn	Kevin and Janet McCann	David Rothstein	Matt and Sarah Williams
Dr. John Chiou	Carl and Cassie Gustafson	Shawn and Sara McCarthy	Michelle Rowan	John and Christal Wilson
Fidan Chong	Erin Hale	Paul J. McCool	Stephen and Natalie Safeley	Larisa Wiseman
Cheri Christenson	Ann Hartman	Peter McElroy	David and Lisa Sands	Gary York
Diane Christian	David and Caryl Harvey	Simon and Bridget McFall	Vito and Tracy Sasseville	
Heath Churchill	Marsha Heiland	Tiffany McGinness	Mr. and Mrs. Nick Saunders	
Patricia Clark	Julie Hensel	Jeffrey Meehan	John Schafer	





Planning the 2017 Victory Garden



This year, the Victory Garden features heirloom vegetables that originated in New England prior to WWII but were also commonly recommended or grown during the war gardens movement.

These varieties serve as a bridge between old flavors and new traits valued for uniformity. Many of these are the precursors to contemporary varieties. As with all heirloom plants, growing them out and saving their seeds is a way to preserve their genetic material that can be used by hobby breeders and institutional researchers to develop new varieties that best suit contemporary needs. They also provide ways to preserve traditional foodways and cultural flavor.

The New England region has a rich agricultural legacy from which many contemporary vegetable varieties originate. Some of the interesting varieties in this year's garden include:

CONNECTICUT FIELD PUMPKIN: Commonly used for commercial production (even today), this variety can be traced to pre-1700s New England when the Abenaki gave it to settlers.

DANVERS CARROT: Developed by market gardeners outside of Boston, it was first offered in 1871 and can be said to have set the standard for size and shape in the US.

EARLY WONDER TALL TOP BEET: Developed in Arlington, MA in 1911 by market gardeners, this beet is considered the ideal shape and size with ideal flavor. Many of the contemporary hybrids used this as a parent material.

KENNEBEC POTATOES: A globally cultivated variety that was developed on Presque Isle, ME in 1941, this is a tasty white potato that is great for boiling and baking.



Summer Camps – Now Open for Registration!

CONNECTING THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE THROUGH HANDS-ON, MINDS-ON FUN!

Strawbery Banke offers programs for school-aged children with a wide array of interests and abilities. Participants learn about all aspects of life in the past and how they connect to the world today. Each camp is structured to be hands-on (providing one-of-a-kind interactive experiences) and minds-on (allowing kids to investigate and explore the world around them).

Camp sessions integrate science, sports, art, theatre, cooking and history and are designed to excite kids with varying interests about the past and encourage them to be eager participants in the world around them. For a full schedule of camps, visit StrawberyBankeCamps.wordpress.com. Members receive a 25% discount.

We welcome your comments about this issue of Banke Notes and encourage your ideas.
Please contact us at 603-433-1100 or info@strawberybanke.org



Strawbery Banke Museum, PO Box 300
14 Hancock Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801



This fire bucket was owned by Leonard Cotton, a Portsmouth cooper and later, landlord. His fire bucket, beautifully painted by renowned local painter John Blunt, features a barrel as a nod to his early profession. Two of Cotton's tenant houses are open to the public during the regular season. [Credit: David J. Murray/ClearEyePhoto.com]

“The Painted Past”

OPENS MAY 1

Strawbery Banke Museum has collected objects since the early 1960s; but many of them have remained safely stored because their story wasn't ready to be told. The Painted Past is an opportunity for some of these rarely-if-ever-seen objects to be on display. Painted objects, including furniture, architectural elements, ceramics, paintings and other artworks abound in the collection. Paint, as a medium that can be applied to nearly anything, is the notable common denominator in the museum collection and a vivid lens for an exhibit. The objects on display vary from decorative to utilitarian, from precise to whimsical and many of them tie back to the historic houses open to the public. The Painted Past opens in the Rowland Gallery on May 1, 2017.

Donor Recognition

GEORGIA-PACIFIC FOUNDATION: for History Within Reach

MALCOLM E. SMITH JR. FOUNDATION for the preservation of Yeaton-Walsh House, Heritage House Program

THE MCININCH FOUNDATION: for the preservation of Yeaton-Walsh House, Heritage House Program

LCHIP – GRANT ROUND 15: for Penhallow Planning Study—Heritage House Program

NH CHARITABLE FOUNDATION: Community Impact Grant for operating funds

SIDNEY STERN MEMORIAL FUND: General support

DIRECT CAPITAL: funding 250 Candlelight Stroll tickets for OneSky, private, non-profit organization for children and adults with developmental disabilities and acquired brain disorders in Northern Rockingham County.