

⤴ LIVE THE NEW FOREST FUTURE

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Northern  
Forest  
Center

## Changing Lives, Strengthening Communities

*"While a great many non-profits can change the lives of individuals, families, and their communities for the better, only a very few have had the opportunity to really alter the course of history for their state or larger region. The Northern Forest Center is one of those organizations."*



These words from Darby Bradley, a former Center board member who is widely recognized for his long-time leadership of Vermont Land Trust, hit home as we reflect on the year and the transformative impact our work has on the lives of individuals and the vitality of communities. Your support and partnership make this possible.

Through our programs and Northern Forest Fund investments, we are meeting community needs and catalyzing progress. With seven buildings complete or under renovation, and plans for our first new construction project underway, we are poised to have an even greater impact in the years ahead. Community members have expressed how meaningful it is when we redevelop dilapidated buildings into quality housing for workers and families. This is not just about housing; it's about fostering a sense of community and connection to place that is so desperately needed.

This year, we celebrate several stories that illustrate how our initiatives change lives and communities over the long-term. In **Elizabethtown, NY**, a young couple—one of whom is a Center team member—enhances community capacity. In **Albany, VT**, a sawmill owner looks to the future with support from the Center as she celebrates 50 years in business. In **Lancaster, NH**, the Parker J. Noyes building provides a home for an educator and her sons. In **Millinocket, ME**, a library director builds on a suite of Center initiatives in the community. Circling back to the **Adirondacks**, a Center board member is shaping the future through her work and charitable giving.

Thank you for your support in making these successes possible!

Tim Volk, Chair

Rob Riley, President



Center staff contribute ideas, support, and expertise to people strengthening economic opportunity and environmental resilience across Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. Read staff bios at [www.nfcenter.org/staff](http://www.nfcenter.org/staff).

### VISION

We envision a thriving and welcoming Northern Forest region sustained by innovation and environmental stewardship.

### MISSION

We create bold possibilities that give rise to vibrant Northern Forest communities.

### WE BELIEVE IN

The New Forest Future.  
Bold, adaptive leadership.  
Widely shared opportunity.  
Persistence.

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## Building 100 Homes for Residents

The need for housing is urgent; that's why we're committed to creating at least 100 new places in 10 communities across the region where workers and families like Kristen's can live.

Using the Northern Forest Fund, we've put your money – from investors and donors – to work, jump-starting projects even as we raise the final dollars to capitalize the \$30-million Fund.

By mid-2024, the Center had 73 units of housing in pre-development, under construction, or – in the case of the Parker J. Noyes building in Lancaster, NH – completed and occupied by residents.

Many of these projects are redeveloping neglected downtown buildings, transforming them to create new living and commercial spaces. And we're using as much wood as possible – for framing, insulation, heat, flooring, and more – for the carbon it stores, the forest economy it supports, and the comfort, beauty, and health it brings to each home.

We're excited to see that these projects are inspiring other neighborhood improvements so more people like Kristen can build their lives and futures in the Northern Forest.

## Apartment Gives New Lease on Life

When Kristen Kennett wanted to move back to northern New Hampshire with her two young sons, she could not find a place for them to live.

"My options were very limited," said Kristen, who grew up in Groveton, NH, and wanted her boys to experience the safe, small-town, rural upbringing she enjoyed. "I don't qualify for income-restricted housing, and there are not a lot of rentals here. I searched for six months in Groveton and Lancaster and only three apartments opened for rent. They were outdated and not a good fit for my sons."

Kristen was finally able to move in 2022 when the Center finished redeveloping the PJ Noyes building and created new apartments on Main Street in Lancaster. "It was my key to actually getting back and establishing a life here," she said. "I can't stress enough how blessed I feel that we found this apartment."

Kristen, who has a master's in education, works for the local school district, helping children in pre-K through 8th grade increase their social-emotional learning skills so they can thrive in their academic environment. She sits on the board of the Child Advocacy Center, and she's a regional group facilitator for pre-K to kindergarten transitions in Lancaster and Whitefield.

"I love having family close by," said Kristen, whose sons, Beau and Reid, are now seven and nearly six years old. "I wanted the boys to grow up with their cousins; to have family dinners, and friends nearby."

"We walk almost everywhere we want to go, but the best part is having a good place to live. That's why I think the Center's work is so important. I want more parents like me to have a safe environment for their kids."

“

*...the Center's work is so important. I want more parents like me to have a safe environment for their kids.*

”

The Center's redeveloped Parker J. Noyes building (right) provided Kristen Kennett (above) with the home she was searching for: a quality place to raise her sons in a small-town environment. Top photo by Three Peaks Media.





## Adding Capacity Gets Things Done

Most rural communities face a long list of projects but don't have enough time, people, or funding to do them. It can be particularly rare to have young people on hand to help improve their communities.

The Center team complements residents, business owners, and town leaders to help secure resources and manage projects such as expanding broadband, creating a Community Forest, or improving access to outdoor recreation. We bring the capacity to get work done that otherwise would languish.

For example, in Elizabethtown, NY, the Center's Adam Bailey is helping the town surmount obstacles that had stalled a much-needed wastewater treatment system for the town center. He also secured a state grant that will enable Chestertown to pursue creating a historic district, which will make properties eligible for grants and tax credits, enhance tourism, attract businesses, and foster community pride.

Work like this is critical to the future of communities but often takes a back seat to immediate needs. That's why we have expanded our community-based team to help advance community-identified priorities and provide people power for big projects that create lasting change.

## New Residents Put Down Roots

The eastern Adirondacks scored big when Adam and Sawyer Bailey moved to Elizabethtown two years ago. Both Baileys brought expertise to their professional roles in community development and were quick to engage as volunteers as well. For rural communities with aging populations and a long list of priorities they need help with, energetic new residents are a boon.

Adam works as the Center's Adirondack program manager and Sawyer serves as executive director of AdkAction.

"The Adirondacks feel like home for us now," said Sawyer. "We're settling into a long campaign on the house and yard. We put in new windows and planted asparagus. We're putting down roots!"

They're digging into their community as well, joining volunteer days at the E'town Social Center, monitoring water quality through a local group,

and often biking or hiking with friends on local trails. After a short stint on the planning board, Adam was asked to fill a vacancy on the town council and has been enjoying his new role in public service.

"We both love it here and are investing in it in a variety of ways both personally and professionally," said Adam.

As a program manager for the Center, Adam is helping communities to lower barriers to attract new residents. "There are a lot more people like us who want to set down roots here, work locally, and add to the community, but they can't find a place to live, and it can be a struggle to make connections at first," he said.

