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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**

Katie Gardella, Resource Development and Community Engagement Director, Monadnock United Way, [katie@muw.org](mailto:katie@muw.org) or 603.352.4209 x 27.

**Monadnock United Way and Monadnock Ford to host campaign celebration and awards program**

**Keene, NH** – The public is invited to attend an event celebrating Monadnock United Way's recent fundraising campaign and honoring the 2023 Circle of Excellence award winners. The event will be held at Monadnock Ford, 119 Monadnock Hwy in Swanzey beginning at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, February 7, 2024. Please RSVP by calling Lisa Barrett at 603-352-4209 extension 22 or email lisa@muw.org.

This event marks the end of the Imagine What We Can Do Together campaign, and will be emceed by General Campaign Co-chairs Chris Coates, Cheshire County Administrator, Larry Monson, General Manager of Monadnock Ford, and Rose Novotny, Office Manager at Bank of NH in Antrim. The program will include the announcement of the 2023 Imagine What We Can Do Together campaign fundraising results and the presentation of the 2023 Circle of Excellence Award winners.

The Circle of Excellence was established in 1992 by Monadnock United Way to acknowledge exceptional contributions made to the community through the Monadnock United Way and beyond. The honorees this year include the Impact Monadnock Business Ambassadors receiving the Spirit of Monadnock Award; Hinsdale Adverse Childhood Experiences Resource Team (ACERT) receiving the Trailblazer Award; C&S Wholesale Grocers receiving the Enterprise Award; and Savings Bank of Walpole receiving the Summit Award.

Joe Boggio, principal of Hinsdale Elementary School expressed gratitude on learning of the award noting, “The school and community are honored to receive the Trailblazer Award for the development of the ACERT program in Hinsdale.  It was truly a group effort over several years and successful due to the leadership of our police chief, Chief Rataj.  Many thanks to all the people who have contributed over the years.”

Mark Bodin, the President of Savings Bank of Walpole, expressed his pleasure at his organization winning the Summit Award and working with MUW, saying "It's a great honor, and it comes naturally for us to work with MUW to improve the lives of people in our community."

“We are so proud of the accomplishments of all our Circle of Excellence Award recipients and this year’s class is no different,” said Liz LaRose, president of Monadnock United Way. “Each organization has served the Monadnock Region with distinction for many years and shows no sign of slowing down.”

Monadnock Ford is hosting the event again this year and CC&D's Kitchen and Market, The Outlaw Brewing Company, and ACE Hardware are supporting this event once again. Vadim Makhlis, the owner of Monadnock Ford, said, "We are so happy to be hosting this campaign celebration event for the second year in a row and take great pride in our work with Monadnock United Way, knowing that the monies raised give support and resources to over 30 local organizations, right here at home in our community."

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**About Monadnock Ford**

Founded in 2017, Monadnock Ford has spent its time focused on their goal to have a dealership that is committed to the community, customers, and employees. Through employing experts in the automotive field, emphasizing customer experience, and leaning heavily into charitable giving, their hard work continues to move them forward on that path.  The five-time "Best of Monadnock Reader's Choice Award" winning dealership is quickly becoming the region's favorite dealership to visit.

**About Monadnock United Way**

Monadnock United Way is dedicated to improving lives by mobilizing diverse partners and investing in programs and people to create long-lasting, measurable change. MUW was founded in 1952 and currently has more than 2,500 donors, advocates, and volunteers. At Monadnock United Way, we fight for children, education, and financial stability in every community throughout our region. Please check out our website at www.muw.org for more information about our mission, and for more information about the Circle of Excellence awards, please check out the MUW webpage at www.muw.org/coe.