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August 9, 2017

Dear Missy and the Co-op Food Stores,

We are extremely thankful that the Co-op Food Stores selected our organization to participate in the "Pennies for Change" program in July! Your program is helping support so many good efforts in the Upper Valley and we are thrilled to be included. The generous donation of \$5912.94 will be used in many ways in our Mascoma Valley Regional School District.

Your support enables us to offer mini-grants to Mascoma Valley Regional School District faculty and staff to encourage creative ideas and projects outside the school budget, plus enhance existing successful programs. Through our mini-grant program we have helped fund many projects and programs including the following:

- A summer garden science program to create community gardens at our schools
- Peter Pan, which featured a cast from all our district schools plus members of the community
- An Enfield Village School 4th grade class received an incubator and fertile eggs to hatch baby chicks
- Indian River School 5th graders all received hard-backed books from a famous children's author, Bill Doyle, along with a Skype visit with him

Through our scholarship program we were able to award \$14,500.00 in scholarships to 13 members of the Class of 2017. These recent graduates have some lofty goals including creating sustainable housing solutions for people of all socio-economic classes, battling the opioid epidemic by helping recovering addicts through recovery and wellness programs, pursuing environmental science to help combat climate change, teaching our next generation of students, and becoming a forensic scientist.

Shortly after we were founded as a 501(c)(3) in October of 2014, we discovered we had a significant food insecurity issue in our five town school district. We have tackled this problem through our Friends Feeding Friends food initiative. We currently manage two public pantries in Enfield and Canaan and are the chief resource for a pantry in our newly renovated high school. We are agents of the NH Food Bank, which allows us to get food for pennies on a dollar. We are grateful recipients of resources from Willing Hands and local grocery stores "fresh rescue" programs.

Due to rapid growth over the past 18 months, we recently expanded our pantry and warehouse distribution site in Canaan. We offer healthy, nutritious food to about 300 households in our district. Through our resources, the high school pantry makes daily food available for any student and has a weekend backpack program for students who request one.

This year we will see some students create recipes with food we have available, make the dishes at school, and bring samples to our pantry in Canaan where shoppers will be able to taste the samples and bring home the ingredients and recipe to recreate the dish at home.

Once again, we are so thankful for the Food Coop Stores commitment to our Upper Valley communities well-being.

Sincerely,

Holly, Kate, Carol, Liz, Matt, Beth, Andrew, Katie, and Theresa

The Friends of Mascoma Board of Directors

Friends of Mascoma Foundation

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