Like Adam, other Center staff live and work in Northern Forest communities, actively helping their towns attract and retain younger residents.

“

*We both love it here and are investing in it in a variety of ways both personally and professionally.”*

”

Sawyer and Adam Bailey (above) help make Elizabethtown, NY, (right) a vibrant community through their professional roles, volunteer work, public service, and social network building. Top photo by Eric Teed; inset by Kennedy Shea Productions.





## In it for the Long Haul

Center supporters are helping build the future of Millinocket, a town reshaping itself 15 years after the closure of its world-renowned paper mill. In the shadow of Mount Katahdin, and the gateway to Baxter State Park, the Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument, and vast recreation opportunities, the region is banking on a mix of tourism, forest products, and light industry to drive a new economy.

The centerpiece of the Center's community investment strategy – housing redevelopment – began here. Starting in 2017, we purchased and renovated six rundown properties to create 11 quality rentals for new residents like Diana, while also facilitating financing to transform the library and leading community projects to serve residents and visitors alike.

With your support, we're doubling down on our initial investment and redeveloping a historic downtown building. The project will create five new apartments and two commercial spaces – one featuring Wabanaki heritage, the other for the popular Baby Ruthie's eatery.

Community revitalization is a long-haul proposition. We need more long-term, patient investors who are committed to the future of rural places and understand that a lasting transformation can take 10 to 20 years to achieve.

## Library Director Champions Community & Inclusion

"Libraries can be vessels for community development," said Diana Furukawa, who became director of Millinocket Memorial Library in Maine at age 25. "It's so rewarding to hold this space where people can connect to each other and to resources. We're as much a community center as a library."

When Diana moved to Millinocket after college, she was the first person to live in one of the properties the Center had renovated. "It was a great home base for entering the community," she said. "It was easily walkable to downtown; a quality place to live." She's since bought her own home. "I'm investing in this place because I believe in what it's becoming."

Since the library's transformational renovation in 2020, it has been a dynamic driver in the community. "We show up in other spaces," she said.

"I'm on the Center's advisory group and the Katahdin Collaborative, facilitating initiatives related to livability. That's exciting to me. You get to make more of a systemic change." The library helped launch a gear library – where residents can check out a bike, a pair of skis, or a kayak – to provide more access to the area's recreation opportunities.

Diana also brings a different lens to Millinocket. "I'm multi-racial," said Diana. "I'm white presenting, but it can still be a challenge to feel like I belong here," she said. "We have a lot of work to do to make rural places like Millinocket more inclusive." Through the Collaborative, Diana helps arrange LGBTQ gatherings. "At our last gathering, we had 28 people come who really wanted to engage," she said. "It makes me hopeful for all kinds of inclusivity. The question is, will it change fast enough?"

“

*I'm investing in this place because I believe in what it's becoming.*

”

Diana Furukawa (above) builds community in Millinocket, ME (right), as director of the library and through the Katahdin Collaborative, in which the Center also participates. Top photo by Sienna Renee Photography; inset by Josh Linscott.





## Driving Innovation at Every Level

When it comes to strengthening the regional forest economy, the Center leads at the regional level with programs like the Future Forest Economy Initiative – which helped launch 10 new forest products and leveraged \$15 million of private investment in the sector – and at the local level, helping businesses with the assistance they need to continue as critical links in the forest products supply chain.

Goodridge Lumber, for example, does business with 60 local landowners, loggers, and truckers annually. It supplies 280 retailers in Vermont and more than 15 wholesalers in New England with sustainable products that replace plastic, concrete, or steel, all of which are carbon intensive products.

Each business to which we provide consulting, training, or resources is an important link in a chain that begins with landowners and foresters, relies on loggers, truckers, and mill workers, includes designers, crafts people, and technicians, and ends with wholesalers, retailers, and ultimately customers. Losing one business could mean the end of livelihoods for people up and down the supply chain.

## Family Business Prepares for the Next 50 Years

“We take a lot of pride in what we do, the products we make,” said Colleen Goodridge, cofounder of Goodridge Lumber in Albany, Vermont. “And we work with a great group of people – loggers, landowners, truckers. We don’t stand alone. Unless we have all of them, we don’t have an industry.”

The Goodridge family is celebrating 50 years in business by positioning the company for growth and continued community service. But it has not always been easy. Over the past 25 years, dozens of local sawmills in Vermont have closed, straining the supply chain. This past year, Goodridge faced the challenge of how to power its mill as its old diesel generators aged out and new ones would have consumed too much fossil fuel.

With help from Amy Robinson, the Center’s business innovation advisor, Goodridge secured a grant for

more than \$225,000 so it could switch from diesel to 3-phase power from a local utility, enabling the mill to continue as a critical link in the local forest economy. The new power opens the possibility of making value-added products and adding a drying kiln in the future. “We never would have gotten to this point without the Center’s help,” said Colleen.

Goodridge mills about 1 million board feet a year, and almost all of it is white cedar sourced from the working landscape within 75 miles of the mill. “We buy locally and deal with dozens of suppliers, from 1-person operations on up to larger, more mechanized businesses,” said Colleen. “We serve our community by providing products to them. And we’re a business using a natural, renewable product. It’s a complete circle. When that circle works, you’re successful. You empower others.”

“

*We work with a great group of people... Unless we have all of them, we don't have an industry.*

”

Center Business Innovation Advisor Amy Robinson (above, right) helped mill owner Colleen Goodridge (above, left) secure funding for a major mill improvement. Inset photo: Colleen and her sons (L to R) Mark, Brian, and Doug, are planning the business's future together. Photos by Joe Klementovich





## Funding the Vision

Your financial support helps change people's lives – providing universal broadband, housing for workers and families, stewardship and stability for Community Forests, and that first-time ride for a child on a mountain bike from the gear library.

The Northern Forest Fund, nearing its \$30 million goal, enables us – together – to invest deeply in community-centered projects that help towns realize a new future built on innovation, stewardship, inclusion, and authenticity.

Planned gifts like Megan Phillips' can build a lasting foundation for the Center, while annual donations fuel ongoing work – directly supporting communities, businesses, and our shared forests.

Recalling Darby Bradley's words from our introductory letter, we are proud to stand out as one of the few nonprofits to have "had the opportunity to really alter the course of history for their state or larger region."

We are grateful for you - our supporters and partners - for your friendship and collective action. We learn with you every day. How do you want to be part of this essential work? Please be in touch about being involved as a donor or investor in the region's future at [northernforest.org](http://northernforest.org).

