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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cornish Community Initiative Secures Prestigious \$727,456 Grant to Build Transformative Library and Community Center

Cornish, New Hampshire, January 23, 2025 — The Cornish Community Initiative (CCI) is thrilled to announce a major milestone in its mission to enrich the lives of local residents. The Northern Border Regional Commission has awarded a highly competitive Catalyst Grant of \$727,456 to fund the construction of a state-of-the-art Library and Community Center in the heart of Cornish Flat.

“Receiving this competitive grant is a testament to the incredible value this project brings to our community,” said Colleen O’Neill, CCI Chair. “Raising \$3 million to make this dream a reality is no small task, but this grant propels us closer than ever to the finish line. We’re proud to have reached \$2 million in total funds and pledges raised so far, thanks to the generosity of individuals, grantors, and now this vital regional investment.”

This project is the result of tireless efforts by a dedicated, all-volunteer team of townspeople working to deliver a 21st-century facility designed to serve as the beating heart of the community. The new Library and Community Center will replace the century-old 1910 library which lacks accessibility, modern infrastructure, and adequate space for residents to connect, learn, and grow.

In 2023, Cornish residents voted to invest in their future by supporting the development of a modern, energy-efficient, and fully accessible library and community center. The new facility will include essential features such as bathrooms, ample parking, running water, meeting rooms, and expanded space for books and technology. Finally, this new hub will provide opportunities for education, economic development, creativity, and connection, ensuring Cornish remains a healthy, thriving, and vibrant community for generations to come.

U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen congratulated the Cornish community on this significant achievement, stating:

“The Northern Border Regional Commission provides vital support for projects across New Hampshire’s rural communities that bolster local economies, create jobs and provide essential services to Granite Staters. I’m thrilled to see this federal funding headed to our state, and I’ll continue working to support and expand NBRC’s impact in New Hampshire.”

With construction on the horizon, CCI remains focused on raising the remaining funds to fully realize this transformative project. The committee invites everyone to learn more, get involved, and contribute by visiting www.cornishci.org/library.

Together, we can create a legacy of opportunity, connection, and inspiration for generations to come.