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Contact: Michael Urnezis, Hanover Rotary Member  
603-640-2724  
murnezis@gmail.com  
hanovernhrotary.org

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**Hanover Rotary Club Grants \$40,000 to Benefit Listen and Meals on Wheels in Response to COVID -19**

**Hanover, NH - April 7<sup>th</sup> 2020** - The Hanover Rotary Club, in response to the great need in the community related to COVID-19, recently approved two \$20,000 grants to benefit local charities. Recognizing that Listen has had to close down its stores, eliminating the source of much of its revenue, the Hanover Rotary Board of Directors quickly agreed to provide Listen with one of the two \$20,000 grants. The Hanover Rotary has been a longtime supporter of Listen by directing to it the proceeds from the annual Rotary bellringing in downtown Hanover each Holiday Season, and for the past two years matching the donations of the public. In addition, upon learning that the Meals on Wheels program of the Grafton Country Senior Citizens Council was experiencing an enormous increase in the demand for meals due to the pandemic, the second \$20,000 grant was also approved by the Board in support of this program that provides meals to citizens in need.

“We recognized the importance of immediate action given the rapid speed and depth of hardships related to COVID-19. Thankfully we were in a good position to help given the generous local support of our recent fund raising efforts,” stated Hanover Rotary Club President Liam McCarthy.

Over the past three years, the Hanover Rotary Auction Gala, held at the Hanover Inn, has raised more than \$800,000 for causes, organizations, non-profits, and scholarships benefitting the Upper Valley community. Each year the Hanover Rotary Club has selected one Auction Partner that works with the Club to help run the Auction with a substantial portion of the monies raised going to the partner. The last three partners have been Twin Pines Housing, WISE, and Positive Tracks. The monies for the grants

to Listen and the Grafton County Senior Citizens Council were raised during the Auctions with these local non-profits.

Each year the Club also awards from 20 to 25 grants to local charities with funds raised from the Auctions. Last year over \$50,000 was awarded to various charities as part of this program. Hanover Rotary will be announcing this year's grants shortly. In the meantime, the Club leadership wanted to act quickly to support the Covid-19 community needs being met by Listen and Meals on Wheels.

The Hanover Rotary Club, made up of over seventy Upper Valley business, professional, and community leaders, is the local chapter of Rotary International, a worldwide association of more than 1.2 million members committed to a motto of "service above self." Its mission is to provide service to others and promote world understanding, goodwill, and peace. Hanover Rotary Charities is proud to support a wide range of Upper Valley charities, college scholarships, and international youth exchange programs and projects.

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