## Committed to People & Place

When Megan Phillips realized how strong, happy, and rejuvenated she felt after her weekends in the woods, she decided to move to the Adirondacks from Albany, NY. "It feels like a vacation to live here all the time," she said. "I'm grateful for that. I walk out my door and jump in clean water or access trailheads in a 5-minute drive. Our surroundings make this place so special. We need to celebrate and preserve why people want to be here."

Megan gets to do that in her land use planning role working for the state of New York. "I enjoy working with communities to help them shape what they want to look and feel like in the future," she said. "I look at land use issues through lenses like climate change and accessibility."

She brings the same spirit to her volunteer role on the Center's board of directors and her charitable giving.

Though just in her mid-30s, Megan recently named the Center as a beneficiary in her estate planning.

"It's very empowering for people my age; it makes me feel part of things bigger than myself," said Megan. "I'm part of a generation that's really trying to plan for the future, for the things we care about."

"I have friends who can't find good housing here and have left," said Megan. "The work the Center is doing is helping prepare communities to welcome new residents. That's the impact I want: more people in communities."

"I love that by championing the Center's work, I'm a part of making it possible for people to live in renovated properties and help bring these communities back," she said. "I hope more people will join me in keeping that infusion of new energy growing."

“

*[Donating] is very empowering for people my age; it makes me feel part of things bigger than myself.*

”

Megan Phillips champions the Center's work to help revitalize rural communities. Photos by Eric Teed.

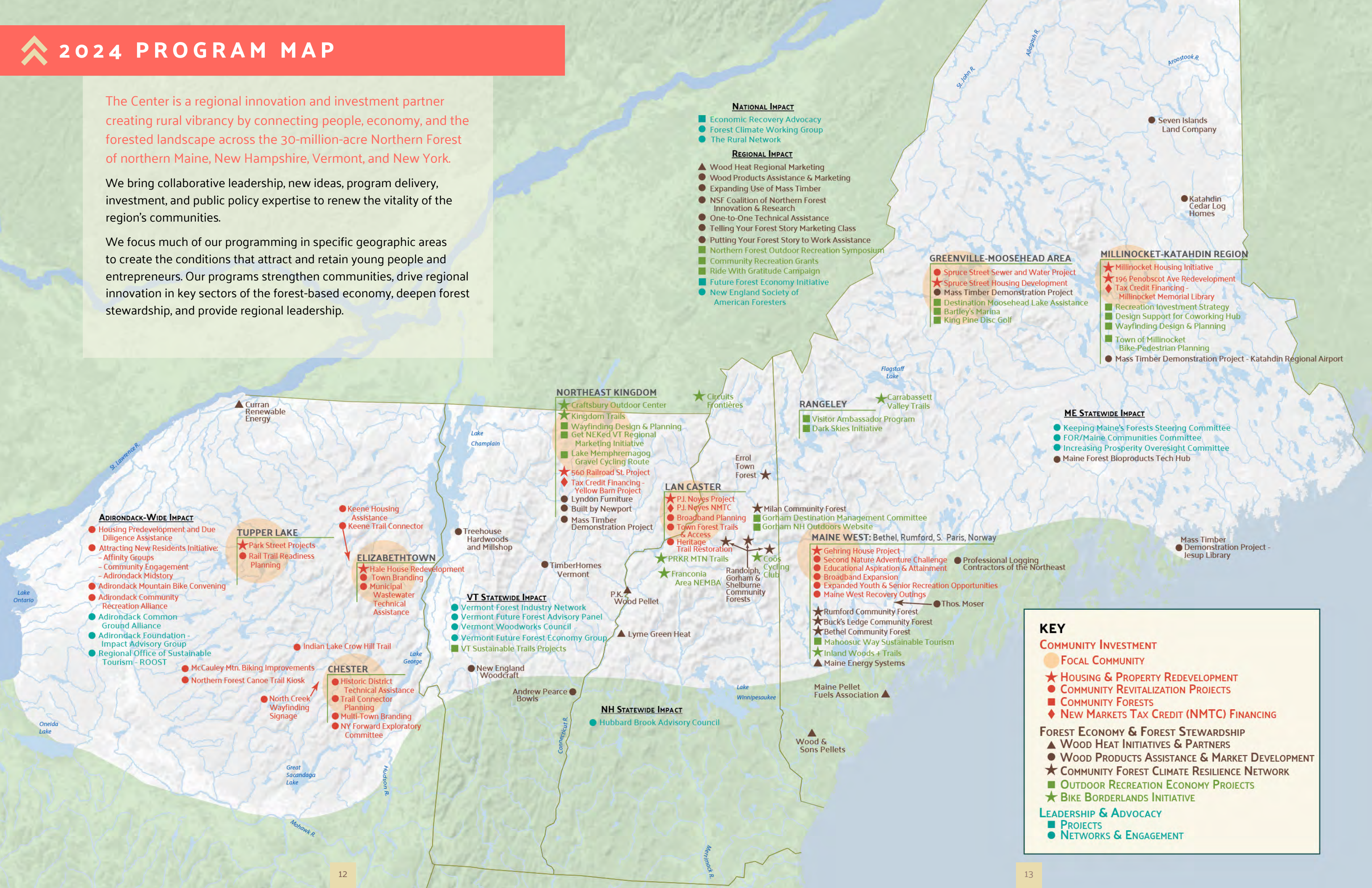


# 2024 PROGRAM MAP

The Center is a regional innovation and investment partner creating rural vibrancy by connecting people, economy, and the forested landscape across the 30-million-acre Northern Forest of northern Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York.

We bring collaborative leadership, new ideas, program delivery, investment, and public policy expertise to renew the vitality of the region's communities.

We focus much of our programming in specific geographic areas to create the conditions that attract and retain young people and entrepreneurs. Our programs strengthen communities, drive regional innovation in key sectors of the forest-based economy, deepen forest stewardship, and provide regional leadership.



