

NEWS YOU WANT TO KNOW

Thanking businesses, volunteers who give back to the community

On May 18, business leaders from across the Capital Region will celebrate a boutique hotel, community-minded bank, crucial nonprofit and generous leader. The Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce's Pinnacle Awards recognize those who go above and beyond to make a positive impact on the Greater Concord community.

The Small Business of the Year Pinnacle Award recipient is The Hotel Concord. In its first year in operation, and every year since, this stunning boutique hotel has received the prestigious Four Diamond rating for the highest degree of hospitality service from AAA. Although accommodations in all 38 rooms include high-speed Wi-Fi, Amazon Echo Dots, luxury bed linens, floor-to-ceiling windows and more, the hotel was built with the historic downtown in mind. "This is not your 'cookie-cutter' style hotel," said owner Michael Simchik. "[We created] a unique space that reflects the character and charm of the city." The high-end hotel encourages guests to take in the Capital City by visiting local restaurants and venues, offering unique packages like the "Live Free and Shop" getaway, and supporting community events. Initially organized to celebrate the hotel's grand opening, The Hotel Concord has partnered with Intown Concord annually to present Concord NH Winter Festival — a family-friendly celebration of New Hampshire's oldest season. The event includes a competition between some of New England's most talented ice carvers, outdoor winter games, hot cocoa, a sparkling ice bar, and shuttle service to the Black Ice Pond Hockey Championships in White Park. In just four years, The Hotel Concord has welcomed numerous travelers to Concord, provided exemplary service, and will continue to advertise the Capital City as a one-of-a-kind destination — boosting our local business community and adding luxury accommodations to Concord's wealth of offerings.

The Business of the Year Pinnacle Award recipient is Bangor Savings Bank. "Bangor Savings Bank is grateful to be a part of the revitalization of downtown Concord," said President and CEO Bob Montgomery-Rice. After refurbish-



The Friendly Kitchen, 2022 Nonprofit Business of the Year, coordinates volunteers from many sources to support their programs. Representatives from Bangor Savings Bank, 2022 Business of the Year, regularly volunteer for the organization, giving their time to cook for and serve the hungry.

ing a historic building on Main Street in 2021, the bank invited a new restaurant — NH Pizza Co. — to share their space and be a part of the downtown community. This support of small businesses is evident in the bank's services; their Buoy Local program promotes area shops and restaurants and rewards customers for shopping locally. The bank also contributes to programs that have a direct impact on individuals and families in Concord. Just this year, Bangor Savings Bank gave notable grant awards to Best Buddies International's New Hampshire branch, The Friendly Kitchen in Concord, Girls Inc. of New Hampshire and NHTI-Concord's Community College. Bangor Savings Bank also supports the communities it serves by nurturing an internal culture of excellence and encouraging employees to make a difference through volunteerism. Bank employees serve nonprofits across the Capital Region and regularly volunteer for local organizations, such as The Friendly Kitchen, pictured here. Bangor Savings Bank has made a significant impact on Greater Concord and continues to support the community with enthusiasm and professional excellence.

The Nonprofit Business of the Year Pinnacle Award recipient is The Friendly Kitchen. This organization's dining room on South Commercial Street seats 120 people, and serves over 40,000 meals per year in a warm, caring and

non-discriminatory environment. "I never thought I'd need to ask for a little help to feed my family," said an individual who utilized this community resource. "Hard times can happen to anyone at any time. Thank you for being there for us." In 2021, after seeing the pandemic exacerbate food insecurity issues for local families, The Friendly Kitchen established the Family Friendly Meals program. Volunteers create take-and-bake style meals for families and seniors and deliver them through the Merrimack Valley Day Care, Boys and Girls Club of Concord, The Children's Place and The Friends Program. The Friendly Kitchen is proud to facilitate "people serving people"—a motto that emphasizes a welcoming atmosphere, mission of inclusivity and outstanding community partnerships that this organization has fostered.

The Business Leader of the Year Pinnacle Award recipient is Jonathan Halle. Halle is the president, co-owner and managing member of Warrenstreet Architects, Inc. He transformed this full-service architecture, landscape architecture and interior design firm into one of the first employee-owned design service cooperatives in the country, which allows Warrenstreet employees to lead and grow financially with the firm. "There are many things I admire about Jon as a leader — his entrepreneurship; how seriously he takes his work; how he's not afraid to

take risks; how he never gives up, that he's constantly learning and upping his credentials and skills; how much he cares for others, making them feel valued; how he wants all of us that work with him to succeed," said a member of the Warrenstreet team. One of Halle's proudest achievements over the last decade is helping to establish, and continuing to support, Building on Hope—an organization of volunteers that collaborates with builders, architects and designers to transform facilities of nonprofit agencies. Through Building on Hope and beyond, Halle has donated countless hours to community impact projects for organizations such as Christ the King Parish, Concord Coalition to End Homelessness, Pope Memorial SPCA, The Friendly Kitchen and many more. Halle is also well-known for his extensive portfolio of commercial work in Concord and beyond. Jonathan Halle has proved himself to be an outstanding leader in his firm and industry, while demonstrating a deep commitment to the community.

Along with celebrating these outstanding Pinnacle Award recipients, the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce will honor W. Grant McIntosh Volunteer of the Year Award recipient, Megan MacMullin, and Concord Young Professional of the Year, Erin Schaick of CATCH Neighborhood Housing on May 18. MacMullin has served the

BUSINESS SHOWCASE

Monday, June 6 from 3-6 p.m.

The Chamber is thrilled to bring back Concord's favorite trade show! With a multitude of door prizes, numerous hospitality sponsors offering mouth-watering food samples, and event announcements from DJ Nazy, exhibitors can anticipate the community to come out in full force to enjoy the energetic, friendly atmosphere that this popular event is known for. Members are encouraged to reserve their booth well in advance to take advantage of this exclusive opportunity to show off their products and services, meet new clients and customers, connect with job-seekers and more.

For more information:
concordnhchamber.com,
603-224-2508,
events@concordnhchamber.com

Chamber's Capital Area Student Leadership (CASL) program for 20 years, giving high school sophomores the opportunity to learn about Concord's history and inner-workings, gain hands-on experience in public speaking and other leadership skills, and meet professionals from a variety of industries who are actively involved in the community. Schaick is an integral and steadfast advocate for young people in the Granite State in both her work at CATCH Neighborhood Housing and volunteer efforts for Concord Young Professionals Network (CYPN). She has made rapid progress professionally, while volunteering for multiple causes, and establishing herself as a community leader in Concord.

All are welcome to attend the Pinnacle Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, May 18, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at The Barn at Bull Meadow. This event is generously sponsored by Eastern Bank, Eversource Energy Services, Sanel NAPA and Business NH Magazine. Learn more and reserve tickets at concordnhchamber.com.

Look for News You Want to Know here in The Concord Monitor once a month.

Incorporated in 1919, New Hampshire's state capital chamber of commerce — the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce — develops economic opportunities, strengthens the business climate and enhances quality of life in the Capital region.

Welcome New Members!

Beeline LLC; Blossom Yoga and Wellness; Bri Custer, LLC; Cleanup Detail, LLC; Daniels Moving & Storage; Mariah McClay State Farm; The New England Holiday Light Co.; New Hampshire Coalition of Recovery Residences; New Hampshire Pizza Co; New Hampshire Soccer Association.

Learn more about these member organizations on the Chamber's online Membership Directory at ConcordNHChamber.com.

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