

**2009 National Philanthropy Day Awards**  
**Presented by**  
**Association of Fundraising Professionals, Northern New England Chapter**



*Eliot Orton, Owner  
The Vermont Country Store*

**2009 Outstanding Corporation:**  
**The Vermont Country Store**

The Vermont Country Store, founded in 1945, is recognized nation-wide not only as a premier retail and mail order company but also as a leader in philanthropy and visionary planning. “Purveyor of the Practical and Hard-to-Find,” their corporate philosophy is to give back by partnering with organizations to make a difference in the community while empowering their employees to do the same through volunteer outreach and involvement. The Vermont Country Store supports initiatives and special projects related to education and literacy, health, history, culture and the arts, community support, and services for youth.

In 1995, the Vermont Country Store founded the Orton Foundation in honor of the company’s founders Vrest and Ellen Orton. This operating foundation supports companies in the northeast and the Rocky Mountains by providing resources, planning tools and funding for pilot projects. The foundation helps small cities navigate growth and change while enhancing

what they value most. From storytelling celebrations in Vermont to keypad polling in Colorado to consensus building in Rhode Island, the Foundation works to build vibrant and enduring communities.

**2009 Outstanding Foundation:**  
**The Gibney Family Foundation**

The Gibney Family Foundation, formed by Albert L. Gibney and his children Frank, Sue and Joan, is committed to philanthropy in the field of health and wellness, most specifically regarding the issues facing individuals with limited sight or total blindness.

In addition to having a profound impact on services for the disabled in its home state of Vermont, The Gibney Family Foundation is well regarded throughout New England and other regions of the country for its exceptional support of a wide array of services and programs. From job training to community education to recreational activities, the Foundation has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the visually impaired and the organizations who serve them.

*Frank Gibney, CEO  
The Gibney Family Foundation*



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***2009 Outstanding Volunteer: W. John Funk***

John Funk is known as an ambassador, cheerleader, team-builder, visionary and extraordinary fundraiser for legal assistance in New Hampshire. In addition to raising considerable funds, his volunteer contributions and selfless devotion have raised significant awareness for the civil legal services for the New Hampshire's most vulnerable and disadvantaged families, seniors and individuals.

As well as serving as Board Chair for both NH Legal Assistance and the Legal Advice and Referral Center, John previously co-chaired the Steering Committee of the Campaign for Legal Services, a fundraising effort which garnered critical financial support for legal services that can make the difference between shelter or homelessness, food on the table or empty plates, and safety or continued abuse for the neediest of New Hampshire's communities. Greatly admired as one of the leading and most enthusiastic voices for equal justice in the Granite State, John has been recognized as an Honorary Fellow of the New Hampshire Bar Foundation receiving their "Distinguished Service to the Public" award.



***2009 Outstanding Philanthropist: Jude Blake***

Jude Blake has been a tireless supporter of her alma mater, the University of New Hampshire, for many years as a donor and board member. Her gifts have supported general operations and the Whittemore School of Business and Economics from which she graduated in 1977.

Jude moved to New Hampshire to be closer to the University, even while maintaining her home in the San Francisco Bay area, and immediately became involved in the philanthropic life of the community. She has given important gifts to several organizations including Families First, the Children's Museum of New Hampshire, Jazzmouth, The Music Hall, where she became a member of its highest giving circle, the Stakeholders, as well as opening her home for and hosting donor cultivation events to help a number of area non-profits.

At UNH, Jude has served on the Whittemore School of Business and Economics Marketing Committee and its newly reorganized Dean's Board; she chairs its Nominating Committee; is a member of the UNH

Alumni Association strategic planning committee, an ad hoc group established two years ago; the Nominating Committee of the UNH Foundation Board; and is a member of the University System of New Hampshire Board of Trustees elected by UNH alumni to serve a four-year term. Jude has taken advantage of her connectedness to UNH and USNH leadership to help move forward the construction of a 100% privately funded new business school at UNH for which her partner, Peter Paul, gave the lead challenge gift of \$25 million for the \$50 million project.

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**2009 Outstanding Youth &  
the AFPNNE/Demont Scholarship:  
Rachel Blair Friedman**

In 2006, at the age of 9, Rachel Friedman established *Perform For A Cure*, an all youth variety show, to raise money for cancer research and programs. In just four years, this event has raised over \$30,000 and inspired hundreds of youth and adults to become more involved as well as to make positive and lasting changes in their communities. Her determined and unwavering effort has given hope to countless people dealing with cancer in Maine.

Wanting to make an even greater impact, Rachel plans to develop the reach of *Perform For A Cure*. In Maine, the show has been expanded to two days to accommodate the growing audience and performers. She is planning to export *Perform For A Cure* to other states and is confident that with this prototype, many other youths can use their passions and talents in the arts to raise money and give back to their communities.