- NATIONAL IMPACT**
- Economic Recovery Advocacy
  - Forest Climate Working Group
  - The Rural Network
- REGIONAL IMPACT**
- Wood Heat Regional Marketing
  - Wood Products Assistance & Marketing
  - Expanding Use of Mass Timber
  - NSF Coalition of Northern Forest Innovation & Research
  - One-to-One Technical Assistance
  - Telling Your Forest Story Marketing Class
  - Putting Your Forest Story to Work Assistance
  - Northern Forest Outdoor Recreation Symposium
  - Community Recreation Grants
  - Ride With Gratitude Campaign
  - Future Forest Economy Initiative
  - New England Society of American Foresters

- GREENVILLE-MOOSEHEAD AREA**
- Spruce Street Sewer and Water Project
  - Spruce Street Housing Development
  - Mass Timber Demonstration Project
  - Destination Moosehead Lake Assistance
  - Bartley's Marina
  - King Pine Disc Golf

- MILLINOCKET-KATAHDIN REGION**
- Millinocket Housing Initiative
  - 196 Penobscot Ave Redevelopment
  - Tax Credit Financing - Millinocket Memorial Library
  - Recreation Investment Strategy
  - Design Support for Coworking Hub
  - Wayfinding Design & Planning
  - Town of Millinocket Bike-Pedestrian Planning
  - Mass Timber Demonstration Project - Katahdin Regional Airport

- ME STATEWIDE IMPACT**
- Keeping Maine's Forests Steering Committee
  - FOR/Maine Communities Committee
  - Increasing Prosperity Oversight Committee
  - Maine Forest Bioproducts Tech Hub

- ADIRONDACK-WIDE IMPACT**
- Housing Predevelopment and Due Diligence Assistance
  - Attracting New Residents Initiative:
    - Affinity Groups
    - Community Engagement
    - Adirondack Midstory
  - Adirondack Mountain Bike Convening
  - Adirondack Community Recreation Alliance
  - Adirondack Common Ground Alliance
  - Adirondack Foundation - Impact Advisory Group
  - Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism - ROOST

- TUPPER LAKE**
- Park Street Projects
  - Rail Trail Readiness Planning

- ELIZABETHTOWN**
- Keene Housing Assistance
  - Keene Trail Connector
  - Hale House Redevelopment
  - Town Branding
  - Municipal Wastewater Technical Assistance

- CHESTER**
- McCauley Mtn. Biking Improvements
  - Northern Forest Canoe Trail Kiosk
  - North Creek Wayfinding Signage
  - Historic District Technical Assistance
  - Trail Connector Planning
  - Multi-Town Branding
  - NY Forward Exploratory Committee

- VT STATEWIDE IMPACT**
- Vermont Forest Industry Network
  - Vermont Future Forest Advisory Panel
  - Vermont Woodworks Council
  - Vermont Future Forest Economy Group
  - VT Sustainable Trails Projects

- NORTHEAST KINGDOM**
- Craftsbury Outdoor Center
  - Kingdom Trails
  - Wayfinding Design & Planning
  - Get NEKed VT Regional Marketing Initiative
  - Lake Memphremagog Gravel Cycling Route
  - 560 Railroad St. Project
  - Tax Credit Financing - Yellow Barn Project
  - Lyndon Furniture
  - Built by Newport
  - Mass Timber Demonstration Project

- LANCASTER**
- P.J. Noyes Project
  - P.J. Noyes NMTC
  - Broadband Planning
  - Town Forest Trails & Access
  - Heritage Trail Restoration
  - PRKR MTN Trails
  - Franconia Area NEMBA
  - Milan Community Forest
  - Gorham Destination Management Committee
  - Gorham NH Outdoors Website

- RANGELEY**
- Visitor Ambassador Program
  - Dark Skies Initiative

**MAINE WEST: Bethel, Rumford, S. Paris, Norway**

- Gehring House Project
- Second Nature Adventure Challenge
- Educational Aspiration & Attainment
- Broadband Expansion
- Expanded Youth & Senior Recreation Opportunities
- Maine West Recovery Outings
- Rumford Community Forest
- Buck's Ledge Community Forest
- Bethel Community Forest
- Mahoosuc Way Sustainable Tourism
- Inland Woods + Trails
- Maine Energy Systems
- Professional Logging Contractors of the Northeast
- Thos. Moser

- NH STATEWIDE IMPACT**
- Hubbard Brook Advisory Council

**KEY**

**COMMUNITY INVESTMENT**

- FOCAL COMMUNITY
- HOUSING & PROPERTY REDEVELOPMENT
- COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROJECTS
- COMMUNITY FORESTS
- NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT (NMTC) FINANCING

**FOREST ECONOMY & FOREST STEWARDSHIP**

- WOOD HEAT INITIATIVES & PARTNERS
- WOOD PRODUCTS ASSISTANCE & MARKET DEVELOPMENT
- COMMUNITY FOREST CLIMATE RESILIENCE NETWORK
- OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMY PROJECTS
- BIKE BORDERLANDS INITIATIVE

**LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY**

- PROJECTS
- NETWORKS & ENGAGEMENT

PROGRAM  
IMPACT SINCE  
2005:

SUSTAINED

**10,000  
JOBS**

IN WOOD PRODUCTS,  
TOURISM & WOOD HEAT



HELPED CONSERVE

**259,219  
ACRES**

FOR COMMUNITY  
BENEFIT



SECURED & LEVERAGED

**\$260  
MILLION**

TO BENEFIT COMMUNITIES,  
THE ECONOMY & FOREST  
STEWARDSHIP

COMMUNITY

Provided programs, funding, and on-the ground project support to 176 communities.

Invested in the redevelopment or construction of 73 apartments and homes to serve residents and strengthen communities.



Secured more than \$1 million to invest in workforce development in 5 school districts in western Maine.



Invested more than \$500,000 in trail and recreation improvements, trail sustainability, and improving access for youth.



Provided technical assistance to establish the 446-acre Community Forest in Rumford, ME, for increased recreation access and sustainable forest management.



FORESTS

Engaged more than 400 people through webinars on forest stewardship to broaden understanding of the roles and benefits of forests.

Launched a network of 8 Community Forests in the Androscoggin Valley to deepen climate resilience.



ECONOMY

Prevented 12,224 tons of greenhouse gas emissions and generated \$11.8 million in positive benefit for the region since inception of our Wood Heat program.



Provided business, marketing, and coaching services to 70 wood products companies, sustaining or creating 1,000 jobs.



Collaborated with more than 100 businesses and 250 partner organizations toward our shared vision of a thriving and welcoming Northern Forest region.

The Center is grateful to the many supporters who have enabled our increased program delivery across the Northern Forest. Financial support for programs and operations in FY24 totaled \$3.1 million.

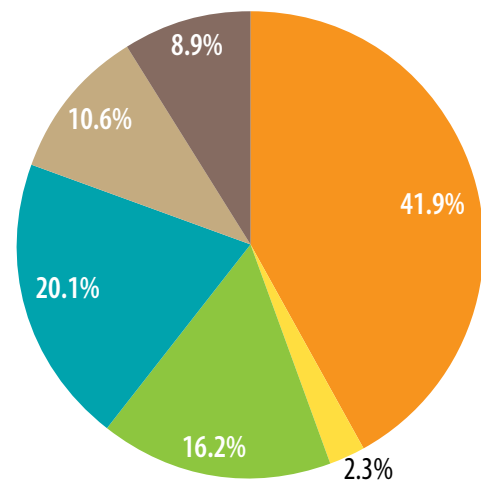
Net income for the year includes donations to the Northern Forest Fund, which totaled \$3.4 million. This integrated capital fund has supported growth and will help sustain our community revitalization programs for a decade.

### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (AS OF APRIL 30, 2024)

	FY 2024	FY 2023
<b>INCOME</b>		
Individuals	\$ 4,070,891	\$ 2,434,564
Corporations	95,255	104,907
Foundations	1,091,798	1,000,274
Public	1,745,781	1,185,481
Rental income	203,553	209,639
Other Earned Income	754,109	225,732
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 7,961,387</b>	<b>\$ 5,160,597</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program	\$ 3,451,151	\$ 3,113,772
Operating	416,074	377,371
Resource Development	456,167	449,805
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 4,323,392</b>	<b>\$ 3,940,948</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 3,637,995</b>	<b>\$ 1,219,649</b>

### 2024 EXPENSES BY AREA

- Community Revitalization – 41.9%
- Regional Strategy/Policy – 2.3%
- Forest Programs – 16.2%
- Outdoor Recreation – 20.1%
- Resource Development – 10.6%
- Operations – 8.9%



A copy of the Center's audited financial statement for FY2024 is available at [nfcenter.org/FY24audit](http://nfcenter.org/FY24audit).

A view of Lancaster, NH. Photo by Three Peaks Media.



The Center's assets have grown from \$2 million in 2017 – when we launched our first impact investment fund – to \$28.5 million at the end of fiscal year 2024, as we neared full capitalization of the Northern Forest Fund.

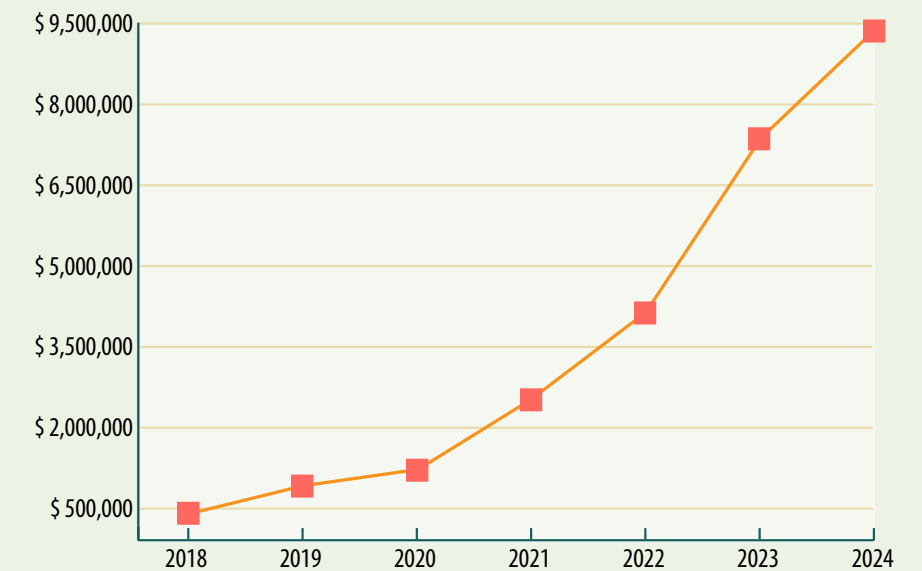
### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (AS OF APRIL 30, 2024)

	FY 2024	FY 2023
Cash and short term receivables	\$ 15,697,650	\$ 13,021,758
Real estate acquisition	3,143,771	2,904,314
Real estate improvements	5,527,662	3,979,018
Other fixed assets	139,857	139,857
Long term receivables	3,901,724	3,599,430
Other assets	62,278	55,941
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 28,472,942</b>	<b>\$ 23,700,318</b>
Current liabilities	\$ 789,493	\$ 671,930
Notes payable: Impact Investments	15,953,301	14,936,236
Net assets	11,730,148	8,092,152
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 28,472,942</b>	<b>\$ 23,700,318</b>

### FIXED ASSET GROWTH

#### Total Capital Invested in Housing Development, FY2018 – FY2024

Since 2018, the Center has deployed nearly \$10 million to create housing in seven focal communities. Looking forward to FY25, we anticipate investing an additional \$10 million in housing and property development.



# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

The Center is deeply grateful to the individuals, public agencies, foundations, and businesses that invested in our work in Fiscal Year 2024, enabling us to provide direct support and expertise to people strengthening economic opportunity and environmental resiliency across Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York.

## INDIVIDUALS & FOUNDATIONS

### UP TO \$99

- Ariel Alger ★
- Tim Allison and Estie Ott
- Anonymous (2)
- Anonymous (6) ★
- Matt Bowser ★
- Carol Breen ★
- Jennifer Brockway ★
- Thomas and Emilie Burack ❀
- Tori Callahan ★
- Peter Carter and Deborah McLane Carter ❀
- Ken Conkey ★
- Wayne Cronin
- Michelle Daudelin ★
- Colleen Delaney and Gerard Guinta
- John Diefenderfer ★
- Joseph and Katherine Donnelly
- Terry Downey ★
- Vicki Duguay ★
- Ed Easter and Elizabeth Meadows
- Addison and Derek Eastman
- Morgan Easton ★
- Georgene Fabian ❀
- Anthony and Carolyn Filauro ❀
- Tim Fisher ★
- Katie Fitton Begansky ★
- Stacy Foster ★
- Holly Fowler
- Joe Fox and Bryna McCarty
- Ethan Frey ★
- Christopher Gaudet
- Robert Alec Giffen
- Bruce Gokey
- Cheri Goodspeed
- Andrew and Sarah Hoffman ❀
- Susan Hutchinson ★
- Larry and Susan Johannesman
- William Johnston ❀
- Edward Kaes  
in honor of Michelle Daudelin ★
- Daniel Kilborn
- Ted and Carol Kramer ❀
- Shari LaPierre ★
- Paul Lepasqueur and Mary Kerwin ❀
- Valerie Levanos ★
- Elizabeth Lowe ★
- Christopher Lutrzykowski ★
- Jennifer Main ★
- Arthur and Ellen Marshall
- Sandra Martin ❀
- Hannah McCarthy ★
- Robert McConaughy ★
- Matt Mendrala ★
- Collin Miller  
in honor of Steve Rohde ❀
- Luke and Laurie Muzzy
- Benny and Tammy Nadeau ❀
- Steven Northrop ★
- Evan and Emily Oleson ★
- Rebecca Oreskes ❀
- Lori and Ted Parker ★
- Andrew Perchlik and Marianne Donahue  
Perchlik
- Catherine Proulx ★
- Joseph and Ellen Ray ❀
- Riva and Travis Reynolds
- Martha and John Richards ❀
- Alan Robertson ★
- Rick Russman ❀
- Sarah and Matthew Schmidt

- Tim Scott and Sheila Kackley
- Sandra Silvia ★
- Kate Smith ★
- Charles Spies
- Judy Surdam ★
- Lila and Matthew Thorne
- Karolyn Towle
- Brad Truini ★
- Brent Tupper ★
- David and June Vail ❀
- Brendan and Dorothy Whittaker ❀
- Keith Wight and Cindi Baker Wight
- CherylAnne Williams ❀
- Beth Wolf ★
- Susan Zimny  
in honor of Ava Glennon ★

### \$100-\$499

- Smith Ackerly Charitable Fund - FC
- Richard Alger and Sharon Alger Little
- Bob Allen
- Allenby Charitable Fund - SC ❀
- Metzi Anderson ★
- Anonymous ❀
- Anonymous (3) ★
- Anonymous in honor of Eric Keck  
(Keck Golden Ticket) ★
- June Aprille and Nelson O'Bryan
- Susan Bacon Clark and Patrick Clark ❀
- Dale and Maria Bardo
- Brendon Bass
- Rob Bast & Laura Carlsmith - SC
- David Baum ❀
- White Oak Gift Fund - FC ❀
- Jerilyn and Dale Bergdahl
- Stuart and Barbara Bernstein
- Marc and Francine Bigney ❀
- William and Suzanne Birchard ❀
- Nancy Borden ❀
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- Thomas and Alana Both ❀
- Deborah Brighton
- Craig and Kathy Byrum ❀
- Paul and Sandal Cate ❀
- Robert and Janice Chapman ❀

### Key:

- ★ = New Supporter
- ❀ = Long Time Supporter

### Donor Advised Funds are indicated with these abbreviations:

- AF – Adirondack Foundation
- BCCF - Berks County Community Foundation
- FC - Fidelity Charitable
- JPMCF - JP Morgan Charitable Fund
- MCF – Maine Community Foundation
- NHCF – New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
- RCF - Renaissance Charitable Foundation
- SC - Schwab Charitable
- TCI&I - Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing
- VC - Vanguard Charitable
- VCF – Vermont Community Foundation

- Phillip Chase
- Thomas and Kelly Christopher ❀
- John and Melanie Clarke ★
- Charles Clusen and Gail Curran ❀
- The Ken & Jacquie Colburn Fund - TCI&I ❀
- Ellen Collins ❀
- Matthew Collins ★
- Merlin Collins ★
- Warren & Brammie Cook - MCF ❀
- Heidi Davis ★
- Barbara Douglas Family Fund - FC ❀
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Charitable Trust ❀
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- Michael Greene
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- Rebecca and Matt Hession
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- Ann Ruzow Holland and David Holland ❀
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- Phil and Audrey Huffman - Network for  
Good ❀
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- Mia Purcell
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- Elizabeth Ruscitto
- Glenn and Sonnhilde Saunders ❀
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Fund - FC ❀
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- Chris and Wendy Thayer ❀
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- Edith Tucker
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- Hartley D. Webster Charitable Fund - FC ❀
- Meghan Weeks
- Suzanne Williams
- Stanton and Jennifer Williams
- Robin and Douglas Zinchuk ❀

### \$500 - \$999

- Celina Adams and Cameron Wake
- Anonymous ❀
- Anonymous  
in honor of Peter Bergh and Janet Prince
- Archie and Irene Berry ❀
- Michael and Ellen Bettmann - FC
- Laurel Blossom  
in honor of Will Bingham ★
- Sarah and Peter Crow ❀
- Pamela Diamantis & Morey Goodman
- Driscoll Charitable Fund - FC
- Julie Renaud Evans and Kevin Evans ❀
- Chris Hadsel & Bill Mares Hadsel-Mares  
Charitable Gift Fund - SC ★
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- Kara and Jason Hunter
- Dave and Julie Laforce
- Barbara Silber Lamont - FC
- David M. Little Fund - FC
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- Pat and Chuck McLure
- Chip Newell and Susan Kohler-Gray
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- Ethan and Anne Winter
- Woodworth Giving Fund Richie & Vicki  
Woodworth - FC
- Charles Wooster and Susan Kirincich ❀

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President's Council members contributed \$1,000 or more to the Center last year.

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 Todd & Melanie Baker Fund - VC ★  
 Richard Barringer and Martha Freeman  
 Reinier and Nancy Beeuwkes  
 Sean Brown & Laura Filkins Charitable Gift Fund - FC ★  
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 Jan Eastman and John Marshall ❀  
 Kathy Eneguess and Steve Given ❀  
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 Peter Stein and Lisa Cashdan - VCF ❀  
 Mark Stein & Rosa Hallowell - JPMCF  
 Janet Stowell  
 Pauliina & Peter J Swartz Giving Account - FC  
 Anna Marie & John E. Thron Fund - MCF  
 Amber Lessard & Will Tickle - FC  
 Peter & Lee Vandermark Fund - NHCF  
 Ed Vilandrie and Martha Cavanaugh ★  
 Neil Wallace Charitable Giving Account ❀  
 Robert and Binney Wells ❀  
 Ross Whaley  
 James and Catherine Wheeler  
 The Helen and John Kubach Trust in honor of Steve Wight - RCF ❀  
 Mark and Susan Zankel - FC ❀

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 Anonymous - NHCF  
 Rocky Bog Fund - AF ❀  
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 Maine Community Foundation ❀  
 David and Patricia McPherson ★  
 Nichols Family Gift Fund - FC ❀  
 Sean and Laurel Ross  
 Schwab Family Giving Fund - FC  
 John Sharpless and Janet Rutkowski ★  
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 William and Jane Vinton  
 Weyerhaeuser Company

\$5,000 - \$9,999  
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 Prince/Bergh Family Fund - NHCF ❀  
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 Ernst Family Fund - AF ❀  
 Frederick and Patrice Ficken ❀  
 Jameson and Priscilla French ❀  
 French Foundation ❀  
 Brad and Eugenie Gentry  
 Piney Fund - FC ❀  
 Eric and Rebecca Herr  
 Libra Foundation  
 McCarten Family Fund - FC  
 Orchard Foundation  
 Manning Rountree and Kendall Hoyt  
 Charles & Lora Arter Fund - NHCF ❀  
 The Wapack Foundation  
 Aaron Woolf and Carolyn Sicher  
 Wyman Family Fund - NHCF ❀

\$10,000 - \$24,999  
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 Tabitha Bowling and Alyssa May  
 Colin and Paula Cabot ❀  
 George W. Merck Fund - NHCF ❀  
 Joan Grabe Family Fund - AF ★  
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 SJK ADK Fund - AF  
 Elizabeth Steele Fund - FC ❀

\$25,000 - \$99,999  
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 Anonymous DAF - Vanguard Charitable ★  
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 Emily Landecker Foundation  
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 Stifler Family Foundation  
 Barbara Sweet  
 Westmeadow Fund - NHCF ❀  
 Steve Williams and Lisa Reece  
 Carol Wishcamper Going Beyond Fund - MCF  
 You Have Our Trust

\$100,000 - \$249,999  
 Anonymous  
 The Betterment Fund ❀  
 Pamela Kohlberg Fund  
 Peter Swift and Diana McCargo  
 The Weatherup Family Foundation

\$250,000 AND ABOVE  
 Acclivity Fund ★  
 Anonymous  
 Thomas W. Haas Foundation  
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 Dirt Church Brewing Company, LLC ★  
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The Innovators' Circle is made up of Center supporters who – through estate planning, deferred giving, and other forms of planned gifts – ensure that the Center will have resources far into the future.

Planned gifts make an incredible and lasting difference to the Northern Forest Center's mission and the communities we serve.

To find out more about ways to donate a planned gift, please visit [www.nfcenter.org/Innovators](http://www.nfcenter.org/Innovators) or contact Sarah Schmidt at 603-229-0679 or email [sschmidt@northernforest.org](mailto:sschmidt@northernforest.org).

Celina Adams and Cameron Wake  
 Anonymous (2)  
 Woolsey and Bea Conover  
 Tabitha Bowling and Alyssa May  
 Thomas Ciardelli and Andrea Reimann-Ciardelli  
 Jan Eastman and John Marshall

Kathy Eneguess and Steve Given  
 Jennifer Huntington  
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 Megan Phillips  
 Patricia Rettaliata  
 Rob Riley and Tabitha Deans Riley  
 Jackie Tuxill  
 Steve Williams and Lisa Reece

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National Science Foundation  
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Town of St. Johnsbury  
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U.S. Economic Development Administration  
U.S. Forest Service  
U.S. Rural Development  
Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development  
Working Lands Enterprise Initiative

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Bangor Savings Bank  
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White Mountain Insurance  
Stanton and Jennifer Williams  
Steve Williams and Lisa Reece

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David Borden  
Jeff Clark  
Fred King  
Doug McIninch  
Susan Ronson

## CONSIDER TAX-SMART GIFTS

**Amplify your impact and save on taxes** by using tax-smart giving strategies to support the Northern Forest Center's mission of building vibrant communities and the New Forest Future.

- Consider donating **appreciated stocks or mutual funds**, which lets you avoid capital gains taxes and still claim a charitable deduction for the full value of your gift.
- If you're 70½ or older, a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA** is another smart option – no income tax on the distribution!
- **Donor-advised funds (DAFs)** offer a flexible way to recommend grants over time while benefiting from an immediate tax deduction.
- Leave a legacy by **including the Center in your will or estate plan.**

Talk to your financial advisor to see which option works best for you, and feel free to reach out to us – we're here to help you make the most of your giving!

Have questions or want to make a gift? Contact Kristen Sharpless, Director of Development, at [ksharpless@northernforest.org](mailto:ksharpless@northernforest.org) or (603) 568-0347.

## BOARD, STAFF & COMMITTEES

## OUR PEOPLE

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Celina Adams, *Kittery, ME*  
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Aaron Woolf, *Elizabethtown, NY*

*Special thanks to our retiring board members:*

Joy Bueschen, *Monson, ME*  
Jerry Delaney, Sr., *Saranac, NY*  
Maggie Drummond-Bahl, *Rockland, ME*  
Gordon Scannell, *Pownal, ME*

*Welcome to new directors for Fiscal Year 2025:*

Heidi Davis, *Middlesex, VT*  
Jay Espy, *Freeport, ME*  
Peter Schwab, *New Castle, NH*

### CENTER STAFF

Maura Adams, *Director of Community Investment*  
Adam Bailey, *Adirondack Program Manager*  
Joe Fox, *Outdoor Recreation Manager*  
Kendall Gray, *Program Coordinator*  
Rebecca Hession, *Development Officer*  
Leslie Karasin, *Adirondack Program Director*  
Suzanne Martin, *Bookkeeper*  
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Mike Morin, *VT/NH Program Director*  
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William Peterson, *Finance Coordinator*  
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Isabella Ronson, *Program Manager*  
Sarah Schmidt, *Grants and Development Coordinator*  
Amy Scott, *Program Manager*  
Kelsey Seeker, *Marketing Director*  
Kristen Sharpless, *Director of Development*  
Joe Short, *Vice President*  
Kelly Short, *Communications Director*  
Tori Valentine, *Operations Manager*  
Laurel Will, *Vice President of Finance*  
Mike Wilson, *Senior Program Director*

*Farewell and thank you to:*

Lila Thorne, *Director of Development*

### BOARD COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

*On the following Board Committees, the volunteers listed serve in addition to board members (not listed).*

#### Investment Review Committee Volunteers

Peter Bergh, *Portsmouth, NH*  
Ela Chapin, *East Montpelier, VT*  
Terry Large, *Grantham, NH*  
Mary McBryde, *Cohasset, MA*  
Robert McConnaughey, *Cohasset, MA*  
Pauliina Swartz, *West Newbury, MA*  
Jim Tibbetts, *Manchester, NH*

#### Finance Committee Volunteers

Terry Large, *Grantham, NH*  
Jim Tibbetts, *Manchester, NH*

#### Governance Committee Volunteers

Jerry Delaney, Sr., *Saranac, NY*  
David Marvin, *Hyde Park, VT*

#### Northern Forest Fund Steering Committee Volunteers

Peter Bergh, *Portsmouth, NH*  
Katharine Eneguess, *Errol, NH*  
Rosa Hallowell, *Concord, MA*  
Sally Hart, *Saratoga, NY*  
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Katherine Sims, *Craftsbury, VT*  
Peter Stein, *Norwich, VT*  
Gaye Symington, *Jericho, VT*  
Janet Topolsky, *Washington, DC*  
Craig Weatherup, *Paul Smiths, NY*  
Robin Zinchuk, *Bethel, ME*

OUR PEOPLE

**Program Committee**

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- Keith Bisson, *Coastal Enterprises, Inc., Brunswick, ME*
- Mac Cloyes, *Blue Forest Conservation, Burlington, VT*
- Dan Corcoran, *North Woods Real Estate, Millinocket, ME*
- Cecilia Danks, *University of Vermont, Burlington, VT*
- Jerry Delaney, Sr., *Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board, Saranac, NY*
- Gene Devlin, *Quimby Country Lodge and Cottage, Norton, VT*
- Katharine Eneguess, *Consultant, Erroll, NH*
- Jay Espy, *Retired ED, Sewall Foundation, Freeport, ME*
- Judy Geer, *Concept2, Craftsbury Outdoor Center, Morrisville, VT*
- Charlie Hancock, *Consulting Forester, Montgomery, VT*
- Dave Harkless, *Littleton Bike & Fitness, Littleton, NH*
- Kara Hunter, *Chair, Hub North, Gorham, NH*
- Alexander R. Ingraham, *Pingree Associates Inc., Bangor, ME*
- Julie LaForce, *Built by Newport, Newport, VT*
- David Marvin, *Butternut Mountain Farm, Morrisville, VT*
- Jessica Masse, *Designlab, Millinocket, ME*
- Mary McBryde, *Consultant, Cohasset, MA*
- Kevin McDevitt, *McDevitt Trucks, Inc., Dunbarton, NH*
- Christine McGowan, *Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, Montpelier, VT*
- John Moses, *Britton Lumber, Woodsville, NH*
- Scott Nichols, *Tarm Biomass, Orford, NH*
- Chris Thayer, *Appalachian Mountain Club, Sugar Hill, NH*
- Steve Wight, *Newry, ME*
- Robin Zinchuk, *Inland Woods + Trails, Bethel, ME*

**PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEES**

*We are grateful to the partners listed below for their service on program implementation committees.*

**Adirondack Community Recreation Alliance**

- Jeff Allott, *Solace Cycles*
- Kelly Brunette, *Franklin County Economic Development Corporation*
- Jeremy Evans, *Franklin County Economic Development Corporation*

- Julia Goren, *Adirondack Mountain Club*
- Sarah Keyes, *Professional Runner*

- Brian McDonnell, *MAC'S Canoe Livery & Adirondack Watershed Alliance*

- Matt Strickland, *Vert Outdoors*
- Aaron Woolf, *Deer's Head Inn*

**Bike Borderlands Team**

- Ollie Burruss, *Craftsbury Outdoor Center*
- Tim Clough, *Franconia Area NEMBA*
- Ugo Desgreniers, *Circuits Frontières*
- Dave Harkless, *PRKR MTN Trails*
- Jason Hunter, *Coös Cycling Club*
- Lilias Ide, *Kingdom Trails Association*
- Shanna Maziarz, *PRKR MTN Trails*
- Gabe Perkins, *Inland Woods + Trails*
- Joshua Tauses, *Carrabassett Valley Trails*
- Edwin Nason, *Franconia Area NEMBA*
- Andy Bartleet, *Inland Woods + Trails*

**Coalition of Northern Forest Innovation & Research**

- Maine Development Foundation
- Northern Forest Center
- Northern Vermont University
- University of Maine
- University of New Hampshire
- University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension
- University of Vermont
- Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

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- Allie Burke, *River Valley Healthy Communities Coalition*
- Lee Dassler, *Western Foothills Land Trust*
- Ferg Lea, *Androscoggin River Watershed Council*
- Gabe Perkins, *Inland Woods + Trails*
- Mia Purcell, *Community Concepts Finance Corporation*
- Brendan Schaffler, *Oxford County Wellness Collaborative*
- Ryder Scott, *University of Maine 4-H Camp and Learning Centers*
- Kirk Siegel, *Mahoosuc Land Trust*
- Korah Soll, *Rural Aspirations*
- Steve Wight, *Newry, ME*

**Northern Forest Board Forum**

- Brian Ball, *Lyndon Furniture*
- Gabe Gordon and David Gordon, *Katahdin Cedar Log Homes*
- Dave and Julie Laforce, *Built by Newport*
- Gary Marini, *New England Woodcraft*
- Dan LaMontagne, *Seven Islands Land Company*
- Andrew Pearce, *Andrew Pearce Bowls*
- Fred Prescott, *Thos. Moser*

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*The following ad hoc committees also contribute to the development and implementation of Center programs.*

- Elizabethtown Advisory Committee
- Lancaster Community Development Advisory Committee
- Mahoosuc Way Steering Committee
- Millinocket Advisory Committee
- Northeast Kingdom Regional Marketing Partnership
- St. Johnsbury Advisory Committee
- Lancaster Broadband Committee
- Chester Advisory Committee
- Gorham Destination Management Committee
- Lancaster Trails Committee

A view of Elizabethtown, NY, from the Blueberry Hill trail network. Photo by Leslie Karasin.

**REGIONAL LEADERSHIP**

*Center staff contribute regional perspective and leadership to the following collaborations and initiatives.*

- Adirondack Common Ground Alliance
- Adirondack Foundation Impact Advisory Group
- FOR/Maine Communities Committee
- Forest Climate Working Group
- Forest Economy Program Advisory Board, Northern Border Regional Commission
- Hubbard Brook Advisory Council
- Increasing Prosperity Oversight Committee - Maine Development Foundation
- Katahdin Collaborative
- Katahdin Tourism Partnership
- Keeping Maine's Forests Steering Committee
- The Maine Alliance for Health & Prosperity
- Northeast Kingdom Collaborative
- Northeastern States Research Cooperative External Advisory Committee
- Original Mass Timber Advisory Group (ME)
- ROOST - Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism (NY)
- The Rural Network
- Tupper Lake Local Planning Committee - DRI Initiative
- Vermont Future Forest Advisory Panel
- Vermont Forest Industry Network
- Vermont Woodworks Council





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## Investing in Housing

The Center has invested nearly \$10 million to create new housing in seven communities since 2018 and expects to deploy \$10 million more in FY2025.

